

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING

Prov 25:16

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Be careful lest we allow good and right things to cause us to neglect other necessary activities
- B. Many times Scriptures honor or recommend a particular virtue or institution. Yet, in many cases, these are not absolutes.
- C. It is entirely possible to have too much of a good thing. Prov 25:16

DISCUSSION:

I. HOSPITALITY

- A. Hospitality Commanded Rom 12:10-13
 - 1. To be engaged in cheerfully 1Pet 4:9
 - 2. Rewards are often unknown at first Heb 13:2; but are in fact tremendous Lk 14:12-14
- B. Hospitality Restricted - honorable as it is, better things remain.
 - 1. Listening to God's word is a "good part" to be "chosen" over serving food Luke 10:38-42
 - 2. Some think entertaining & feeding others a function of church.
 - a. Early Christians proved this not so by distinguishing place of worship from where they had common meals Acts 2:46
 - b. Paul condemned this practice 1Cor 11:22, 34

II. FAMILY

- A. Family designed and ordained by God Gen 2:18-24; Prov 18:22
 - 1. Marriage is described as "honorable" Heb 13:4
 - 2. Those forbidding have departed from faith 1Tim 4:1-3
 - 3. Parenthood expected since the beginning Gen 1:28
 - a. A source of happiness from God Psa 127:3-5
 - b. Happiness that transcends one of most painful experiences a woman might bear Jhn 16:21
 - c. Grand-parenthood a crowning achievement Prov 17:6
- B. Yet Family is Restricted
 - 1. Blessed as marriage is, not always expedient to be married 1Cor 7:1-9, 26-35 - It can, in fact, become a distraction.
 - 2. Marriages in which one spouse has been previously divorced are usually adulterous Matt 5:32
- C. Children can be a burden Matthew 24:19 - some circumstances result in child left for sake of gospel Matt 19:29

III. CIVIL LAW

- A. Submit to authority required Rom 13:1-7; 1Pet 2:13-17; Titus 3:1
 - 1. Rotten as he may be, king always deserves honor.
 - 2. It is both wise and godly to obey the king Eccl 8:2-5
 - 3. Rendering to Caesar involves much Matt 22:15-21; Rom 13:7 Paying taxes; Pledging allegiance?; Observing civic holidays? Serving jury duty?

- B. Yet, submission To Civil Authority Restricted - Obey God rather than men Acts 4:1-21; 5:22-29
 - 1. Moses wouldn't have survived to deliver God's people if his mother had not illegally hidden him. Ex 1:15-2:10
 - 2. Rahab, and household, saved because she hid spies defying government Josh 2:1-21; 6:15-25; Heb 11:31; Jas 2:25
 - 3. When authorities in China insist on killing second or third child born to a married couple, Christians resist such evil forces
 - 4. Civil law discourages or may prohibit the speaking out against homosexuality.
 - 5. I doubt Paul was received very warmly in Rome (which was friendly to homosexuals) when he preached against such vileness Rom 1:26-27; 1Cor 6:9-11; 1Tim 1:10

IV. INDUSTRY (WORK)

- A. Industry is required of God's people
 - 1. Man's first task was manual labor Gen 2:7-8,15
 - 2. Constant toil his curse after sin Gen 3:17-19
 - 3. Under Old Law, people expected to work six days Ex 20:8-11
 - 4. Proper conduct of saint includes working 1Thess 4:9-12
 - 5. Failure to work is disorderliness; it burdens others; makes one unfit to eat; refusing work grounds for withdrawal 2Thess 3:6-12
 - 6. Man must provide for his own and others 1Tim 5:8; Eph 4:28
- B. However, industry is restricted
 - 1. Hard work encouraged, but not an end within itself Jhn 6:27
 - 2. Temporary responsibility while goal remains heavenly Lk 12:29
 - 3. Such need not be our every concern 1Tim 6:6-10
 - 4. The pursuit of such will only lead to ruin. Can't serve God and mammon Matt 6:24

CONCLUSION

- A. Concerning salvation, this truth is equally valid.
 - 1. When one emphasizes salvation by grace, apart from human action, he expects too much of a good thing.
 - 2. When another applauds brotherly love to the neglect of biblical discipline, he desires too much of a good thing.
 - 3. Balance is better.
- B. Are you putting the emphasis in the right places?
- C. Yes many things are important, but some things are more important are of top priority Matt 6:33

Revised from a lesson by Bryan Dockens