

The Attackers: One's Vertical Relationship with God Must Precede His Horizontal Relationship with Mankind; a Christian Must Apply Biblical Problem-Solving Devices before He Can become Copacetic: Rom 12:14, 18; the Top Two Mandates Are Expressed by Our Lord in Mt 22:37-40

50. The general emphases from the pulpits of denominational churches are fellowship, outreach, and Christian service, all of which are legitimate.
51. However, these are areas of application that must be motivated by personal love for God. Understanding of this problem-solving device can only be accomplished by learning doctrine after which the problem-solving device of unconditional love for mankind follows.
52. PRINCIPLE: Establishment of one's vertical relationship with God must precede one's horizontal relationship with man.
53. The problem of Christians being in constant conflict with others is because they have failed to learn from doctrine those teachings that develop personal love for God.
54. Each of us fails and in doing so potentially offends others. The sophisticated believer puts it in the hands of the Lord while the self-centered believer is offended and distracted.
55. The copacetic Christian is stable enough through doctrine and confident enough in God's justice to just leave things alone and utilize the doctrines espoused in the Royal Family Honor Code. For example:
Romans 12:18 - If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.
56. The Cosmic System of Arrogance forbids application of this doctrine and as a result the believer fails to adhere to this doctrine from the Honor Code:

Romans 12:14 - Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

57. When relationship with others is priority one in a believer's life then he sets himself up for iconoclastic arrogance. No one is perfect and every person among one's Christian contacts is at a different level of spiritual growth than he.
58. Flexibility must be granted both categories: (1) to the less advanced believer the attitude of patience and (2) to the advanced believer the attitude of deference.
59. The problem with most believers today is that they mix legalism and works as the prerequisites for gaining God's approval.
60. Therefore, most efforts in the areas of fellowship, outreach, and Christian service are based on life in the horizontal without reference to the prerequisite of a relationship with God in the vertical.
61. But we have nothing of value to offer God for His approval. His approval is based solely on the fact that we possess His righteousness as a result of faith alone in Christ alone.
62. Therefore, reciprocity for His unconditional love toward us is the essential mental attitude that must be developed in the conscience of the individual believer.
63. Our Lord established the proper order of priorities for the believer in His response to a scribe's question, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?":

Matthew 22:37 - And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind' [Deuteronomy 6:5, the introduction to the *Shema*' (שמע)].

v. 38 - "This is the great and foremost commandment.

v. 39 - “The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’ [**Leviticus 19:18b**].

v. 40 - “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”