

SERVING CHRIST OR SERVING MAN?

[Christian Fellowship Wellsford - 25/9/94 - EKB]

1. “Whatever you do, **do it heartily**, cheerfully, willingly **unto the Lord** and not unto men,” and as we do this, the Lord will give us the reward of the inheritance which is His strength, peace, joy, ability, wisdom and presence, for we are serving the Lord Christ, *Col 3:23,24*.
2. Jesus said when you give to the poor, pray or fast, do not do it unto men to be seen of them, to get their recognition, praise and approval, but **do it unto God in secret**, and God who sees in secret **will reward** you openly, *Mat 6:4,6,18*.
3. If we do what we do unto men, they will give us their reward, but **we will not receive any reward from God**, because we are serving men not God, *Mat 6:1*.
4. **Jesus** did all that He did heartily, cheerfully, willingly unto God His Father, but sometimes it brought conflict with men because it cut across their religious laws, *Jn 5:15-19*.
Joseph did all that he did unto the Lord and refused to please Potiphar’s wife, *Gen 39:8*.
Daniel’s three friends refused to bow to the 90foot golden image when the music sounded, because they did everything heartily unto the Lord, *Dan 3:6-18*.
Paul did all that he did unto the Lord and not unto men and it brought public conflict with Peter, *Gal 2:11-16*.
A believer may have conflict with his family as he lives to do all unto the Lord, *Mat 10:34-39*.
5. “Do I seek to please men? If I still please men, I would not be the servant of Christ.”
Gal 1:10, Pro 1:10. “Whatever you do, in word or deed, **do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ**, giving thanks unto God and the Father by Him,” *Col 3:17*.
6. When you do something, who do you hope is watching you? God or man? “**Jesus is the only one watching me.**”
7. Are you doing things to get recognition, praise and approval from man **or from God?**
8. Jesus said, “**You cannot serve two masters,**” *Mat 6:24*. We have to make a choice.
9. Seek to be open and honest about it because **your eternal destiny depends on it**.
10. “**Friendship with the world is to be an enemy of God** and whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God,” *Jam 4:4*.
11. Some live to please men because of:
 - a. **pride** the desire to exalt themselves, *Lk 18:14*.
 - b. **fear** to avoid hurt, anger, disapproval, rejection, ridicule, *Pro 29:25*.
 - c. **insecurity** due to a lack of a secure identity, significance and self worth in Christ.
(see No 127)

These sins must be recognised, repented of, and by faith in the Word removed, *Jn 8:31-36*.

12. If we live seeking the praise of men we are cutting ourselves off from being able to live a life of faith, believing and trusting God, *Jn 5:41,44*. **Faith is available only to those seeking to live to please God in all they do**, *Rom 1:17*.
13. **Without faith we are cut off from the life of God**, His blessing, promises, salvation and reward, *Rom 14:23b*.

Wellsford Fellowship Women's Meeting - 28/9/94

1. If we do everything we do, heartily, cheerfully, **willingly unto the Lord** and not unto man, then everything we do is our ministry unto the Lord, *Col 3:23,24*. Everything we do becomes service to the Lord who **will reward us**, because we are serving the Lord Christ.
2. Today's world belittles **homemaking and motherhood**, but the truth of the Word of God says that it is as much service and ministry to God as any other activity when it is done unto the Lord.
3. **Walking in the light** of *Col 3:23,24* is:
 - a. our ministry for Christ, *v24*.
 - b. abiding in Christ, *Jn 15:4-7*.
 - c. living by faith, *Rom 1:17*.

Suggest reading "The Practice of the Presence of God" by Brother Lawrence.