

Priorities

Webster: 1. a being prior; precedence- **precedence:** the act, right or fact of preceding in time, place, rank, etc

God

(If God is first, all else will automatically fall in perfect order!)

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God

Exo 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before Me. (*1st commandment*)

Exo 20:5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: (*2nd commandment*) for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous (*Heb.7067-from H7065-to be zealous*) [**Webster:** *zeal*-intense enthusiasm] God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate Me; **6** And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments.

- **Jealous-** God has such an intense enthusiasm for us that He expects the same in return.

2Co 11:2 For I am jealous (*Gk.2206-to have warmth of feeling for or against*) over you with godly jealousy (*Gk.2205-heat, that is, [figuratively] "zeal"*): for I have espoused you to one Husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ.

Worship

Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: **25** **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day (*first day of the week*) approaching.

Act 20:7 And upon the **first day of the week**, when the disciples **came together to break bread**, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

Rev 1:10 *I was in the Spirit on* **the Lord's day**, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Brethren

Mat 22:36 Master, which *is* the great commandment in the law? **37** Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.** **38** This is the first and great commandment. **39** And the second *is* like unto it, **Thou shalt love** (*Gk.25-to love*) thy neighbour (*Gk.4139-near, fellow [as man, countryman, Christian or friend]*) **as thyself.** **40** On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Eph 5:28 So ought men to love (*Gk.25-agape*) their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife **loveth himself.** **29** For no man ever yet hated his own flesh;

but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: **30** For we are **members** of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones.

- As members we are to treat each other as we would want to be treated in turn. What brother/sister among us ever hated their own soul to the point of **desiring** to go to **Hell**?? Therefore, we are to look out for others' souls **as we would our own**. We are to look at each member of the body of **Christ** as we would our own child! What believer would want to even think of their child in the eternal flames of **Hell**?

1Pe 3:8 Finally, *be ye* all of one mind, having compassion one of another, **love as brethren**, *be pitiful, be courteous*:

2Co 8:1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit (*Gk.1107-make known*) of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; **2** How that **in a great trial of affliction** the abundance of their joy and their **deep poverty** abounded unto the **riches of their liberality** (*Gk.572- sincerity [without dissimulation or self seeking], generosity [copious bestowal]*). (These brethren gave with open hearts, without putting on airs, abundantly when in fact they were poor.) **3** For to *their* power (*Gk.1411-strength*), I bear record, yea, and beyond *their* power (*strength*) *they were* willing of themselves (*Gk.830-self chosen, voluntary*); **4** Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and *take upon us* the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. **5** And *this they did*, not as we hoped, but **first gave their own selves to the Lord**, and (*then*) unto us by the will (*Gk.2307-determination*) of God.

Benevolence

Luk 10:25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted Him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? **26** He said unto him, **What is written in the law? how readest thou?** **27** And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. **28** And He said unto him, **Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.** **29** But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

Luk 10:30 And Jesus answering said, **A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.** **31** And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. **32** And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked *on him*, and passed by on the other side. **33** But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion *on him*, **34** And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. **35** And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave *them* to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. **36** Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? **37** And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, **Go, and do thou likewise.**

Evangelism

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Act 8:4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

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Family

Spouse First

- The reason for the marital relationship to be of the most important above any relationships between a man and a woman is that it is to last "*until death do us part*". All other familiar bonds (*father, mother, sister, brother, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc.*) are to be at least second! Children grow up and, *hopefully*, move out. Besides, it is that relationship to which Paul refers in his letter to the Ephesians.

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ (*Husband*) and the church (*bride*). What bond can be more important than that?

- When God is the focus, husbands and wives will strive to give 100% to their spouses. A marriage then cannot help but be successful.

Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be **one flesh**.

Exo 20:14 Thou shalt **not commit adultery**. (*7th commandment*)

Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it (*her*);

Children Second

Deu 21:18 If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and *that*, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them:..

- How often do parents allow their children to manipulate their relationship by taking sides? This is where the marriage is more important than a tantrum throwing brat getting his way. Once parents understand that they are to be united in their dealings with their children, their children will no longer attempt to pit one against the other. The marriage connection therefore is to be put ahead of the parent/child relationship.

Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but **bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord**. PRIORITY!!

1Ti 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

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Country

Government

Rom 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers (*Gk.1849-magistrate*). For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are **ordained of God**. 2 **Whosoever** therefore **resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God**: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: 4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil. 5 Wherefore *ye* must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. 6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

Taxes

Mar 12:13 And they send unto Him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch Him in *His* words. 14 And when they were come, they say unto Him, Master, we know that Thou art true, and carest for no man: for Thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not? 15 Shall we give, or shall we not give? But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, **Why tempt ye Me? bring Me a penny, that I may see it.** 16 And they brought *it*. And He saith unto them, **Whose is this image and superscription?** And they said unto Him, Caesar's. 17 And Jesus answering said unto them, **Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.** And they marvelled at Him.

- Taxes are a bit of a contention these days. In our system of government we have the ability to vote in or out those who tax us. But, we are to continue paying our share, even when others won't, because this is good and acceptable in God's sight and it is all part of His providence.

1Ki 12:2 And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard *of it*, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;) 3 That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying, 4 Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.

1Ki 12:15 Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for **the cause was from the LORD**, that he might perform His saying, which the LORD spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

1Ki 12:19 So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.

Heb 13:5 *Let your conversation (Gk.5158-character) be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

1Ti 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

Law

1Co 6:1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

- If we have love for each other we really wouldn't have such strife among us. But when there are things that are to be taken to the authorities, such as pedophilia, murder, rape, etc., those are things that the law demands for us to expose, and so would God. Not those petty things that Paul was discussing that could be resolved among us.

Military

Luk 3:14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse *any* falsely; and be content with your wages.

- Notice: John did not tell them to lay down their arms in protest against war. But what about the 6th commandment?

Exo 20:13 Thou shalt not kill (*Heb.7523-dash in pieces, murder*).

Webster: murder (*n*) 1. the unlawful and malicious or premeditated killing of a person (*vt*) 1. to kill (a person) unlawfully and with malice

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Occupation

Christian Employees

Eph 6:5 Servants, be obedient to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; 6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; 7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: 8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether *he be* bond or free.

Christian Employers

Eph 6:9 And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with Him.

Toward Fellow Employees

Col 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, **do it heartily, as to the Lord**, and not unto men; 24
 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve
 the Lord Christ. *(Give it your best! Not to "one-up" the others either.)*

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A job should never come before family or **God** or country. A country should never come
 before **God**. Family should never come before **God**. Sometimes family and country will
 vie for the same spot. Ultimately, **God comes first!**

Psa 100:3 ... *it is He that* hath made us, and not we ourselves...

Hear: **Romans 10:17** ... "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of **God**."

Believe: **Heb 11:6** ... "for he that commeth to **God** must believe that **He** is"...

Repent: **Lk 13:3** ... "except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Confess: **Mat 10:32** "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess before
 My Father which is in Heaven."

Be baptized: **Acts 2:38** ... "repent and be baptized...in the name of **Jesus Christ** for the
 remission of sins"...

Remain faithful: **Rom 6:4** ... "even so we also should walk in newness of life."

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