MAKING JESUS THE CENTER OF IT ALL

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God bless you,

Adewuyi S. Oluwatobi,

Coordinator

Topic:

MAKING JESUS THE CENTER OF IT ALL

Key Text; 1 Corithians 11:1

Teacher; Moses O. Adewuyi

Prayer

God of the universe, we humble ourselves before you, make us understand your word that is about to be given to us tonight in Jesus name we pray Amen. Good evening once again to everyone of us, hope we are good?

Study

Tonight, we will be looking at an important topic in the body of Christ and I want us to focus on the teaching for tonight, The Holy Spirit will help. We all know what a center means, it can mean the middle of a circle or the middle of something, there is hardly something that doesn't have a center in the world, even the earth has it center, a table has it center, a ball has it center, an egg has it center and all other things. For the science students, we all know what centre of gravity means? Isn't it?

For those who are not science students, centre of gravity is that particular spot in an object or thing in which the weight of that body appears to be balanced or concentrated. If you place your finger in the centre of a book, the book won't fall despite the fact that you are using a finger to support the book, that is how the center of something is, it can be so helpful, the center sees to every part of the weight of the object and it balances them all.

Before we move further let's check our text.

Text: 1 Corinthians 11:1 Imitate me as I imitate Christ

Paul speaking here, what did he really mean by that? Let's see

To imitate means to copy, to do what someone does. "To imitate" is very powerful and the most useful tool infants/little babies use to learn some actions. Have you ever wondered how your 2 or 3 year old child got to do some things which you

never thought him or her?

It's because he saw you doing it and he copied you, this is why parents are advised to do positive things in the presence of little children, even breastfeeding children because whatsoever they see with their eyes will store in them and they will do same later whether you are there or not. No matter how small a child is, when you do some things in his/her presence, if he isn't able to comprehend them yet, the moment he grows to that level which can comprehend those things, the memories keep flashing back and they remember what was done in their presence when they were little. This is why parents who meet themselves sexually in the presence of their little children thinking they know nothing, you are injuring the kids' subconsciousness little by little and they shouldn't be surprised when they start practicing such thing with other children.

This is the power of imitation, let's continue..

Hope we are here?

Paul indirectly said here that "copy me as I copy Christ", "copy everything I do as I copy everything Christ does" meaning anybody who copies Paul in indirectly copying Christ because Paul copies Christ. These days, a lot of people have refused to make Christ the center of their life, they have made prophets, pastors, apostles and teachers the center of it all, that doesn't really pain if those they even follow are true ministers of God but these ministers are false ministers who point all these people to the path that leads to destruction but they don't know. What a painful thing! We would see that Paul said the truth here so that people would desist from following those who don't follow Christ. Making Christ the center of it all means making Christ the balance to everything that concerns one. Even though a lot of people profess this, they just do so with their mouth and not in action and character, their hearts are far away from Him. They make decisions without Him because they believe they are sound enough to do so.

Hebrews 12:2 says "Looking up to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..." This generation is a generation where we have lazy people who do not want to be under strict leadership, this is why most times, some so called Christians would leave a church because they were corrected in accordance to The Word of God.

They would say there are plenty of churches out there for them to attend, what a wrong intention and act!

Someone who claims to make Jesus the center of it all must;

1. **Be obedient to The Word: John 1:1** "In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God" Jesus is The Word and if you are obedient to The Word, you are obedient to Him. Most times, Christians not even unbelievers, believe that doing things that are against the Word of God is not bad so far they are not convicted that it's wrong, I wonder why it is so, what conviction do you need when you've seen and read in The Bible, It's because they aren't willing to be obedient to God's word that is why they think such way, nothing more! Therefore, someone who is ready to make Jesus the center of it all must be obedient to His Word, when you see someone who is truly obedient to The Word of God, you will see Christ in him or her evidently.

2. **Be ready to part ways with the world system: 1 John 4:4 "Ye** adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that friendship with the world is enmity with God and whosoever shall be the friend of the world is an enemy of God" The reason most Christians can't follow Jesus wholly is because they have refused to part ways with the world system. They want to be a child of God and still be a child of the world. It's never done, you can't sit on the fence, you either stay where you are or jump over the fence. And as a result of this, we now have so many lukewarm Christians, when as a Christian, you still want to party like an unbeliever, dress like them, speak slangs like them, keep ungodly boyfriends and girlfriends like them, commit adultery and fornication like them and even behave like them. Such Christians are not making Christ the center of it all, they are making Christ "part" of it all which can't work, you either be with Him fully or be without Him.

3. **Stand for Him (Jesus) always:** Anyone who claims to make Jesus the center of it all must be able to stand for Him always not sometimes. Standing for Jesus means you being ready to say the truth about Him at all times. This is what so many preachers and teachers miss these days, they are always tossed to and fro by winds of doctrines and they tend to follow what multitudes say which is wrong.

One of the reasons you would see a preacher saying masturbation is not a sin since it's to abstain from committing fornication and that the physical appearance doesn't matter that God looks at only the heart, is Just for multitudes to be Happy with what they teach and preach, they follow the trend.

Some ministers would even get engaged in the slangs that are trending and talk about football on the pulpit just to make people like what they do, they are refusing to stand for the truth. Some followers will move away from those preachers who speak the truth and move to those who don't say the truth just because they can't stand for Christ, they partner with the world and can't be on their feet for Christ. Such can't make Christ the center of it all, you have to stand for Christ at all times.

4. **Not having love for material things: Matthew 6:33** "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you" Someone whose heart/mind is bent on chasing after material things can't make Christ the center of it all because it's those things that will keep occupying such person's mind. He that will make Jesus the center of it all must be ready to chase after the kingdom of God and its righteousness day and night not chasing after worldly things or things which don't last.

Categories of those who do not make Jesus the centre of it all

1. **Those who have refused the free offer of salvation**: These set of people don't have Christ talk more making him the centre of it all, they have refused to receive the free gift God has to offer them by sending his only begotten son to die for their sins. These set of people still have hardened hearts and if they refuse to accept Jesus till death, they will encounter eternal damnation. The Bible says in **John 3:16** that "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son and that whosoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life".

Therefore, these people are not interested in the everlasting life promised in John 3:16 as most of them see Christianity as a burden. This is why we as Christians, we are expected to always preach the gospel to unbelievers so that they can come to the knowledge of the truth so as not to perish because God does not want the death of a sinner but that he should repent, Nevertheless, these set

of people who have refused to accept Christ as their personal Lord and savior can't make Jesus the center of it all because they don't know him neither do they have him in their lives.

2. **Those who accepted Christ but are still swimming in sin:** This set of people find it difficult to get separated from the world system, they always wanna fulfill the lust of the flesh, they still want to get interested in those things they dropped when they came to Christ, they are not satisfied with their Life in Christ and anyone who is still swimming in sin will find it difficult to make Jesus the centre of it all, such person will find it difficult to make Jesus his or her priority and anyone who finds it difficult to make Jesus his or her priority will find it difficult to obey His Word. The Bible says in **1 John 3:8** that he who sins is of the devil for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose, the son of God was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil. Therefore, anyone who claims to have accepted Christ but still swimming in sin is not willing to make Jesus the centre of it all, Someone who is willing to make Jesus the centre of it all will always strive to live a holy and righteous life not swimming in sin consciously and knowingly.

3. **Those who have neglected the call of God upon their lives:** These set of people are disobedient because even after knowing that they are being called by God, they still refuse to heed to His call. Some would say that they don't like being a pastor, being an evangelist, being a teacher, being an apostle, being a prophet. Therefore, they will try to run away from the work of God and this is because they are not making Jesus the centre of it all for if they do, they will know that they have no power over themselves and that Jesus is the one who has power and authority over their lives. This will make them do anything Jesus tells them to do, there are lots of people outside who are trying to dodge from what God has called them to do, they have forgotten Jonah in The Bible how he tried to run away from the presence of God but was later thrown into the sea when God decided to deal with him, he fasted for three days in the belly of the fish and was praying all through for forgiveness, Instead of him to have done what God told Him to do and to have been rewarded, he kept on running away but what happened at last? He still went ahead to do what God told him to do but that was after a serious discipline had been given unto him. Those who are running away from the work

of God, those who are running away from the call of God which is upon their lives will be disciplined by God when the time comes for they will give account of why they refused to answer the call of God upon them.

4. **Those who love to copy the lifestyle of their friends: These** set of people are just Christians by mouth because they only follow the footsteps of their friends, they copy the lifestyles of their ungodly friends. These set of people are sitting on the fence, they are neither serving God sincerely neither are they serving the devil sincerely but they are indirectly serving the devil because whatsoever they find their ungodly friends doing, they join to partake in it. They have forgotten that The Bible says "looking unto Jesus the author and the finisher of our faith", Therefore, they are not making Jesus the centre of it all, they are making their friends the centre of it all for their gaze has been shifted to their friends instead of Christ.

5. **Those who chase after earthly things than they chase after the kingdom of God: These** set of people are always after the things which will suit their lustful desires, the kingdom of God is not their priority yet they profess to serve God but to them they have turned money to another god. All what they seek for is to see that they gain material things when it is written in the book of **Matthew 6:33** that "seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all other things shall be added unto you". They are now seeking after the other things that should be added unto them once they seek the kingdom of God, these set of people are not making Jesus the centre of it all, they are making those things the centre of it all.

6. **Most Christians whose dresses are nothing to write home about:** These set of people are Christians but in appearance they look like unbelievers, you will see different types of clothes on them, you will see different types of ungodly dresses on them, these people don't care about what God feel concerning how they look, they always say God looks at the heart even when they have read it severally in their Bible that "our body is the Temple of God" and that "we should present our bodies a living sacrifice holy and acceptable unto God which is our reasonable service". This is why you would see someone who is battling with lust would go to church to get solution to the Lust, such person will get to church and still be having this lust against another person inside the Church of God because of the way the person is dressed, this is a very bad thing for the Church of God to

be filled with people who are putting on ungodly dresses, it is indeed shameful that these set of people do not care whether their dressings are godly or not, what they keep hammering on is that they are to cover their nakedness and their nakedness is only their private parts according to their own mentality, therefore they are free to expose their laps, their backs, cleavages and other sensitive parts of their bodies and all these can attract opposite sex to them which will make such person lust after them. These people are not making Christ the centre of it all, they are making fashion the centre of it all.

7. **Those who still commit secret sins: These** set of people are Christians though but they still commit secret sins in the corners of their rooms, they still masturbate, they still fornicate, they still watch pornography etc. They believe nobody sees them but they don't know God sees them and everything they are doing, they don't make Jesus the centre of it all neither do they make Him their priority. These are the categories of those who don't make Jesus the centre of it all and a way to correct this is to make sure their lives are patterned according to the will of God and that they obey every of God's instruction

This way, they can make Jesus the centre of it all.

Some of the advantages of making Christ the centre of it all are;

1. Peaceful life

2. Hope of eternal life

3. Freedom from satanic bondage

4. Jesus will see to everything that concerns such person

5. A fulfilled life in Christ etc.

We have come to the end of the teaching.

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