

Back to Basics

(The Priorities of God's People) (John 13:1-17)

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Oct 18th

REFLECTION: If Satan can't keep us Coming to faith in Jesus, resulting in Salvation; He'll seek to keep us from Following Him in practical Service! (Jn 10:10; 2 Cor 11:2,3; Col. 2:6-10; Phil. 3:17-20; Gal. 2:20-3:1) The word sin (hamartia/hamartano) literally means "to miss the mark". To avoid the dangerous drift of sin, we need to be able to accurately determine what God's "Mark" (goal) is. God reveals this in the Great Commission (Mt 28:18-20) and the Great Commandment (Mt. 22:35-39).

The Great Commission involves: Salvation, Association, and Transformation.

The Great Commandment (Mt 22:37-39) says: *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. (Protos kai megas: meaning the foremost and greatest) And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."*

The 2nd "greatest" commandment relates to, not how we feel in relation to others, But what we actually do for others! (How we treat them! Mt. 7:12) Devotion that isn't demonstrated, Is actually empty, emotional **Duplicity!** (Lk 6:46; Jn 14:15; 15:10; 2 Cor 8:8)

This aspect of the Great Commandment reveals a fourth priority for us. We're Saved to **Serve!** Ministry is a biproduct of discipleship and is part of our Mission! (Jn 12:26; Lk 22:27; Mt 23:11)

Priority 4: We are Saved to Serve (Ministry is our Mission)

1. THE WHAT OF MINISTRY

A. **Ministry Is Love In Action.** John 13:1 *"Having loved his own..."*

You can serve without loving, but you cannot love without serving.

- 1) Love, like faith, needs to be **demonstrated**. (James 2:20; 1 Cor 13:1-3)
- 2) This demonstration of Love is called "Ministry" or Service. *"by love serve one another."* (Gal 5:13)

B. **Ministry Is Labor (Service) In Jesus' Name.** John 13:13,14; Mt 25:40

- 1) The Greek word for ministry is diakonia. It literally means an attendant or servant.
 - a) This is where we get the word **Deacon**. (diakonos: to run errands, a waiter.)
- 2) Ministry is any service that reflects the Love and God and fulfills the needs of others. Jms 2:22-27

C. **Ministry Is A "Litmus" Test Of Our Relationship With God. 1 Jn 3:10**

"In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother."

- 1) We cannot love God and Hate his people. (1 John 3:14-16) *"We know we've have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death... Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren"*
- 2) Genuine love will be revealed by service. (1 Jn 3:17) *"But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"*
- 3) Loving service brings confidence. (1 Jn. 3:18,19) *"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed (ergon: work, effort) and in truth. (alētheia: clarity) hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure (Peitho: root of faith) our hearts before him."*
- 4) God consistently calls us to service! Gal. 5:13 *"by love serve one another!"*
Gal 6:10 *"let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."*
Eph. 4:1,2 *"Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, ... Forbearing one another in love."*

Conclusion: Ministry (Service) is:

1. Love in action! (John 13:1-17) (*Devotion that's Demonstrated!*)
2. Labor In Jesus' Name. Mt. 25:33-40
3. A Litmus Test of our love for God. 1 Jn 3:10-19; Jn 14:15

- The 1st dimension of the Great Commandment (Loving God) is the precursor (and enabler) of the 2nd dimension. (Loving others)
- Many who claim to "Love God", seem indifferent to practically serving (ministering to) others!
2 Cor 3:18 & James 1:22-25 describes God's word as a mirror that reveals, not only who (what) we are, But who (what) we were meant to become!

Application:

Notice how God describes those who "look" into this mirror of God.

- 1) Some are **Blinded!** Jms 1:22 *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."*
2 Cor 3:14-15 *"their minds were blinded:... even unto this day when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart."*
- 2) Some are **Blessed!** James 1:25 *"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, .. shall be blessed in his deed."*
Makarios: supremely fortunate!

When it comes to being *"doers of the word and not hearers only"*

Which of these best reflects you?

- Blinded? (deceived) 2 Cor 3:12-17; Jms 1:22
- Blessed? (Changed) 2 Cor 3:18 *"but we, with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed. . . by the Spirit of the Lord."*
James 1:25 *"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, .. shall be blessed in his deed."*

Gal. 5:13 *"ye have been called unto liberty; use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."*

- Ed. Hale (1822) *"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do. What I ought to do, by the Grace of God, I shall do."*
- Helen Keller *"I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something! I will not refuse to do the something I can do!"*
- John Wesley (1703) *"Do all the good that you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can."*

Mt 25:44-46 *"Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me."*