

February 21, 2010

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Monday

Rev. 4:11 "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

When you find yourself conflicted, what is your first thought? Is it "how will I glorify God in this present situation?" Unfortunately, though that should be the Christian's main thought, it is often the farthest thing from his or her thoughts. In the heat of conflict there is too often little light. Often, the greater the volume the more distorted the sound. When God's people remember that their first priority is to honor God, it changes everything—for the better. Instead of winning or losing let the focus be upon honoring God by allowing His word to be lived out in you.

Tuesday

1Cor. 6:7 It is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?

You have but one 'right'. That is to honor God with your life. It is a right that is full of privilege and glory. It is a right not to be taken lightly. It is a right offered only to the children of God. Other 'rights' exerted are often full of pride. The right to be heard, the right to speak my mind, the right of having my way: these are usually exercised to the dishonor of God. In the Corinthian church people were exercising their rights right into court and God was being dishonored in the process. Oh, the disunity, the dysfunction, the dishonor we bring when we focus upon 'my rights' instead of God's glory. Paul said, "Why not rather be wronged?"

Wednesday

Matt. 18:15 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother."

The principle of dealing with one another first and in private is clearly taught in Scripture. Yet, churches are filled with disfellowship and dysfunction because believers disregard God's instruction. When a disagreement arises with a brother, a staff member, even a committee do you feel free or justified to take it to those who will 'join you', 'agree with you', 'take up your cause' or do you go to your brother or sister with whom you have conflict and discuss the issue in a Godly setting? The old saying applies, "Two people see a fire. One brings a bucket of water. Another brings a bucket of gasoline." Which do you bring? Which honors God?

Thursday

Col. 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

Broken fellowship and broken hearts often come from misunderstandings, misinformation, poor assumptions, and jumping to conclusions. Sometimes they come from genuine offenses—large or small. How often everything would be different if we were quick to 'bear with one another' rather than being easily offended or unforgiving. If my goal is to honor God in each situation, my first response needs to be to 'bear with' another. It's not easy. It takes maturity, often in the face of immaturity. It is the mirror image of what Jesus has done for me.

Friday

Phil. 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

Note the context of this passage! It is a context of conflict. Two ladies are at odds in the congregation. Others are involved. What is the admonition? Change your attitude and change your focus. Think upon the positive aspects of relationships and people. Give the benefit of doubt, especially to those serving the Lord. Think well of one another. God's word can make a difference in our lives, our church.