

Born to Serve: Relative to the State and the Home

1 Thess. 1:9-10

Introduction:

1. Christians are "born again" to serve.
2. God. (1 Thess. 1:9-10).
3. Man. (1 Cor. 1:19).
- B. Christians are to serve in various relationships.
 1. Social, economic, etc.
 2. My subject: state and home.

Discussion:

I. We Are To Serve God And Man In The State.

- A. Our real citizenship is in heaven. (Phil. 3:20)
 1. Takes precedent over earthly citizenship. (cf. Acts 5:29)
 2. Are away from home waiting to go home.
- B. Yet, we have an obligation to our earthly citizenship - the state.
 1. It serves us well. (Rom. 13:4; cf. Acts 23:17-24)
 2. We should serve it well.
 - a. By being law-abiding for conscience sake. (Rom. 13:1-5; 1 Pet. 2:13-17)
 - b. By paying taxes, customs, etc. (Rom. 13:7; Matt. 22:21)

II. We Are To Serve God And Man In The Home.

- A. Serve in the home with a lawful marriage. (Matt. 14:4; 5:32; 19:9).
- B. Serve in the home with **Love**.
 1. Not Soap Opera or fairy tale variety.
 2. But, real love that can be taught, learned and cultivated. (Eph. 5:25; Col. 3:19; Tit. 2:4)
 3. Love demonstrated by deeds. (1 Cor. 13:4-7; 1 John 3:18)
- C. Serve in the home with **Peace**.
 1. Wedding ring shouldn't be symbol of fighting ring. (cf. Prov. 21:19; 25:24)
 2. Wedding bells should not signal beginning of round one.
 3. Wedding ceremonies can be followed by peace if:
 - a. Will not let disagreements degenerate into strife. (cf. take a walk)
 - b. Will work for peace. (Not 50-50, but 75-75 proposition)
 - c. Will resist outside agitation of family and friends. ("Leave & Cleave")
- D. Serve in the home with **Consideration**.
 1. Each make the others role easy to fulfil.
 - a. Wives make it easy for husband.
 - (1) To rule his house. (Eph. 5:25; 1 Tim. 3:5)
 - (2) To be a breadwinner. (1 Tim. 5:8)
 - b. Husbands make easy for wife.
 - (1) To submit and obey. (1 Pet. 3:7; Eph. 5:28)
 - (2) To be a keeper at home. (Tit. 2:5)
 - c. Children make it easier for parents and vice versa.
 2. Attend to each others basic needs. (1 Cor. 7:1-5).
 - a. Failure results in, but no excuse for infidelity and broken marriages.
 - b. Failure often caused by being too busy with other things.
- E. Serve in the home with **Spirituality**.
 1. Mutual respect for God and His will makes a good marriage.
 2. Mutual respect for God's will makes good parent-child relationship.
 3. Bible re-enforces "home" responsibility with spiritual motives.
 - a. Peace because GOD has called us to peace. (1 Cor. 7:15).
 - b. Love and submit like CHRIST and THE CHURCH. (Eph. 5)
 - c. Behave lest WORD OF GOD be blasphemed. (Tit. 2:5).
 - d. Behave because it is a great price in GOD's sight. (1 Pet. 3:4)
 - e. Behave lest PRAYERS be hindered. (1 Pet. 5:7).
 - f. Children obey parents IN THE LORD. (Eph. 6:1).
 - g. Parents bring up children in admonition OF THE LORD. (Eph. 6:4)

Conclusion:

- A. Faithful Christians make good citizens in any state.
- B. Faithful Christians make good husbands, wives, parents and children.