

From Where I Sit . . .

Why Men Choose Not To Be Faithful

Some people have perceived of a "no-strings attached" version of Christianity. This concept is not Biblical and it never has been Biblical. Our freedom as a nation has especially contributed to a sense of independence that seems to foster an attitude of "You can't tell me what to do." "Don't crowd my space." "Give me my liberty."

Along with this sense of independence comes less dependence on a supreme God in whom we live and move and have our being. The prevailing reaction to God is, "He's nice to have around for emergencies, but when everything's alright, I don't really need to be bothered with all the religious red-tape."

If you doubt that this is true, then consider the thousands, perhaps millions of people that turn very religious when they have an illness, death in the family, financial crisis, or some other major calamity, but who we fail to see again in churches for months or years after the crisis has settled down. Sadly, we must admit that most congregations have such a list of names of individuals; and no matter how hard we strive to enlist their faithfulness, in spite of the few successes we enjoy, others step into their place and the list never seems to get any smaller.

Somehow we have failed to convince people that the most important thing is to do the will of God. "The whole duty of man is to fear God and keep His commandments." We've tried sermons on God's love for us joy, peace, the beauties of heaven, and all sorts of "positive" messages about hope in Christ Jesus, but, still, we have lengthy lists of individuals who just simply are not faithful to the Lord.

I make that statement at risk of being accused of being judgmental. One brother who had not assembled with the saints in nearly two years said we had no right to say he was unfaithful. Another who hadn't attended in 6 months said, "Even though I haven't been attending, I haven't been unfaithful to my Lord. I pray to Him every day." This sounds a lot like the "Jesus, Yes the church, No" philosophy.

The Lord requires faithfulness in all our service which includes attendance. "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2). As with Israel of old, the primary reason people are unfaithful is because of unbelief. In Hebrews chapter 3, verse 7 through chapter 4, verse 11 we learn that unbelief caused them to fall in the wilderness. The same unbelief will cause many not to follow through with their commitment to God and thus fail to enter His rest. Unfortunately, when people lose their belief in God's promises, they quit fearing God's condemnation! People quit believing that God means what He says, and therefore they quit revering Him or being afraid of His wrath. "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief" (Hebrews 4:11).

..... Terry Broome