

The Christian and His Leisure Time

Mark 6:31

Introduction:

- A. Jesus recognized that his disciples needed some leisure time away from the stress of work.
 - 1. Some said, he was telling them “come apart”, before ye “fall apart.”
 - 2. Caring for one’s body is fundamental to Christ’s teaching (cf. Col. 2:23; Eph. 5:28-29 asv, niv)
 - 3. A “workaholic” is not doing himself, his family nor his Lord right.
- B. Our society has no shortage of ways and places to spend one’s leisure time.
 - 1. One’s choice of leisure depends a great deal on his/her personal taste.
 - 2. One’s choice of leisure should take into account the wholesomeness its place and activities.
- C. Our Lord does not leave us a list of things permitted or forbidden to occupy our leisure time.
 - 1. He does leave us principles to be applied to all our time – leisure or otherwise.
 - 2. He give us a mind capable applying these principles to life – if we will use it.
- D. There are certain tests that we should apply when making our choices for our leisure time.

Discussion:

I. Will it Violate Any Specific Prohibition of God’s Word?

- A. There are certain things a Christian cannot do and go to heaven (cf. Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 6:9-10)
- B. Most Christians can see the need to avoid the most blatant of these – but not the “respectable”
 - 1. “Lasciviousness” – “wanton (acts or) manners , as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females” (Thayer) – Dance, porno, petting.
 - 2. “Reveling” – “drinking parties”; “procession of half-drunken..fellows” (Thayer)
 - 3. Immodest dress (1 Tim. 2:9) – a sign of a loss of shamefastness – street or recreation attire.

II. Will it Potentially Lead Another to Sin?

- A. Jesus considers it a terrible thing to cause sin in another (Luke 17:1-2 cf. niv)
- B. Innocent things, under certain conditions, can lead others to sin (Rom. 14:20-21; 1 Cor. 8:12-13)
- C. People often consider too lightly the danger of causing another to sin.
 - 1. Often ignore danger of being where unwholesome activity is present (1 Cor. 8:10).
 - 2. Young people often unaware of how easily their dress and actions can cause sin (cf. Matt. 5:28)
 - 3. Parents often too naive about the maturity of their children – permit offensive dress and actions.
 - 4. Many are aware of the effect on others – but could care less as long as it gives them pleasure.

III. Will it Interfere with Higher Obligations? (Cf. Matt. 6:33)

- A. Will it interfere with my family obligations? (cf. 1 Tim. 5:8).
- B. Will it interfere with my moral obligations? – Paying debts, caring for others, etc.
- C. Will it interfere with my spiritual service – missing services, praying, teaching gospel, giving.

IV. Will it Weaken Resistance to Sin?

- A. Herod’s party is a good example of this (Mk. 6:19, 20, 26).
- B. Best way to avoid sin is to avoid situations where it could happen.
 - 1. “One-thing-led-to-another” situations have cause many heartaches.
 - 2. “I-didn’t-mean-to-go-that-far” situations have ruined many lives.
 - 3. “I-will-never-do-it” situations can change under pressure of moment – like Peter.

Conclusion:

- A. There many wholesome things to do and places to go for Christians – even games, sports, parties.
 - 1. Why choose those that are questionable and may violate Biblical principles?
 - 2. Why not choose those that both good for the body and the soul?
- B. One can be godly at work and play and still enjoy life to its fullest.