

I Am MY BROTHERS KEEPER

TEXT: 1 Peter 3:1-7 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

INTRO.: A. Here is the question: "*What **accountability** and mainly **consequences** do we as Christians have for affecting negatively someone's decision to become a Christian based on the life/example we live and what they see in a Christian's life?*" WOW! Someone is really thinking about the salvation of a loved one here. Just what is our responsibility to lost people? And what are the consequences of not doing all we can to win those we come in contact with. What about those in our own homes, our family and extended family? How about our neighbors and fellow workers?

I. OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE LOST:

A. The Great Commission:

1. It is abundantly clear what the Lord expects of His children.
2. Our witness is not just verbal ("**preach**") but also through our lifestyle ("**works**").

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and **preach** the gospel to every creature.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Matt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may **see your good works**, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto **good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

- a. Our lives should be a steppingstone to enable loved ones and friends to get saved, not a stumbling block.
- b. This is especially true of those closest to us, especially in our immediate family.

QUESTION: Do your family members know by your **words and works** that you are born-again? What about those you work with? What about your neighbors? Have you ever actually sat with them and explained the simple plan of salvation to them? **It is not words alone or works alone, but both together. Or how about knocking on their door and giving them a clear Gospel tract? How about those you come in contact with shopping, getting gas, etc.?**

B. The Great Omission:

1. Sometimes it is our assumption that they will not listen that hinders us from presenting Christ to them.
2. There comes a time when we must be persuasive and a bit “pushy” to make a clear presentation.

EXCUSES: “Well they won’t listen.” “I have tried before.” “They are too hard.” “They are too worldly.” “They are not elect.” (I thought that about my dad when I was a young Christian. It took 10 years before he received Christ!)

Perhaps they have shut you down in the past and you have done all you can to persuade them. Often it will take a difficult time in their lives that they may reach out to you or at least be more apt to listen to your presentation. If you do put that off, remember that “later” may be too late for them. However, it is always possible for you to try to set up an appointment with another soul winner or even the pastor to meet with them.

It is actually YOUR responsibility however to do your best to win those closest to you.

II. THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT DOING OUR BEST:

A. For the Lost: *the Lake of Fire Forever!!!*

B. For Believers: *Loss at the Judgment Seat & Beyond*

2 Cor 5:10-11 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men ; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.*

1. The loss of rewards.
2. The loss of service and position in the Millennium.

Matt 25:21 *His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

Rev 22:12 *And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*

1 Cor 3:12-15 *Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

ILLUS.: The judgment seat of Christ might be compared to a commencement ceremony. At graduation there is some measure of disappointment and remorse that one did not do better and work harder. However, at such an event the overwhelming emotion is joy, not remorse. The graduates do not leave the auditorium weeping because they did not earn better grades. Rather, they are thankful that they have been graduated, and they are grateful for what they did achieve. **To overdo the sorrow aspect of the judgment seat of Christ is to make heaven hell. To underdo the sorrow aspect is to make faithfulness inconsequential.**

3. The shame we will feel when we meet Him face to face.

1 John 2:28 *And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.*

4. Now to balance the above:
 - a. Live for Christ in everything – stay clean and yielded.
 - b. Be sweet, kind and thoughtful.
 - c. Don’t badger the lost (remember our text).

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- d. Realize you cannot win everyone.
- e. Don't make your presentation of the Gospel about you, it is about Him!
- f. Don't just quote the Scripture...live it!
- g. Strive to be a better Christian and you will be a better soul-winner.
- h. Be a FAITHFUL Christian out of church as well as in church – set the example.
- i. Demonstrate your love for the lost you are trying to win.

1 Cor 13:1-2 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity , I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity , I am nothing. (**"Charity" is love in action!**)

- j. Never give up...but know when to back off.
- k. Pray, PRAY, **PRAY!** For opportunities, wisdom and boldness.
- l. Trust God to enable you and empower you – you can't win souls yourself!

CONCL.: To win the soul-winners crown you must be active and aware of those around you and their need of Christ. Then you must be actively seeking souls. Pass out tracts. Verbally witness. Live so others see the difference Christ has made in your life.

1 Thess 2:19-3:1 For what is our hope, or joy, or **crown of rejoicing**? Are not even **ye** in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? 20 For **ye** are our glory and joy.

Dan 12:3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.