

Selected Reading

The first commandment of the decalogue says, "You shall have no other gods before Me." The meaning of this precept, which is the foundation of all religion, is not merely that we shall not acknowledge any other God besides Jehovah--but also that we shall **treat** Him as God! That is, we . . . must *love* Him with all our hearts, *serve* Him with all our lives, and *depend* upon Him for our supreme felicity.

It is obvious that whatever we love most, and are most anxious to retain and please--whatever it is we depend most upon for happiness and help--whatever has most of our hearts--that is in effect, our God! It does not matter whether it is friends, possessions, desires--or our own selves!

These are the idols of the heart!

SELF is the great idol which is the rival of God, and which divides with Him the worship of the human race. It is surprising and affecting to think how much SELF enters into almost all we do. Besides the grosser form of self-righteousness, which leads many unconverted people actually to depend upon their own doings for acceptance with God; how much of . . . self-seeking, self-valuing, self-admiration, self-dependence,

there is in many converted ones!

How covertly do some seek their own praise in what they professedly do for God, and their fellow-creatures! How eager are they for the admiration and applause of their fellow-creatures! How much of self, yet how little suspected by themselves--is seen by One who knows them better than they know themselves, at the bottom of their most splendid services, donations, and most costly sacrifices!

~ John Angell James

Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, November 22, 2020

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Psalm 133:1-3

Song #291 ~ O Church, Arise

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Psalm 60:1-12

Song #114 ~ A Mighty Fortress

Scripture Reading: Psalm 61:1-8

Prayer

Sermon ~ Romans 14:10-12

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #133 ~ He Will Hold Me Fast

John 15:16 You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

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Text: Romans 14:10-12

Theme: Present yourself as a sacrifice to God.

Introduction: There are three questions Paul asks the Corinthian Church concerning the conscience.

1. Is it profitable (1 Cor. 6:12; 1 Cor. 10:23)?
 2. Will I become servant to it (1 Cor. 6:12)?
 3. Will it enable me to build up my brother or is it merely for my own benefit (1 Cor. 10:23-24)?
- I) The weaker in faith should present himself as a sacrifice by not judging his brother (v. 10-11).
- A. The weaker in faith were those whose conscience would not allow them to partake of something that is lawful (i.e. meat offered to idols; cf. 1 Cor. 10:19-25).
- B. The weak in faith ought to strive for unity. For example, during Covid, some may believe that everyone should be very careful. They may even want to wear masks—all the time—in order to protect life. There is nothing wrong with that. The problem occurs when that person judges another Christian. Others Christians may be less concerned. They may wish for life to go on as usual. They should not look down on their brothers in Christ who desire to wear a mask.
- C. There are two potential answers for the question in v. 10.
1. Why do you judge? (Everyone will be judged by God).
 2. Why do you judge? (God alone is the judge of all).

D. Both answers are possible, but the following OT quotation (v. 11; cf. Is. 45:23) identifies the second option as Paul's concern—"why do *you* judge? God alone is the Judge of all" (cf. Is. 45:5, 6, 14, 18, 21, 22, 24).

E. When the weaker in faith judges his brother or sister in Christ concerning those things which are lawful, he is usurping the throne. He has placed himself as the judge of all.

- II) The stronger in faith should present himself as a sacrifice by not despising his weaker brother (v. 10-11).
- A. Paul's goal is unity among those in the local church—particularly in relation to issues of the conscience (cf. Rom. 14:19).
- B. In order for us to properly apply this passage, we must determine those things which are primary and those which are issues of the conscience (cf. 1 Cor. 15:3).
- III) Since God alone is the judge of all Christians, let us refrain from judging on matters of the conscience (v. 11-12).
- A. You will give an accounting to God for your own decisions. Likewise, your brother or sister in Christ will also give an accounting to God. When Jesus spoke to Peter about his future death, Peter immediately wanted to know about John's death. Christ responded by asking Peter, "What is that to you? Follow me.". Don't be so concerned about God's plan for everyone else—just simply follow Him (cf. John 21:18-22).