

MANY CHURCH MEMBERS BUT FEW SERVE

Luke 14:25-33 Matthew 19:27-30

Introduction: One has to make changes in his/her life to be obedient and serve God.

- Ask any Christian, "do you want to do something for God?" and the answer will be "yes."
- God says that His Holy Spirit gives every Christian a special gift to be used for Him.
- Sadly, most Christians don't want to make any major adjustments to "serve" God.
- Jesus said that anybody wanting to follow Him had to make adjustments in his/her life.
- One just cannot be obedient to God and not make some changes/adjustments in his/her life.

I. SERVING GOD DEMANDS ADJUSTMENTS

1. It is impossible to obey God and not have to make some changes/adjustments.
 - Look at Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Amos, Jonah, Peter, Andrew, James, John, Matthew, Paul and multitudes of others through the centuries.
2. Sometimes serious changes must be made:
 - Leave one's family or one's job, or even one's country.
 - Prejudices have to be dropped, attitudes changed.
 - Personal goals, dreams, ideas, desires changed or even left.
 - Everything in one's life must be adjusted to God's will.
3. What Christian is willing to yield everything to God in order to be obedient?
 - The hymn "I Surrender All" is often sung but so often not meant.
 - The hymn "I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go" is also sung but with no intent of actually "going" anywhere for God.
 - Most Christians say, in their singing of hymns, things they don't really mean.

II. IF NO ADJUSTMENTS OR CHANGES IN ONE'S LIFE HAVE BEEN MADE THEN THAT PERSON IS NOT IN GOD'S WILL OR SERVICE

1. As an average, 25% of the entire church roll is in attendance any given Sunday. Where is the other 75%?
2. It is sad but true that many people want the benefits of being a christian, such as eternal life and a place in Heaven but don't want to make necessary changes God would require to be of service to Him.
 - A rich young ruler came to Jesus and wanted to follow Him and Jesus told him to go sell all he had and then come follow Him. The rich young ruler went away very sad.
 - Elisha was called to preach for God. He burned his plows, killed and cooked his oxen and left everything and everybody to serve God.
3. Many pastors and missionaries can tell of leaving families, jobs, friends, ways of life to be obedient to what God wanted them to do.

4. Not until a person makes the adjustments God wants will/can God ever use that person as He wants to.

CONCLUSION:

1. God wants His children to be totally, wholly yielded and obedient to His will for their lives.
2. Anything God wants one of His children to do is important, from handing out bulletins on Sunday morning to being a foreign missionary.
3. Anything God wants one of His children to do will require adjustments and changes, some minor but some major.
4. *"So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:33)*
5. God's Word is piercing, leaving no question of what He says. Who will obey His Word?