

KEEP THE MAIN THING, THE MAIN THING

I Corinthians 7:17-40

Introduction:

- A. The saying, *Keep the main thing, the main thing.*
 - 1. Origin - from Stephen C _____
 - 2. Meaning – stay focused on the bigger picture and not allow the l_____ things to become a big deal.
- B. What is the main thing in the Christian life? – our r _____ to the Lord.
 - 1. This must be the c _____ factor in every area of our lives.
 - 2. Paul deals with three areas that Christians were struggling with in keeping their relationship to Christ as central.

Let God's Calling Determine Your Worth (17-27)

- A. God's calling refers to the t _____ God brings a person to salvation in Jesus Christ, which involves:
 - 1. The internal c _____ of the Holy Spirit (Jn 16:8)
 - 2. The personal d _____ by the Father to Christ (Jn 6:44)
 - 3. The sacrificial work of Jesus on the cross to p _____ for our sins (Matt 20:28).
- B. If you responded to God's calling by trusting Christ
 - 1. You understood that you were a _____ by God in spite of all your mess-ups.
 - 2. As time passed you may have reverted back to looking at yourself through other e _____ (e.g. friends, performance).
- C. Three common – errors that Christians make concerning their self-worth.
 - 1. S _____ status (18-20).
 - a. The Corinthian Christians
 - 1) Some Jewish Christians wanted to be more accepted among Gentile Christians by un _____ their circumcision.
 - 2) Some Gentile Christians wanted to be more accepted among Jewish Christians by getting c _____
 - b. Application – avoid pursuing something for the sake of becoming more accepted in social circles (we are

already in the best social circle - God's f _____ -
Jn 1:12).

2. E _____ status (21-24)
 - a. The Corinthian Christians
 - 1) Some were s _____ when they were saved - they were not to w _____ about changing that "condition."
 - 2) Some were f _____ when they were saved. – they also were not worry about changing that condition.
 - b. Application – our worth is not measured by worldly dollars but by Christ's p _____. He made with His blood (we will inherit God's riches – Rom 8:17).
3. M _____ status (25-28a).
 - a. The Corinthian Christians – this is not a command of Jesus but just w _____ advice from Paul.
 1. Wisdom – because persecution against Christians was increasing, it is better not to c _____ your marital status.
 2. It is not s _____ if you change your marital status.
 - b. Application – life is not about your marital status but about your relationship to the Lord.

Let God's Word Determine Your Values (19,23)

A. The Corinthians

1. Some were getting their values from "circumcision" and others from "uncircumcision" which is n _____ in God's sight.
2. Their values were to be reflected in the keeping of God's c _____.
 - a. This does not refer to mere r _____
 - b. This refers to all God's w _____ (2 Tim 3:16)

B. Money

1. Most value money more than they do p _____.
2. Money is not to be our m _____ but only a tool (Matt 6:24)
3. How do the transactions in your b _____ account reflect your values? (Lk 16:10,11).

Limit Your Pursuit Of “Okay” Interests (28-40)

A. The Corinthians situation.

1. The single life is e_____ (vv 32-40) – why?
 - a. Can f_____ on pleasing the Lord
 - b. Does not have the added responsibility of p_____ a spouse.
2. The single life is b_____ (vv 28-31) – why?
 - a. The time has been s_____ for the time of coming trouble (v. 28a)
 - b. Roman persecution was increasing and was the common Christian experience by Rev 1:9.

B. The point

1. It is not s_____ to pursue interests
2. L_____ the number of interests you pursue (most people have a great number of interests)
3. If an interest keeps you from being fully devoted to the Lord, stop pursuing it.
4. Keep the main thing, the main thing – be fully devoted to the Lord.