

Rom. 14:19
So then let us
follow after
things which
make for
peace, and
things
whereby we
may edify one
another.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

Anna Surface 2010

John 8:32 And
ye shall
know the
truth and the
truth shall
make you
free.

August
2
2020

ARE YOU A PERSON OF PRINCIPLE?

by Jim Stauffer

We have all said at one time or another, "It's not a matter of the money, it's the principle that matters." Usually this is spoken when we have suffered some loss, quite possibly through an element of deceit. We are saying, the person realized I was deceived and refused to explain things so I would understand. We recognize this kind of person as one with issues of the heart. They are not honest.

These things happen when people who are not principled take advantage of those who are. The greater loss, of course, is to the one who has taken advantage of another. The one suffering loss is pure in heart and has only suffered temporal loss.

Jesus taught mostly principles when on the earth. In everything one practices in life he must master the principles to become successful. The fundamentals of any profession are essential in performance. Athletics, drama, politics and science are all conducted well when one understands and has incorporated the fundamentals into his performance.

Jesus identifies this as the problem when He says this in **Mat. 15:8**, *"THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME."* As a result Jesus says their worship was in vain. It was not sincere because His principles were not in their heart. He illustrates this point after further discussion with His disciples. *"Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and is eliminated? But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders."* (**Matthew 15:17-19**)

Jesus warns us against holding earthly, corruptible treasures in our heart instead of eternal incorruptible

ones in **Mat. 6:19-21**. Desiring wealth on earth is not to be a guiding principle for those who choose to follow Jesus. We must grasp the principle rather than trying to please Him with superficial conduct, because what is really in our heart will eventually manifest itself in our choices in life.

Jesus teaches us about the kingdom of heaven. His purpose is to contrast its eternal value to the temporal value of earthly wealth. He does so with the following parables. *"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."* (**Matthew 13:44-46**) Jesus says when we realize the differing values, we will do what is necessary to acquire the greater value.

In all of this teaching He shows us we cannot be followers of His unless we recognize true value. Once it is recognized it must become lodged in our hearts. Once there we will proceed in life with that as the primary motivation for our actions.

Brethren, we cannot remain faithful in the crucible of persecution, trials and tribulation unless we have the principles Jesus taught firmly entrenched in our hearts. Once we do, we instinctively do those things He has taught.

REPENTANCE

"Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. And Jesus

said to them, do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans because they suffered this fate? I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish” (read Luke 13:1-9 NASV).

Tragedies, either deliberate or by accident, generally pique the interest of those who were involved in the episode; or, some just wanted to talk about what had happened. Some came to Jesus, talking about Pilate killing some Galileans and mixing bloody sacrifices. Where and when did this happen? No one knows. Then, a tower in Siloam fell, killing eighteen men. Jewish thinking in the 1st. C. blamed the sins of those involved, then it must have been because they had in some manner violated God’s will. Did Rome really have the right to go around killing people? Would Jesus take sides in these matters? Did He even care about these events and the personal trauma that came to those involved?

Jesus’ call to repent was meant to force His listeners to focus on their own lives and on their own relationship with God. The Galileans and those killed by the falling tower were dead; they could not be brought back; they could no longer serve God and repent. Maybe they needed to repent; maybe they did; we don’t know. That is not the point. Those who listened to Jesus could repent. They could follow Jesus and become part of His kingdom. Repentance had been the constant cry of John the Baptist and of Jesus. The tragic death is when the deceased leaves this world unprepared for judgment. A tragic death can only be averted now, in this life, by following the Lord. Sin is associated with death; sin brings death; we must face our mortality. Disaster always follows a failure to repent.

You may have an accident and lose your life; this may be through no fault of your own. You may make certain choices (bad, good, neutral) that may end your life. The point is: When will these things happen? Do you know? We must be prepared to leave this old world at any time. The problem is that we continue to live not thinking about what Pilate might do to us or about a tower falling on us. When something happens to someone else, we take some notice. But until we repent, we really haven’t been serious about truly following Jesus. We haven’t noticed anything at all.

Death is coming to all. The only thing that will make a difference in your life at that time is repentance. Repent or not, you are going to die. Repent or not, a tower might fall on you. Repent or not, an accident might take your life. It is not when we will die; it is that we will die. That is the value of Jesus’ call to repent. He wants us to be ready to meet Him on the last day. What

about the Galileans and those killed by the tower? What about their spiritual condition? We don’t know. The question is: What about yours?

Randy Harshbarger

Why are there so many churches?

Have you ever pondered why, with only ONE BIBLE; there could be so many different churches with each of these churches teaching differently from all the others? I searched this morning and got over 200 different denominations in America and many thousands of individual “Non-Denominational” churches across our fair land. My question is: How did we go from the one church we read about in the New Testament to the situation we are faced with today, and is that good? Is THIS what Jesus had in mind?

As we look to our New Testaments at the words of Jesus we find his “High-Priestly Prayer” just before He entered the Garden of Gethsemane. In **John 17:20-23** Jesus said *“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. “The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.”* Jesus seems to think that the cost of a divided Christianity is an unbelieving world, and isn’t that what we’re seeing today? Jesus said we as Christians are to be as close as He and the Father. I need simply ask: How close were the Father and the Son? Jesus told Phillip, *“He who has seen Me has seen the Father”.*

To Be Continued...

Cleveland Reddinger

Science and the Bible

The claim that science and the Bible do not agree should disturb no one. What is called “science” is not static. Each generation brings new light; most of the old theories have been exploded by scientists themselves. Yet, each generation of scientists boldly announces that science has disproved the Bible.

But it can as easily be proved that science has disproved itself. With all their dogmatism about the Bible and science, there are few theories that real scientists are willing to take their stand upon and say:

“Here is the ultimate truth; no future discoveries will contradict this.” So long as they cannot afford to affirm that they have arrived at ultimate truth, how can they with honor say that science disproves the Bible?

Besides, if the Bible fully agreed with the theories of one age, it would not agree with the theories of the next age. The Bible is unchangeable and cannot keep up agreement with that which constantly changes.

Some of the foremost scientists recognize the limitations of science and are firm believers in the Bible. Preach the Word! No known truth contradicts the Bible.”

by R. L. Whiteside

from Kingdom of Promise and Prophecy

Taken from Beacon Electronic Edition;

Collegvue church of Christ

Submit To One Another

Ken Weliever

Several years ago at a meeting of the American Psychological Association, Jack Lipton, a psychologist at Union College, and R. Scott Builione, a graduate student at Columbia University, presented their findings on how members of the various sections of 11 major symphony orchestras perceived each other.

The percussionists were viewed as insensitive, unintelligent, and hard-of-hearing, yet fun-loving. String players were seen as arrogant, stuffy, and unathletic. The orchestra members overwhelmingly chose “loud” as the primary adjective to describe the brass players. Woodwind players seemed to be held in the highest esteem, described as quiet and meticulous, though a bit egotistical.

Interesting findings, to say the least! One wonders, especially one with no musical ability, how fifty or so divergent personalities and perceptions, with over twenty different musical instruments, could ever come together to make such wonderful music!?

Yet the answer is simple: regardless of how those musicians view each other, they subordinate their feelings and biases to the leadership of the conductor. Under his guidance, they play beautiful music. Success in a group effort always requires mutual submission of each individual for the good of the group. This is true in business, in sports and in the Lord’s family. The Bible teaches that in our spiritual relationships we must learn to submit to one to another according to the will of God.

“Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another,

and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” (1 Pet 5:5)

“Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you” (Heb 13:17)

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” (Ephesians 5:21). The word “submit” according to Thayer means: 1) to arrange under, to subordinate 2) to subject, to put in subjection 3) to subject oneself, to obey 4) to submit to one’s control 5) to yield to one’s admonition or advice 6) to obey, to be subject.” He goes on to point out that it was “a Greek military term meaning “to arrange [troop divisions] in a military fashion under the command of a leader.” In non-military use, it was “a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden”.

It is interesting that the admonition to *“submit to one another”* in **Ephesians 5:21** precedes Paul’s command for wives to submit to their husbands, which is followed by children obeying the parents and slaves being in submission to their Masters. It is obvious in those cases there is a God given role in terms of authority. But how do we submit to one another, especially a husband to a wife, or a parent to a child, or a master to a slave?

Submission has to do with meeting the needs of another. Of serving others. Of engaging in mutual ministry. It makes no difference where the authority is vested, nor does it lessen the responsibility to respect authority in a specific relationship.

Jesus has been given all authority. Yet He came to serve the needs of others. And ultimately gave Himself to die for our sins. God gave Pastors the role of authority in the local church to *feed the flock*. However, they are servant-leaders, meeting the needs of those entrusted to their care. God ordained the husband to be the head of the home. Yet, he lovingly serves the needs of his wife and children. In the same way, Christians must be willing to subordinate their own feelings and desires for the greater good within the Body of Christ.

Colly Caldwell put it this way “We must submit to our fellow Christians,” We can all learn from any fellow Christian. We can be corrected by any Christian. It is the selfish, insecure follower of Christ who cannot recognize God’s arrangements for peace and well being and who insists upon his own will.”

In a “me first” culture, this command seems outdated. Yet, when properly followed, it would solve many of our relationship conflicts in the 21st century.

~via e Preacher’s Word; Lewisville, Texas.

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

Elders: Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

Deacons: Bill Miller

Brandon Jimison

Joe Hurd

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NEWS AND NOTES:

SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

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JACKSON, TRUDY MULLEN, RENE
RATLIFFE, DENESE GORING,
CHARLOTTE STAUFFER, RODNEY
BLOUNT, TRACY RICHARDSON,
DAISY DARNALL, BROOKLYN
BOYER AND RENEE ANDERSON.

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS - BOOK OF
DANIEL - BILL MILLER

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS - BOOK
OF MARK - JIM STAUFFER (BOTH
CLASSES OFFERED ON ZOOM)

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON
(YOUTUBE ALSO)

WHICH AM I?



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10