

Choices - How they affect us!

Whether we are Christians or not, we all have to make daily choices about how we live and how we respond to situations in our lives. Sometimes it is not about having control over

the different situations of our lives, (For circumstances may take this out of our control,) but how we choose to respond to these situations is just as important. Daily we have the choice of how we live our Christian lives. If we choose for God and follow His plan for our lives then we will take the consequences of this. If we choose to live for ourselves or for the ways of the world, again there are consequences of those choices. Throughout the Bible we are shown that when we choose for God then our lives are blessed, protected and provided for by God. Yet if we choose for ourselves, we step outside of God's hedge of protection and blessing and make ourselves vulnerable to Satan and sin.

Discuss - (In group / or small groups)

Q1) Why do you think the bible gives us so much information on good and bad choices?

Q2) What do you think will happen if you build your Christian life on bad choices?

Q3) What do you think stops a Christian making daily good choices for God?

What does the Bible tell us about the daily choices we are called to make?

Fact 1 - God gives us a choice to make even as His people!!

In the book of Deuteronomy we see that God binds Himself to promises that He will give His people if they are prepared to walk in obedience and daily make choices for Him and His Kingdom. However to walk in disobedience results in a cutting off from the provision of God and His blessing. No where does it say that you will have control over the circumstances of your life - BUT you do have control over how you respond in the different situations of your life. It is at this level, that God lays before us each day choices that we have to make either for Him or ourselves. For example in the area of forgiveness :- If someone hurts us (which we have no control over.) We can choose to obey God and forgive them, or we can choose to hold onto our hurt, and not forgive them. The consequences long term on our lives, regarding forgiveness / unforgiveness are bound to the course of action we choose.

Deuteronomy 30 v 11 -20

Fact 2 - The daily choices we make build a foundation for our lives!!

The simple truth is that the daily choices we make in our lives build a foundation that our lives are built upon. The foundation of this building is the foundation of Jesus - His Word and Will. The building material that we use are the bricks and mortar of daily obedience. The simple fact is that when we choose against God and His word we include within the building of our lives faulty material and weak spots that will crumble under the weight of the unguarded moment. Some of the choices we are making right now - in 6 months time are going to create instability in our Christian lives. We need to be careful on what choices we are building our lives upon. 1 Corinthians 3 v 10 - 17

Fact 3 - we can fool other people but we cannot fool God!!

Often in the church we as God's people are able to outwardly model a Christian life where we are saying and doing all the right things. Yet most of the wrong that we do is hidden sin, that even those closest to us - do not know about. The bible makes it clear that God will not be mocked!! He knows everything about us - what is done in public and what is done in private. He knows the inclinations of our hearts and the thoughts of our minds. Nothing is hidden from God. Therefore the Bible says what we sow in the decisions and behaviour of our lives is what we shall long term reap. We can sow in obedience and reap a harvest of righteousness or we can sow in the flesh and reap destruction. You cannot fool God and therefore it is best to be honest!!

Galatians 6 v 7 - 10

Fact 4 - Weighing the Cost to be paid!!

To live the Christian life that God wants you to live is going to cost on a personal level. In many situations in life you cannot please both God and the people around you, or even yourself, in the choices you make. Therefore the bible encourages us to weigh the cost of being a Christian. There is nothing worse than someone professing faith and then not living as a Christian, or falling away because they are not prepared to pay the cost of obedient Christian living. This dishonours God - the Christian life -and the Church of Jesus Christ.

For many Christians the reason why they do not come to a great anointing on their Christian lives, or even to some level of Christian maturity is because when it comes down to it they are not prepared to pay the great cost of being a TRUE follower of Jesus. **Determine this day** what sort of Christian you will be. The choices you make will establish your destiny as a follower of Jesus

Luke 14 v 25 - 35

