

Abide In Your Calling

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

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1 Cor 7:17-24 But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches. Is any man called being circumcised? let him not become uncircumcised. Is any called in uncircumcision? let him not be circumcised. Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God. Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called. Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather. For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant. Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men. Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.

- I. Some things about our life are fixed and do not change.
 - A. God does not mean for some things to change in our life – even after we are saved.
 - B. The context of the chapter here is about marriage and how it is not to be broken up because one or the other gets saved.
 1. It is one of those permanent, unchangeable things in your life.
 - C. Each person is a one-of-a-kind individual and God made us that way.
 1. Although we may be similar in a lot of ways there are no two people just alike.
 2. This is God's design and He did it that way on purpose.
 - D. Besides that, we all are made of the experiences and knowledge that we have accumulated over our lifetime – and no two people are just alike in this respect either.
 - E. Much of what our life has made us into is not supposed to change to make us more useful to God's service.
 - F. Sure, we are to grow in grace and knowledge, and we are to add to our faith.
 - G. We are to purify ourselves and be striving toward perfection, or completeness in Christ.
 - H. But growing in grace, and sanctification, and adding to our faith does not change who and what we are to start with.
 1. God can us with the characteristics that He gave us.
 2. Those flaws in character and habit and personality that we have formed in ourselves through our sin should be annihilated in us, but not the things God gave us to start with.
- II. The message of these verses is, "be who you are and don't try to be someone else."
 - A. People tend to be dissatisfied with themselves and find in others what they wish they were themselves.
 - B. People tend to try to imitate or follow after what other people are or do.
 1. This is especially true in the work of God.
 2. If it appears successful then everyone wants to copy it so they can be successful, too.
 - C. People watch to see what other people like, and are attracted to in a person, and then try to be that kind of person. (this is phony and hypocritical)
 - D. God's work requires that we be who we are.

1. That we use what we have for the glory of God and his kingdom.
 2. That we use what we are for the glory of God and his kingdom.
- E. God cannot do anything with us when we are pretending to be someone else than ourselves.
1. Because there is deceit and guile there.
- F. There is nothing that turns people off more than someone trying to be something they are not.
1. It shows that they are changeable and not real.
 2. It shows that they are seeking the favor of men rather than God.
 3. It shows that they are full of pride because they are trying to identify themselves with some higher station than their own.

III. God can and will use anyone after they are saved as long as they are real and honest before God and other men.

- A. This is why many times God uses simple people to accomplish the greatest good.
1. Simple people are generally more honest and open about themselves.
 2. They are not trying to fool everyone into thinking they are more than they really are.
- B. God does not require of any person more than they have to give.

(Mark 14:8) *She hath done what she could: ...*

(Mat 25:15) *And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.*

- C. We should not feel pressure to give more than we have to give.
1. Living for Jesus should be a joy and not a burden.

(Mat 11:28-30) *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. {29} Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. {30} For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

- D. Striving to be something you are not makes life miserable for you.
- E. Just being what you are is the way God wants you to serve Him.
1. Using the abilities God has given you – naturally or from experience.
 2. Being down to earth and open about what you really are – not always trying to hide what you are and put up another image for others to see.
- F. Your usefulness to God and others is very limited when you keep a wall up around you and hide what you really are by pretending to be something you are not.

Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.