

“I Don’t Care What You Think”

SCRIPTURE READING: Galatians 6:1-5

INTRODUCTION.

- A. We all care what others think to some degree.
- B. However, if unchecked, it can trap us in people-pleasing or fear.
- C. The Bible gives us wisdom and understanding. We need to be open to wise input without letting human voices override God’s voice.
- D. In this lesson, we will consider when we should care what others think and when we absolutely should not care.

I. WE MUST BE WILLING TO LISTEN AND CONSIDER.

- A. Pride makes us think our way is always best, but humility opens us to growth. A wise person is teachable and values godly counsel. Refusing all input is foolish.
- B. Let’s consider a few passages from Proverbs.
 - 1. Proverbs 12:15 – “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise.”
 - 2. Proverbs 19:20 – “Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days.”
 - 3. Proverbs 11:14 – “Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.”
 - 4. Proverbs 15:31-32 – “The ear that hears the rebukes of life will abide among the wise. He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke gets understanding.”
- C. Listening does not mean automatic agreement.
- D. Listening does not commit you to accepting what was said.
- E. However, we should be willing to consider with an open heart.

II. WHEN WE SHOULD CARE WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK.

- A. When we are immature in our understanding.

1. We need to recognize when someone who is more mature in understanding is giving us instructions.
2. The Bible instructs the older to teach the younger. (Titus 2:2-8)
3. Consider Hebrews 5:12-14.

B. When we are misdirected.

1. Sometimes we walk in the wrong direction.
 - a. Maybe it is caused by us listening to the wrong people.
 - b. Maybe it is caused by us rejecting the current instructions.
 - c. The Jewish leaders rejected admonition of the prophets of old.
2. We need to listen when others tell us we are going in the wrong direction.
 - a. Consider what they say.
 - b. Weigh it with what the Bible teaches.

C. When we are wrong.

1. Christians are to correct one another when someone is overtaken in a fault. (Galatians 6:1-5)
 - a. However, how do we react if we are the one being corrected?
 - b. We need to listen with an open and honest heart.
2. Consider King David when rebuked by Nathan. (2 Samuel 12:1-13)

III. WHEN WE SHOULD NOT CARE WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK.

A. When their words and directions go against the Bible.

1. Compare what we are hearing to what the Bible teaches.
 - a. Recognize that God's word is final authority. (cf. Acts 5:26-29)
 - b. We should not seek to please men. (Galatians 1:10)
2. If, after studying, you find that you are incorrect, then change; not because the person said so, but because the Bible corrected your understanding.
3. If you find the instructions from the person to be incorrect, then do not follow their instructions.
4. Our goal should be to rightly handle the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15-19)

5. Our loyalty is to God, not to the world. (cf. 1 John 2:15-17)
- B. When they encourage you to violate your conscience.
 1. Do what you believe to be right according to God's word. (Romans 14:22-23)
 2. Paul told Timothy to have faith and a good conscience. (1 Timothy 1:18-20)
 3. Peter said to maintain a good conscience. (1 Peter 3:13-17)
- C. When their way is foolish or worldly.
 1. Worldly wisdom is contrary to the wisdom of God. (1 Corinthians 3:18-20)
 2. Be willing to walk away from foolish advice or foolish wisdom. (Proverbs 14:6-8)
 3. Consider Paul's warning against being cheated through philosophy and empty deceit. (Colossians 2:4-10)
 4. Paul told Titus to avoid foolish disputes. (Titus 3:8-11)

CONCLUSION.

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