

Last week we spoke about the importance of brotherly love. While our devotions to Christ are important by studying, prayer, and fellowship, it should all be directed to loving one another. How seriously we study and take the words of Christ is reflected by how we love one another. In other words, if we truly understand what Christ is telling us, it is summed up in two commandments.

Loving God and Loving our neighbor, we read:

Mark 12:28-34 Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" (29) Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'HEAR, O ISRAEL, THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE. (30) AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' This is the first commandment. (31) And the second, like it, is this: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

(32) So the scribe said to Him, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. (33) And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." (34) Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." But after that no one dared question Him.

There are so many people in this world that have wonderful knowledge and understanding of the Bible but do not know what love is. They say they love God, but they treat people with contempt. Listen, it is easy to love someone you want to love but to love the unlovable or intolerable is Christ-like.

---

One of the ways to love is found in the following verses:

1 Thessalonians 4: (11) that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and

to work with your own hands, as we commanded you,

A) Lead a quiet life to mind your own business. This seems like an easy thing to do but unfortunately our world has the “inquiring minds want to know” mentality.



The fact is nosy people can be annoying. It is not so much that they are wanting to know, as much is they are wanting to know so that they can gossip and tell other people or feel justified in their feelings towards someone or something. Here is the definition of Gossip:

A casual or unconstrained conversation or reports about other people, typically involving details that are not confirmed as being true or maybe true, but not of the other person's business:



There are several classifications of these people.

1. Those who get into other people's business.

“What is going on...What are you they doing...What is happening.”

what is going on



2. Those who take up other people's offences.

“I cannot believe they did that to them. I am so angry they said that to them.”



3. Those who make everything an offence.

“I am offended he did not shake my hand. I am offended that they said it that way. I am offended that they looked at me that way.”



Here is what we are told about people who do not lead a quiet life and mind their own business but are gossips...

James 1:26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

Proverbs 11:13 A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.

Proverbs 16:28 A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

There are hundreds of verses on gossip and backbiting that would keep us here for hours. In general, the verses tell us the same story. Those who like to gossip have an evil heart, they are dividers and sowers of strife, and are not of God.

It is so easy to find ourselves wanting to tell a matter or something we know. Yet, it takes a lot of control and understanding to the dangers in doing so.

So, what should we pray...

Psalms 141:3 Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.



---

We conclude in verse 12

(12) that you may walk properly toward those who are outside,

A) From loving one another, to leading a quiet life, to minding our own business, these are all rooted to walking properly for our witness.

B) Our main goal as Christians is to point everyone to Christ. We do this by following the examples given to us above.

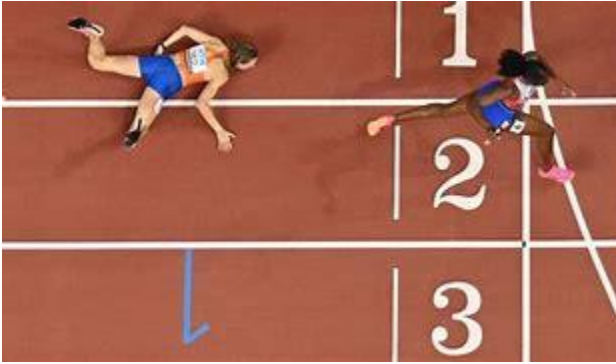
- a. Walking in good works.
- b. Loving one another.
- b. Minding our own business.

(12b) and that you may lack nothing.

The meaning is that you may not fall short.



It is the picture of a person who is so engrossed in believing he is winning with his Number 1 finger up that he ends up falling, or getting passed because he decided to slow down and enjoy the win before he actually crossed over.



In conclusion,

A Christian must learn to balance when to say something and when not to. The only business we have in other people's lives is rooted in love. Love for them and their salvation. If we open our mouth, it should be for the purpose of guiding people to Christ.

Psalms 51:12-13 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

(13) Then will I teach transgressors thy ways;  
and sinner shall be converted unto thee.



