

**6-19-16**  
**Keep God at the Center**  
John 12:24-26

**Introduction**

●How should these priorities be ordered? – church, God, family

1. God, church, family
2. God, family, church
3. None of the above

●The biblical picture of proper priorities is to put God at the

c\_\_\_\_\_ of everything.

1. God-centered living is not easy because it goes against our natural tendency to be s\_\_\_\_\_
2. God-centered living always asks the question: “What about \_\_\_\_\_?”
3. God-centered living is how we truly experience God. Will you determine today to keep God at the center of your life?

**The Christian life is not about \_\_\_\_\_ but the \_\_\_\_\_**

●The primary barrier to a saving relationship to Jesus is

s\_\_\_\_\_ (Lk 9:23)

1. The illustration (Jn 12:24) - a seed of wheat must be planted and d\_\_\_\_\_ in order to produce a crop.
2. The application (Jn 12:25)
  - a. If you l\_\_\_\_\_ your life (literally, soul), you will l\_\_\_\_\_ it (literally, destroy it) – this is true because this is self-centeredness
  - b. If you h\_\_\_\_\_ your life in this world, you will keep it for e\_\_\_\_\_ life (i.e. a relationship with God as defined in Jn 17:3) – this is true because this is God-centeredness
  - c. Paraphrase – if you are infatuated with your own life and work at feeding that infatuation you will end up destroying your life, but if you hate the self-centered life you will gain eternal life.

●Although the believer in Christ strives to be God-centered, Satan tries to get our focus off God to keep us from experiencing God.

1. The temptation account of Adam and Eve (Gen 3:1-7)
  - a. Satan’s trick is to get us to look at \_\_\_\_\_-term results
  - b. Where was Eve’s focus?
2. The story of the twelve spies (Num 13,14)
  - a. Satan’s trick was to get people to listen to what p\_\_\_\_\_ say and not what the Lord says
  - b. Where was the focus of the general population?

**The servant life is not about what \_\_\_\_\_ am doing but where the \_\_\_\_\_ is working (Jn 12:26)**

- Biblical servanthood is not us doing things for God but God doing things \_\_\_\_\_ us.
  1. We must look at w\_\_\_\_\_ God is working (“where I (Jesus) am there is My servant”)
  2. Whenever we see God working around us, that is God’s invitation to j\_\_\_\_\_ Him in that work (“whoever serves Me”)
- How do we know where God is working?
  1. Someone is s\_\_\_\_\_ God (see Rom 3:10,11; Jn 6:44) – a person cannot seek God apart from His work on their heart.
  2. A new Christian thirsts for the things of God and wants your h\_\_\_\_\_ (Phil 2:12,13; Heb 10:24).
  3. A Christian is hurting and you are there (2 Cor 1:4)
- Our obligation - Watch where God is working and join Him in that work!

**Conclusion – keeping God at the center of every area of your life will enable you to see where He is working. Join Him and experience God!**