

PRIORITY NUMBER ONE?
(Why Putting God First Might Be A Bad Idea)
Grow Up, Part 4
November 21st, 2010

Although we can list the politically correct priorities doesn't mean we live by them

What does it really mean to make God the "first" priority in our lives? Is it a priority of:

Order ?
Time ?
Quality ?
Value ?

A better solution is to stop putting God first and put Him in the center of our life

Whatever we do, we are to do it for God

Colossians 3:17 (NIV) "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV) "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

The challenge is to bring God into everything we do, to begin seeing every action and event as an opportunity to represent God well

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV) "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."

When we approach every task and life situation as an opportunity to further God's agenda, advance His Kingdom, or make Him look good, in effect we've put Him in the center

Matthew 6:33-34 (NIV) "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

This passage is telling us to stop worrying about earthly concerns and to start laying up heavenly treasure

One problem with trying to make God the first priority on a hierarchical list is that we're never really done with God

The biggest problem with putting God first on a priority checklist is that it breaks life into two boxes: the spiritual box and the secular box

When we see God as the first priority on a list rather than the center of everything we do, we have a strong tendency to assume that taking care of the things in the God box equals putting God first

Even worse, there's also a strong tendency to assume that God doesn't have much to do with the stuff in the secular box

This, in essence, gives God His dues in one area in exchange for keeping Him out of everything else

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

Putting God in the center of my life helps me see all of life as spiritual, i.e. everything
I do is part of my larger assignment from God

We represent God everywhere we go and in everything we do

It always makes a difference when we take God off the top of some list and put Him in the middle of our lives where He belongs

My Next Step Today Is...

- I will stop making God a priority in my life and make Him the CENTER of my life
- I am asking Christ into my life for the very first time – I'm becoming a Christian
- I will memorize Colossians 3:17
- I/my family am/is coming to the Harvest Family Potluck today at 5 PM. We'll bring _____; # attending _____