The Basic Rules of Christian Living

Resurrection Bible Study Ministry, Nigeria.

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Topic:

THE BASIC RULES OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

Bible Text: 1 Peter 2:17

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Prayer

Our dear heavenly father, thank you for the living word you have for us this evening, Holy father give us understanding of your word and bless us all together with the vessel you are using in the mighty name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

Study

Good evening everyone once again, I believe we are all here, tonight's teaching is a teaching no Christian should afford to miss, that is why I told us before hand for us to be available for it's a very crucial topic for Christians who wants to truly finish well. I hope those that are not around for the teaching will go through it later though, may the Lord open our understanding tonight and teach us Himself. The topic is a wide one this is why we have to start early so as not to keep us late to bed.

Every Christian on earth so far such person still lives is partaking in Christian living and as Christians, The Bible has so much in store for us to scale through temptations, tribulations and all sorts of troubles. This is why any Christian who does not stay with the word thoroughly will always find it hard to overcome these things, the Bible is like a compass for Christians, if you study the Bible very well, you will notice that the Bible is so so real and applicable to our daily living. When you read some Bible verses, you will just wonder if the Bible was written this period because of how it addresses situations that are just coming up this period.

When a ship loses its compass, it misses the direction thereby sailing to another destination different from the agreed one, therefore if any Christian refuses to study the compass given to us, such Christian will miss the right direction and sail towards the other direction therefore getting to a different destination eternally. These basic rules when followed will really make it easy for a Christian to live as true Christians on earth and still get home safely*, please follow closely*

The basic rules of Christian living are;

1. Honor

2. Love

3. Fear

1 Peter 2:17 KJV Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

Why will these commands follow one another, there is really a spectacular significance in this verse and when you study this verse very well, you will be aware that it's so so deep and broad but the Holy Spirit will help us tonight by His mercies.

1. Honor

We will see that right from our text, we are told to *Honour all men*. What is honor itself and why should we honor all men, why is honor so important in Christian living?

What is honor?

Honor is the high moral standards of behavior, it can also be defined as the respect given to someone who is admired. Other way round, honor also means good reputation, quality or character as judged by other people. Honor is to be accorded to everybody and not a specific set of people only. A lot of people make mistakes concerning this and have missed it greatly, some people have received great things because they honored while some have lost great things because of lack of honor. Let's look at the common mistakes some Christians make concerning honor which has refused to make them live as true Christians on earth and also some facts about honor.

Some common mistakes some Christians make and some facts about honor:

1. They honor according to the pocket of the person: This is a regular occurrence in our generation and past generations, people are respected and honored according to what they have, this is why someone who is poor is not honored because he has nothing to offer according to the reasoning and mentality of the society.

They therefore downgrade such person and look down on him. Christians are not of the world so are expected to honor everybody not some people, before I came across this verse, I used to choose the people I honored but when I saw this verse, I knew honor is not limited or opened to a specific set of people alone but everybody, so far the person is breathing, the person deserves to be honored even if the person is having any and disability of any sort. Christians must learn not to look at the financial capacity of people before they honor them because it will seem as if they are honoring because of what they want to receive from such people.

2. They honor those that are older than they are only: I also grew up to believe that we only honor those that are older, but with time, I discovered that those that are not up to us needs to be respected too, we are to honor them too, why? Everybody is a boss on his or her own area, nobody should feel superior, so far the person is living, he deserves to be respected and honored. The reason some people look down on those who appear to be wretched is because they don't know you can always gain something or learn from anybody irrespective of how poor the person may be, you may not gain material things but you can learn one or two things from that person you think has nothing to offer. Have you ever at any point looked at someone surprisingly saying "so you can ever be of help to me?", Why? It's because you have always downgraded the

ability of such person which now shocked you when you found out the person could help you.

There are some times we learn from younger ones, it's pride that makes one think he is better than even his younger ones, you are not better but you are more experienced than them, stop having the notion that you are better off, that's the reasoning of a proud person.

3. **They honor those whom the multitudes honor alone:** This trend is a very bad thing and it happens even amongst Christians these days, in fact, it happens in churches, Christians now tend to honor a particular person because multitudes are honoring him, they rarely honor anybody they see multitudes not honoring which means they follow multitudes in making their decisions which is harmful to the Spiritual health. A good example is honoring a man of God because people respect and honor him so well but dishonoring and disregarding another man of God whom the multitudes are not honoring possibly because he is not preaching what they like. Some christians make such mistake in the aspect of honoring.

4. **They believe honoring people is downgrading one's self:** This is a very ungodly mentality when a person sees himself as being downgraded when he honors others and this is also as a result of pride in such person. Honoring someone doesn't reduce your life span neither does it stop you from getting to where you ought to get to. It depends on your mentality and your view concerning things, when you have a bad mentality towards something, you tend to misinterpret and misquote it, therefore, even if people tell you that you are bringing yourself so low because you are honoring a particular person, tell them Jesus brought Himself so low by coming to this world as human, leaving His glory and majesty in heaven, you silence them when you say this.

Why should you honor everybody and why is honor so important?

1. **Because honor dwells in the presence of God and He is also clothed with honor:**

1 Chronicles 16:27 KJV Glory and honour are in his presence; strength and gladness are in his place. Psalm 104:1 KJV Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Honor surrounds God , He is clothed with honor therefore, we must also possess this wonderful quality because we are His heirs.

2. **Because we have been crowned with honor:**

Psalms 8:5 (Amp) Yet You have made him but a little lower than God [or heavenly beings], and You have crowned him with glory and honor. When a king is crowned, you identify that he is a king by the crown on his head and he can't just have a crown on his head without performing the duties the significance of the crown brings, it's not possible, therefore, since we have been crowned with honor, we must perform the significance of honor because we have been crowned with it.

3. **Honor upholds the humble in Spirit:**

Proverbs 29:23 KJV A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit. Both humility and honor works hand in hand, if you are not humble, you cannot honor, is it a proud man that will honor someone he is older than? Never, it will never work therefore, honor upholds the humble in Spirit.

4. **It is written that every man honours the Son as they honor the father:**

John 5:23 KJV That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. If honor wasn't important, Jesus wouldn't have said it here, this therefore shows that we are to honor the Son, Jesus Christ as they respect God the Father.

5. **Jesus Himself honored His Father when He was on Earth:**

John 8:49 KJV Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me. Since Jesus could have honored and we are trying to be like Him, then we should also honor our father and those around us, for Jesus to have honored His Father, it shows that honor is very important.

6. **When you honor, you can receive what you are supposed to search for years:** This honor trait has made some people tap grace from great men of God thereby making them go into dimensions they would have prayed to enter for years. This is also why children don't really receive Spiritual things from their Spiritual father who also happen to be their biological parent because of over familiarity which now makes them lack honor for such man of God since they see him everyday and live in same house, whereas someone who came from outside will receive the grace to tap from such man of God but someone very close to him is being denied such grace. It's just because of lack of honor due to over familiarity.

2. Love

We will see that right from our text, we are told to love the brotherhood. We have been hearing of love often times and even a teenager now know what love means if not the godly one, he/she knows the common love some unbelievers claim to say or proclaim to the females.

Let's define love, what is love?

Love is a feeling of strong or constant affection for a person. The greatest commandment given ever is Love and it is because God demonstrated this act of love by giving us His only son to die for us that we can gain access to sonship and come to Him. John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Even though God

really loves the son, .John 3:35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. Yet, He released Him to die for the sin of those who stood as His enemies. Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. This act of love that we are to portray in our Christian living is really lagging behind which is part of what is making us finding it hard to live a life pleasing to God. Let's look at the common mistakes people make in the area of loving and some facts about love together.

Common mistakes Christians make in the area of love are:

1. **They only love those who love them and not their enemies**: This act is common amongst most people, they tend to dislike some specific set of people just because they see them as their enemies. They have refused to love them and do not want to have anything to do with them at all which is wrong because if Christ also behaved that way, He wouldn't have died for us with the way those He wanted to die for treated Him but despite that, His love didn't cease for mankind. This is the kind of love we are to portray and exhibit, loving everybody should be our priority. Luke 6:27 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you

2. **They believe feeding their enemies and doing good to them is foolishness and that it will prolong their evil towards them:** This is not according to the word of God in Proverbs 25:21-22 which says If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee. Can someone whom hot coals of fire is poured on his head keep doing the evil that is causing such thing? No! Then why should you stop doing good to such person when you know God is fighting for you? That is absurd.

3. **They don't love God, they only serve Him for what He has to offer them, they love Him by mouth only:** So many Christians don't truly love God, they only serve Him because of their selfish desires, because of what they tend to request from Him that is why they serve Him not because they love Him and the Bible tell us in Matthew 22:37 that 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. Therefore, we are expected to love Him more than we love ourselves.

4. Some try to keep God's commandments with lack of love for the father or what they are doing and it soon makes them stop keeping His commandments because they never loved Him from the onset. Whereas, when you love the father, you will keep His commandments according to John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

5. They don't know that loving means fulfilling the law because anybody who loves fulfills the law. Romans 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

And lastly,

3. Fear

What is fear? It means to be afraid of something or someone, it is also a feeling of respect and wonder for something or someone very powerful. Have you ever wondered why military men are so feared especially in Nigeria? It is because of the power they hold, that is why once a civilian sights the uniform of a soldier, he respects the person putting it on irrespective of his small stature because the uniform is a symbol of power, but most of these people do not have the fear of God because He is not putting on any uniform and appearing physically. This is part of the reason many Christians go late to church and physical Spiritual meetings because they lack fear of God and since God is not sitting on the altar with a good cane or whip, they behave anyhow even in the church of God. Even the Bible tells us to serve the Lord with fear Psalms 2:11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Common mistakes Christians make in the aspect of fear

They fear those that are capable of killing the flesh alone: Some Christians tend to fear those who can cause physical damages to them than to fear God who can cause damages to both the physical and Spiritual body.

Matthew 10:28 KJV And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. It is when a man fears the Lord that he is being wise. Proverbs 9:10 KJV The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. Therefore, God should be feared above all things and entities, it is when a man fears the Lord that he will be afraid to partake in some things during his walk with Christ. When someone you fear sends you on an errand or tells you to do something, will you do it or not? You definitely will because of the fear of the person that you have in you. These 3 basic rules if followed will definitely make one succeed in his/her Christian living and get home safely, because they are the major things required of every Christian.

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