



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1:8

Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!

February 28, 2016

Let's Be Honest

Bryan Garlock

It is often the case that we are honest about others: their lives, their faults, everything about them. However, the Scriptures often emphasize the need for honesty with ourselves more so than with others. It is only when we are confident that we are sound in the faith that we are to be honest about others. Notice the following:

- "...first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye..." Matthew 7.5
- "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!" 2 Corinthians 13.5
- "Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall." 1 Corinthians 10.12
- "Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching..." 1 Timothy 4.16
- "Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God." Hebrews 3.12

There are many other verses we could examine to see what God says about being honest with ourselves. We learn from the above that we must ever be on guard and always truthful with ourselves concerning temptations, sin and our obedience to Christ. To help to put this in perspective, please consider the following questions and points taken and adapted from Gailen Evans' work on being honest with ourselves.

Here are some questions that can help us judge how honest we are willing to be about ourselves.

- Do we pray for help in seeing ourselves as God sees us?
- Do we pray for friends who love our souls more than they love our friendship, friends who will not let us excuse or ignore our sins?
- Do we pray to be set in the midst of circumstances that will make us to see our true character?
- Do we pray for our secrets to be exposed and would we be glad for the honesty this forces upon us?
- Do we pray for every fault that we have hidden from ourselves to be brought out into the open light of truth? John 3:19-21
- Do we pray for help in accepting even the most painful truth, so that we can change our ways?
- Do we love it enough to seek the help of others (Our friends? Our fellow Christians? Our elders?) in learning the truth about sins we need to repent of?

Northside
church Of Christ

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Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Remember the spiritual sick among us.
- Call or email Bryan to add announcements, thanks.
- We need volunteers for door knocking. Please see Bryan.
- We need volunteers for picking folks up. Please see Bryan.

While these questions may seem forward and cause us to become uncomfortable, we must truly examine our faith. Do we genuinely love God and His truth? If so, we will be able to answer these questions in the affirmative and not shy away from the implications. Since God knows us (Heb. 4.12-13) we ought to know ourselves too. If we do not take control of our lives for ourselves now, we will turn away from the truth eventually! It is past time for some brethren to come to their senses about what is happening in their lives. This writer's prayer is that "...God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will" (2 Tim. 2.25-26). BG

That Piece of Clay Forrest D. Moyer

A little child has often been likened to a piece of clay that can be molded into whatever type of pottery that the potter (parent) has in mind. A little child is so pliable, so willing to be molded and so trusting. This can either be a fantastic opportunity or a tragic consequence depending on what the potter does. Solomon expresses this truth vividly when he says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). This is why Paul urged parents to "bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

When clay hardens, it is too late to mold it as you desire. So it is with children. In their young and tender years they can be taught and guided into the way of the Lord, but as they grow older, they become set and fixed in the mold that was cast. You can't wait until a child is a teenager to mold him. It begins before he is born. It takes place while he is a baby, while he is toddler and while he is a pre-schooler. Do you realize that most of a child's molding has already taken place by the time he starts to school? Potters (parents), how are you molding your child?

Five Day A Week Reading Plan

Mon: Josh 14-18

Tues: Josh 19-23

Wed: Josh 24-Judges 4

Thurs: Judges 5-9

Fri: Judges 10-14