

REALIGN YOUR PRIORITIES

TOP PRIORITIES

Proverbs 29:18— Without revelation people run wild, but one who follows divine instruction will be happy.

What does this verse tell us about the importance of being aligned with God's priorities?

Pastor Chris used this illustration—There is a scene in Alice in Wonderland that goes like this:

Alice asks: "Which path shall I follow?"

The cat answers: "That depends where you want to go. If you do not know where you want to go, it doesn't matter which path you take."

What does that illustration mean?

Are there choices that you now regret making in the past, either for yourself or for your family's future?

1 Corinthians 6:12a—"Everything is permissible for me," but not everything is beneficial.

Paul wrote the book of 1 Corinthians to the Christians at the Corinthian church.

What did he mean by this verse?

Can you name some things that you know are okay for you to participate in, but ultimately they are best if you can leave them alone?

Understand that your ability to make good choices concerning your future and God's priorities for your life isn't based on your own ability to be good, but on God's work in your life.

Moses reminded the people of this:

Deuteronomy 8:11-17—Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, ¹²lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, ¹³and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, ¹⁶ who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. ¹⁷Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.

What did Moses say “don’t forget” in verse 11?

What reason did Moses warn the people in verse 17?

So what reason should we never forget where our blessings come from?

3 STEPS TO AID OUR DECISIONS

Priorities we choose are a path that leads us to a particular destination, God’s Word tells us of set priorities that, if followed, will lead us to the destiny for which He created us. However, we are created with freewill. Priorities are decided individually. You decide what is a priority to you.

If the _____ you choose to follow don’t line up with _____ priorities, then don’t complain when your _____ and things don’t end up where you think they should have.

Micah 6:8—He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

In this verse, look for the three steps that the prophet Micah lays out for proper service to God.

1 Do _____.

2 Love _____.

3 Walk _____ with God.

Does this pattern describe the way that Jesus interacted with others in His day?

Paul uses the following illustration to show these priorities that should be on our hearts today.

2 Corinthians 6:7 (TPT)—Don't you realize that when you drag another believer into court you're providing the evidence that you are already defeated? Wouldn't it be better to accept the fact that someone is trying to cheat and take advantage of you, and simply choose the high road? At times it is better to just accept injustice and even to let someone take advantage of you, rather than to expose our conflicts publicly before unbelievers.

Chapter 6 tells us that our priority needs to be for others before ourselves. Paul tells us that sometimes it's better to just "take it on the chin" when others have wronged us. Putting others first has to be a conscious decision. **THIS IS THE _____ OF LOVE.**

When you have been wronged, is your first response that of anger and revenge or turning the other cheek?

Physical fitness gurus may quote this Scripture "glorify God with your body." And while it is a good idea to keep your body physically fit, sometimes glorifying God with your body simply means just keeping your mouth shut and your heart open. Enduring the afflictions others place on us is nothing short of being like Christ when He took the 40 lashes upon His back for us.

James 1:2-4—Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

Too often we don't _____ to the will of God because we are afraid He _____ us in a way we will like.

In essence, we become the judge, jury, and prosecutor over others when hold grudges against others. Justice isn't always making sure someone pays for their crime. The justice of Jesus wasn't to punish those who hurt Him, it was to take upon Himself the sin of their disobedience and plead to God for mercy upon them.

On a scale from 1 (most selfish) to 10 (most thoughtful), how do you think you rate making others a priority over yourself?

On a scale from 1 (most selfish) to 10 (most thoughtful), how do you think your family would rate you?

On a scale from 1 (most selfish) to 10 (most thoughtful), how do you think your neighbors would rate you?

If others were your priority, what difference would it make in the way you would live your life?

Spend your free time?

Spend your money?

Volunteer at church?

2 Corinthians 6:20—For you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body.

According to this verse, who did God make a priority?

PRAYER TIME

- As you take the time to pray, be sure to thank God for the times that He made you a priority.
- Be sure to thank God for the many times He steered you away from really bad decisions that could have been detrimental to you or your family's future.
- Ask God to show you how you can touch, encourage, help along their way.
- Ask God who your group can make a priority of prayer and support.