

WHO REALLY DIRECTS OUR LIVES?

Eph. 4: 1-6

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The most important lesson for Christians is that Christ and his word is to direct our lives in everything we do.
- B. When one submits to Christ, he is taught that he no longer "runs his own life" but has been bought with a price by Christ and belongs to him 1Cor 6:19,20
- C. Paul points out in 2Cor 10:5 that we are to bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.
- D. We cannot maintain the proper relationship to Christ without allowing Him to direct every aspect of our life. You can't have one without the other.

DISCUSSION:

I. NO ONE REALLY DIRECTS THEIR OWN LIVES COMPLETELY

- A. When born one has help and direction from some source
 1. Home, (family) - parents, brothers, sisters etc.
 2. Government (civil) - becomes a citizen
- B. Later he may take directions from various sources
 1. Business (economic) - farming, store, factory
 2. Community (social) - neighbors, schools, etc.
 3. Marriage (home) - husband, wife, children
- C. In most if not all of these situations one must accept direction from various sources whether he likes it or not or whether he allows direction from Christ or not

II. WHEN ONE BECOMES A CHRISTIAN, HE ACCEPTS DIRECTION FROM A SOURCE WHICH REGULATES ALL OTHER DIRECTION

- A. When one is in Christ he is a new creature 2Cor 5:17
 1. This "inness" effects all things some must be "out"
 2. Our submission to Christ's direction is a primary thing - "a first" - and we must guard it against disruption Matt 6:33; Eph 4:1-3
- B. GOVERNMENT (civil direction)
 1. To be respected by the Christian and recognized as a minister of God Rom 13:1-6
 2. Purpose - punishment of evildoers and praise of them that do well 1Pet 2:13,14
- C. BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (economic direction)
 1. We are to work to supply our needs 1Thess 4:11,12; 1Tim 5:8; Eph 4:28; 2Thess 3:10-12
 2. Principles of Christ must be recognized
 - a. Servants to render service as to Christ and not to man Eph 6: 5-8; Col 3: 22-25
 - b. Masters to treat servants right Eph 6:9; Col 4:1
- D. COMMUNITY (social direction)
 1. People in general 1Pet 2:12; Col 4: 5; 1Cor 10: 31-33

2. Principles of Christ
 - a. Who is my neighbor Lk 10: 25-37
 - b. Don't show respect to appearance Jas 2:1- 12
 - c. Love works no ill to his neighbor Rom 13:10
- E. HOME (family direction) - teachings of Christ directs our family life & shows the way to true happiness
 1. Husband - wife Eph 5: 22-33; Col 3:18,19 1Pet 3:1-7
 2. Parent - child Eph 6:4; Col 3:21; 2Cor 12:14
 3. Child - parent Eph 6:1-3; Col 3:20; 1Tim 5:4,8,16
- F. CHURCH (congregational direction)
 1. Overseers (elders) Heb 13:7, 17
 2. Imitate the humility, meekness and gentleness of Christ Phil 2:5-8; 2Cor 10:1
 3. Consider one another always Heb 10:24; Phil. 2:1-4
 4. Honor one another Rom 2:10
 5. Teach, admonish, restore one another Eph 5:18,19; Col 3:16; Gal 6:1
 6. Each of us to do our part to build up the body of Christ Eph 4:14-16; 1Cor 12:14-27

III. FAILURE TO ACCEPT CHRIST'S DIRECTION IN THESE IS A FAILURE TO ACCEPT HIS DIRECTION AT ALL

- A. We respect government for "conscience sake" Rom 13:5
- B. When work for another, work "as the servant of Christ doing God's will from the heart" Eph 6:6; Tit 2:10
- C. We influence others in the community Matt 5:13-16
- D. If don't support family - denied the faith 1Tim 5:8 -prayers be hindered if husband doesn't treat wife right 1Pet. 3: 7
- E. Can't love God and hate brother 1Jhn.4:20,21

IV. WE MUST RESPECT PRIORITIES AND ALWAYS PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST CHRIST'S DIRECTION IS BEFORE ALL OTHER

- A. In Matt 6:19-34 Christ discusses making a living
 1. God recognizes need to make a living v.32
 2. Yet direction that is not in harmony with Christ must not be followed v.33
- B. Family direction not before Christ - He is first Matt 10:37
- C. God is higher than government Acts 4:19; 5 29

CONCLUSION:

- A. It is Just as necessary for us to please God in the home, in business, in our relationship to the government and in social contact as in the church
- B. If a man's relationship in all these is not right he is not a Christian no matter how faithful he may be in the work and worship of the church
- C. The Christian life embraces all of life, 24 hours a day.