



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 all-right, 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 of the Lord’s church has a list of individuals just like. No matter how hard we strive to enlist their faithfulness, with the few successes, others step into their place and the list never gets 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 2 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 primary reason for unfaithfulness is unbelief. People just don’t believe that God means what He said, and thus they change His ways. Israel provides us a base of understanding of the result of not believing God’s promises, threats, or commands. Spend some time studying **Hebrews 3:7 through Hebrews 4:11**. 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.

Where there is no belief people quit fearing the Lord! Fear is not a popular subject, but it is a very real Bible subject. According to **Acts 9: 34**, The first century disciples were “*walking in the fear of the Lord.*” Hebrews 12:28-29, “*Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.*” Paul wrote in **2 Cor 5:11** “*Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men....*” These are only a few of many New Testament passages suggesting the terror of being unprepared to meet the Lord.

While our service to God is to be out of love, we had better put the fear of the Lord back into the hearts of individuals who reject love, and still choose to be unfaithful. Brethren, where has the fear gone? People quit believing that God means what He says, and therefore they quit revering Him or being afraid of His wrath. Sinners cannot afford to turn a deaf ear to the words of invitation by our Lord to “Come unto me.” Weary sinner, we plead with you to come home today — before the evil heart of unbelief (**Heb 3:12**) causes you to permanently depart from a living God. Answer if you will, this very moment, “where will you spend eternity?” Please turn your life over to God.

. . . . Terry Broome