



**Four Basic Problems in Life: (1) People Emphasis over God Emphasis, Mk 12:28-31; 1 Jn 4:19-21; 4:8-10, (2) Dependence upon Human Power over Divine Power**

24. **#1: People emphasis over God emphasis.**

- 1) This problem is compounded by the present trend in mega churches that implies having a good relationship with people means you have a good relationship with God.
- 2) It doesn't. In fact, this is backwards. Until a person has a good relationship with God he cannot have a good relationship with people. In fact, to assume that a good relationship with people produces a good relationship with God means that one's relationship with people is dishonest since it has an ulterior motive.
- 3) This inversion of biblical thought is corrected by our Lord in His discussion with the scribe in:

**Mark 12:28 -** And one of the scribes came and ... asked Jesus, "What commandment is the foremost of all?"

**v. 29 -** Jesus answered, "The foremost is, (Deuteronomy 6:4-5) 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord;

**v. 30 -** and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

**v. 31 -** The second is this, (Leviticus 19:18b) 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

- 4) The foremost commandment is to love God whereas the secondary is to love others. This order of application is stressed by the apostle John in:

**1 John 4:19 -** We love, because He first loved us.

**v. 20 -** If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

**1 John 4:21 -** And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

- 5) The ability to love others is contingent upon learning to love God first. Love *for* God is contingent upon the love *of* God expressed in the gift of His Son Jesus Christ:

**1 John 4:8 -** The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

**v. 9 -** By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

**v. 10 -** In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

- 6) Therefore, the learning curve of love *for* God is dependent upon spiritual growth and its development comes from understanding the love *of* God.
- 7) Our original parents did not remain loyal to the Word of God and by disobeying the forbidden-fruit mandate their love *for* God was found wanting.
- 8) As a result their love for each other became distorted. For example, perfect people in perfect bodies with perfect lives in a perfect environment have no need for modesty. According to Genesis 2:25 "the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."



- 9) This is a characteristic of right man-right woman. But this lack of shame has nothing to do with their nakedness but the complete harmony of their relationship.
- 10) Following the fall this harmony of soul was broken and was manifest by their loss of pre-fall glory. Their efforts to cover up this deficiency with fig leaves was a futile attempt to get right with each other and in doing so get right with God.
- 11) Getting right with each other involved more than the addition of a wardrobe. The problem was in the soul and it became evident when the finger-pointing started during the Lord's inquisition in:
- Genesis 3:12** - And the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate."
- v. 13** - And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."
- 12) They were not right with each other because they were not right with the Lord and this was made evident when their perfect marriage was turned into a project-the-blame-on-anyone-else-but-me session before the Lord.
- 13) The idea prevails today and most disgustingly in mainline Protestant churches where parishioners are led to believe that a public display of love for each other confirms one's love for God. This is superficial at best and hypocrisy at worst.
- PRINCIPLE: Expressions of love for others should be uncoerced. Motivation to do so by a third party is manipulation.
- 14) Love *for* God can only be acquired through a reciprocal recognition and appreciation of the love *of* God expressed through Jesus Christ.
- 15) And knowing and understanding the love *of* God can only occur through Bible study which gradually transforms the soul into a vessel of honor that is able to look upon others as targets of our Lord's unconditional love on the cross.
- 16) In a corporate marriage, the husband and wife must view each other as targets of God's personal love. Their unconditional love for each other is a manifestation of their personal love for God and recognition of each other's privileged position as a child of God and a member of His royal family.
25. **#2: Dependence upon human power over divine power.**
- 1) The Christian way of life cannot be lived through the energy of the flesh. The man and woman in a corporate marriage must function on divine power if their relationship is to be harmonious.
- 2) One's relationship with God is dependent upon the filling of the Holy Spirit which is only functional when in the status quo of spirituality.
- 3) Spirituality and carnality are absolutes. Both husband and wife have sinful natures and although the Bible can be read, recalled, and quoted, its proper application is dependent upon the power and leadership of the Holy Spirit.
- 4) The plan of God is perfect. Believers are in this plan but are obviously imperfect. Their ability to function in a perfect plan demands perfect power.
- 5) Divine power is an option which cannot be activated without one's willingness to adjust to the plan of God.
- 6) Married couples must be consistent with the system of attitude adjustment provided by God that enables them to access divine power. It is the husband's responsibility to make sure he is consistently in fellowship and also provides the motivation for his wife to do the same.



**1 John 1:9 -** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- 7) This confessional prayer in which the believer cites his known sins to God results in forgiveness of sins, restores him to fellowship, and accesses the power of the Holy Spirit so that he (or she) can execute the plan of God by the application of the Word of God.
- 8) Accessing the power option of the filling of the Holy Spirit results in the believer possessing the spiritual IQ required to grow in grace and advance in the plan.
- 9) Spiritual growth results in the acquisition of biblical problem-solving devices that enable the husband and wife to manage their sinful natures and adjust to life and circumstances.