

Who Is on the Lord's Side?

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

It is so important to have proper priorities. I know men and women who have good priorities, but they do not have *divine* priorities. Though the things we esteem as important may not be bad, they still may not be God's priorities. Unless we take a definite stand on the issues that concern the Lord, we will be "middle-of-the-road" Christians who love God and do not live in any overt sin, but who have not made a choice to stand with the Lord.

Much shame and reproach has been brought on Christ because of leaders who entertain soul-power attachments mentally, emotionally, and, sometimes, physically. They enter into areas of sin because they have never chosen to be on the Lord's side in their thinking. Years of service, teaching, and ministering can go down the drain simply because people have not made it a priority to stay on the Lord's side.

This booklet is taken from a doctrine class

covering the book of Ephesians, taught at Maryland Bible College and Seminary. Our prayer is that this message will motivate you to make a commitment to discern and choose the Lord's side in all things.

Chapter One

HAVE A PRECISE WALK

“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called” (Ephesians 4:1).

In the first two chapters of Ephesians, Paul writes of our extraordinary position, how we have been raised up and seated together *with* Jesus Christ *in* heavenly places. Chapter three defines life in the Body of Christ. And in chapter four, God begins to deal with our walk.

Peripateo is the Greek word translated as “walk,” in Ephesians 4:1. Formed from the root words, *peri* (which defines a location around an outer edge) and *pateo* (to tread or trample a path), the best definition I have found for this walk, where we were called, is “to step deliberately through to the perimeter, on every side in all areas of life.” Ephesians 4:2 *tells* us how to walk, “with all lowliness, and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.”

Grace *teaches* us how to walk. “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:11-12). The Greek word for “teaching” doesn’t mean merely to give instructions, but it speaks of imparting an entire education in the Word of God. In other words, we must be taught the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27). It was thrilling to discover two scholars who gave this definition for the word “teach.” These men really understood doctrine. And we must understand that grace is the great teacher. Grace teaches us to deny ungodliness, worldly lusts, and to live quietly, filled with doctrine in this present, evil world.

Then, Ephesians 5 tells us to walk in *virtue love*: the unconditional love of God that never demands a response from its object.* Herein lies the key to our walk. We have been separated unto virtue love by the Holy Spirit. It is love derived from communion with the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 13:14) and produced in the new heart of our human spirit. Remember, the heart is the premise for all motivation, the basis for operational behavior, and the supreme center for

all communication of our thoughts, feelings, and decisions.

Awake Thou That sleepest

“Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light....” (Ephesians 5:14-21).

Notice carefully what is being said in this passage. Paul writes “Awake thou that sleepest” to the church of Ephesus. “Arise from spiritual death and Christ will give you *light*,” or, categorical illumination from the Word. To “walk circumspectly” speaks of walking precisely through the grace of God on the narrow road, as of someone walking on a tightrope with broken glass below, where a fall would be disastrous.

“Redeeming the time, because the days are *evil* [full of infection],” and be understanding through our experience as to the will of God for our lives. When verse 18 says, “Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess,” it is contrasting what wine does to the flesh with what the Holy Spirit does to the soul. We are to have an excess of the filling of the Spirit which produces an abundant life. When we are filled with the Spirit, we begin speaking to ourselves “in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs” that produce

melodies in our heart to the Lord at all times.

Now our inner man is right. The Spirit is filling us. The will of God is established in us through the Word. The evidence is that we give thanks for all things and in everything. We redeem the time, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning us (1 Thessalonians 5:18). And now, with everything in place, we submit to one another. This is true Body life.

The Struggle to Maintain Order

“Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body” (Ephesians 5:21-23).

In isolated cases, people with certain personalities control and manipulate others and prevent them from making decisions in their believer-priesthood. That is *not* God’s thought on headship and submission. But more commonly, Christians today have an unwillingness to submit—in marriage, on the job, or in the Body of Christ.

The Greek phrase for “submitting to one to another” means to submit to one of the same

kind, rather than inferior to superior. How do we do it? By giving thanks, with a soul filled with singing, by constantly being filled with the Spirit, and by operating in the will of God, redeeming the time while we walk circumspectly in precise truth. We no longer live in spiritual death. Instead, we submit to one another in the light that always exposes darkness, because now we are children of light (Ephesians 5:8, 13).

“For the husband is the head of the wife.” In the majority of marriages, the husband never establishes that headship, because he doesn’t have virtue love, maturity, or capacity to love. He lives in impressions and concepts in a human viewpoint. Often his heart is darkened by words without knowledge (Job 38:2).

“A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself” (Proverbs 18:2). In the original Hebrew, this says that a person who cannot think only expresses opinions about himself. When he tries to defend something, he can’t think with God, so he expresses an “opinion” from himself—a concept, an impression, or a viewpoint that is totally locked up in the depravity of his flesh. Paul said, “I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing” (Romans 7:18a). To that end, he

cried out, “O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” (Romans 7:24). Paul saw a law in his body—the law of the old sin nature—warring against the law of his mind.

So many people in good, Bible-believing ministries, are overloaded with information on how to live. They sit in the pews and hear a variety of fresh messages that constantly come forth from the pastor, leaders, and teachers. Yet, many stand still. Their scent is unchanged as they continue to express opinions about themselves and how they “feel.” What they need is to stop living in denial of what they are, who God is, and what He has called them to be.

The Secret of Submission

The hour is late. Christians need to honor God’s table of organization. In Exodus 40:33-34, everything had to be in order before the glory of God would fill the tabernacle. When it happened, even Moses couldn’t enter in. Likewise, a man shouldn’t be able to enter into the debate of his marriage. A husband needs to honor 1 Corinthians 11:3: “The head of every woman is the man; and the head of man is Christ; and the head of Christ is God the Father.”

It is the husband's job to promote a capacity in his wife to be a responder, because he is her head in God's divine order. Just as God the Father was the head over the humanity of Christ, and just as the Holy Spirit submits to Christ, now the husband submits to Christ through the Spirit and the Word. Then, the wife with a strong will must allow God to break her and start submitting to her husband in love, as unto the Lord.

When believers submit to one another, and to those in authority, as unto the Lord, then we are operating from the Lord's side. Children submit to their parents, a wife submits to her husband, and a husband submits to Jesus Christ and to the pulpit. If a man will not submit to God's order of bona fide authority, then his wife has the privilege of sanctifying him through her life (1 Corinthians 7:11-14), while she trusts God to be omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent in protecting her. If her husband is not right with God, the inner beauty of her declarations of doctrine will win him (1 Peter 3:1-2). *That* is what it means to be on the Lord's side.

**Read A Victorious Self-Image in Virtue Love, by Pastor Stevens, Grace Publications, 1998.*

Chapter Two

THE PRICE OF REBELLION

God's order is designed to reveal His glory on earth. When that order is tested, it also reveals who is on the Lord's side. For example, God called Moses to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. When God called him up to receive the tables of stone, Moses delegated his authority to Aaron and Hur (Exodus 24:14). But when he came down from Mt. Sinai, the people were worshipping a golden calf. Moses' anger "waxed hot," and Aaron started uttering excuses till he finally said, "The people made me do it!" (see Exodus 32:22-24).

Obviously, Aaron was not a strong leader. He was okay if Moses was around, but left alone, he was easily controlled and manipulated by the people. Isn't that the way it usually goes? Many are good leaders *under* a leader. Others simply lead. Moses led men by following the Word of God and trusting Him for the conse-

quences.

So, in Exodus 32:26, God separated out the people who had a heart unto Him. Moses stood at the gate of the camp and asked, “Who is on the LORD’s side? Let him come unto me.” He established a clear-cut line, and only the Levites moved to his side. Three thousand men were slain that day and many more were plagued by the Lord—and all because they refused to honor God’s order by coming over to His side.

Do Not Judge God’s Servant

Later on, in Numbers 16:1-3, Korah and his crowd accused Moses and Aaron of taking on too much authority. “...Seeing all the congregation are holy,...wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?” When Moses heard it, he fell on his face.

This is so important: Moses’ first response was not anger; he fell on his face knowing the fear of the Lord. In his natural disposition, Moses’ weakness was his temper. But after many tests and forty years in the back of the desert, God declared that he was the meekest man on the face of the earth (Numbers 12:3).

God did, however, impart His righteous anger through Moses, and after pleading with

the people to come over to the Lord's side, Moses declared, "Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works..." (Numbers 16:28). If the people died of natural and common causes, Moses was simply acting on his own. But if they died supernatural deaths, it proved that Moses was indeed God's bona fide representative authority to Israel.

"And the earth opened up her mouth and swallowed them up..." (Numbers 16:32).

Still, it wasn't enough that the people witnessed their leaders and neighbors actually swallowed alive into a supernatural pit of death. The very next day, Israel again began to murmur against Moses and Aaron! So God, who had spared them, came down in glory and sent a plague against the nation—a plague that was stopped only by the prayers and the offering of incense by Moses and Aaron (Numbers 16:41-50). Thousands were killed for murmuring against God's sovereign plan. They were presumed to be God's people, but they were not on the Lord's side.

People who crusade against a ministry that is a work of God will eventually reveal their heart. They are not on the Lord's side. To be on the Lord's side is to be on the side of Christ's

death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. It is to be on the side of positional truth and virtue love.

Laying Down Your Life in Honor

In order for God to be revealed, someone has to lay down his or her life in every situation. For example, children are to honor their parents, God, and the Word, with the Cross and through grace. Also they are to honor the office of the pastor, their teachers, and youth leaders, and to love them for their work's sake. Then they are to honor the value of being obedient for Christ's sake and esteeming the honor code toward one another.

It is vital that we all live in God's honor code, honoring one another's believer-priesthood and privacy. Never betray a confidence (Proverbs 17:9). It is apparent that honoring privacy is so rare today. You may have told someone not to repeat what you confided, then within a month it comes back that he told it to his best friend. The matter may have come out unintentionally. But, being on the Lord's side means it is the glory of God to conceal the matter, according to Proverbs 25:2 (unless it is for the purpose of counseling, and then only tell it to a qualified person who can be trusted). We

must guard our hearts and always abide in God's honor code. That is the Lord's side.

A person is on the Lord's side when he initiates virtue love. If a marriage doesn't have virtue love, then neither partner is on the Lord's side—even though one party may appear much better than the other in relative righteousness. But virtue love sees the object of love in the Finished Work. Its expression is never dependent on a response, but its source is in heaven.

When I come to the place where I trust Jesus Christ for everything—when I come to the place where I say, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in Him”—then I have come to the Lord's side (Job 13:15).

Christ laid down His life for the guilty. Have we done that recently? Christ didn't spread gossip about the guilty; He laid down His life for them. If I have virtue love, that's exactly what I will do in my desire to restore the other person (Ephesians 4:32). “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted” (Galatians 6:1).

False Oneness, True Oneness

When two people commit adultery, they be-

come one soul and one flesh. When they enter into an affair, the old sin nature becomes connected to Satan's system. They become closer than air (Job 41:16), and cannot be divided. But though they may have one soul and one flesh, they can never have one heart. Because they became one soul, Satan is able to stimulate the affair through the emotions and through the libido, and they fulfill their lust in a soul-power relationship. They ignore the mandate of Galatians 5:16*b*: "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

A married couple who are both right with God have one heart, one soul, and one flesh. Only God functioning in their lives can make that happen. This is why no man should try to separate what God has joined. You can't do it. Matthew 19:6 says, what "God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Always remember that love is not just an emotion but an act of the will. So, whenever something comes against that kind of oneness, we must purpose to remain on the Lord's side through a conscious decision of the will.

God's Law in the Heart

"A new heart also will I give you, and a new

spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26).

“...I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people” (Hebrews 8:10b).

So often, success will cause people to lose their vision. Some have even given up missions and soul winning. Though they started out with a goal to serve God, people often become side-tracked and fall into the ways of the world. The problem goes back to choices; they could end up on a path of self-destruction because they were never firmly established on the Lord’s side.

We have a beautiful young model attending our Bible college, and she has said, “I’d just as soon give up modeling today.” The photographers and designers try to get her to pose suggestively, but she will not do it. “You’ll get over this. You’re just going through a phase with this religious stuff,” they tell her. But she says, “I won’t get over this. I’ve made a commitment, and I’m going to keep it.” She is on the Lord’s side.

Make sure that no matter what happens, you will be on the Lord’s side. If division comes in

the ministry, whose side are you going to be on? Will you stand with the “friend” you go out to eat with every week but whose heart is secretly divided? Or will you stand on the Lord’s side? Tests will come into your life to clearly reveal which side you are on.

Jonathan loved David as his own soul (1 Samuel 18:1). They were knit together: one heart and one soul, but not one flesh. Jonathan also knew that God had chosen David to be king, so he gave up his legitimate right to his father’s throne. He stripped off his robe and gave David his garment. Jonathan was on Christ’s side.

Imagine what would have happened had Jonathan not said, “David, you can be king. Here’s my robe. Here’s my girdle. Here’s my sword. Here’s my bow.” The question is, who is on Calvary’s side? Death’s side? Burial’s side? Resurrection’s side? Ascension’s side? Who is on the side of doctrine? Precise light? Virtue love? *Who is on the Lord’s side?*

The Sweet Savor of Christ

“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and *maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge* by us in every

place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: to the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things? For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ" (2 Corinthians 2:14-16).

Those who do not realize that in their flesh dwells no good thing will go through moods, cycles, and have opinions without doctrine. Proverbs 19:2a in the Amplified translation says, "Desire without knowledge [doctrine] is not good." God's knowledge must have the sweet incense of virtue love and the fruit of the Holy Spirit. It starts with anyone who is willing to lay down his life for a friend (1 John 3:16). In a marriage it starts with the husband. This way, God makes manifest the spices of His love, and the incense of His knowledge in every situation.

So many issues among believers can be resolved without going to the world for counsel. When there is a problem that requires a judicial hearing, after the parties have prayed, they should turn to their pastor and to the Body of Christ where there are qualified, gifted people

who know the Book. Unless it is a case such as molestation, incest, physical abuse, or murder—judicial crimes that must be handled through the courts to protect children and uphold the law—the Body of Christ will do a far better job than anyone in the world.

The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 that doctrine gives experiential knowledge (*epignosis*) processed in the right side of the brain, where the new heart and the human spirit are.* As it is worked in, we bring the sweet odor of God's incense every place we go, manifesting Christ's life. And what does the manifestation do but destroy the works of Satan while it builds a capacity in the person who is guilty. "The Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8).

A Scent for Every Situation

There is fun, joy, and peace that comes with receiving and implementing instructions from the Word. The sweet incense of doctrine, virtue love, and the fruit of the Spirit goes with us in every place. "To the one we are the savour of death unto death...." This means that the sweet incense we give is repulsive to people who are living in spiritual death. "...And to the other

[we are] the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things? For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ” (2 Corinthians 2:16-17). Our lives are a sweet incense before God because we *speak in Christ*.

It doesn't matter who you are. When you are not on the Lord's side, you corrupt the Word of God that is in you. It ceases to give off a sweet incense in your life, and even though you are a Christian, you reveal the unity of Satan's kingdom through the old sin nature which is connected to the world system. You could be a leader in the church and still be on the devil's side. We saw what God thinks of that, in Exodus 32 and Numbers 16. Also, if you don't have a ministry of reconciliation, you are on the devil's side. *What are you going to do?* Let's consider how to get on the Lord's side once and for all.

**Read The Hearing Heart, by Pastor Stevens, Grace Publications, 1996.*

Chapter Three

COME BACK TO THE LORD'S SIDE

“How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him” (1 Kings 18:21*b*).

“Choose you this day whom ye will serve” (Joshua 24:15*b*). Joshua had already made his decision to serve the Lord. The same is true for many believers today.

“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile” (Psalm 32:1-2).

“Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin” (Romans 4:6-8).

When David wrote Psalm 32, he had been out of fellowship with God and silent for one

whole year. Now, having acknowledged his sin before God, he starts out the right way: “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is *covered*.” The Hebrew word for “covered” is *kacah*, which means to be concealed, hidden forever, because of total forgiveness (see Psalm 85:2). Then he goes on to say, “Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity.”

It Started in the Garden

Now here’s the root of the problem, friends. In the Garden of Eden, Adam entered into personal sin, but Eve entered into *iniquity*. Ezekiel 28:15 tells us that Lucifer was perfect until iniquity was found in his heart. In 1 Timothy 2:14, it was not the man who was deceived, but the woman. She was deceived through her emotions, which rebelled against authority because of her vulnerability to emotional vibrations outside of her covering. Adam sinned in his mind, but Eve sinned when her emotions acted in place of her mind—but emotions can’t think. Therefore, she was deceived, but Adam entered into sin willfully.

Things have been this way, more or less, ever since the Fall. A man sins through his mind, and a woman sins by her emotions rebelling

against authority. In her rebellion, she becomes resentful, where a man tends to become angry, even when he knows better. Anger is one of the worst sins in the Bible, because in a moment of rage, with unteachable emotions ruling, lives can be destroyed.

We must learn to rule over our human spirits through the Word of God (Proverbs 16:32). This is done by building walls of doctrine in the soul (Proverbs 25:28) and allowing the Holy Spirit to bring a sweet incense and the fruit of virtue love into experiential knowledge so it can be manifested in and through us by the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Effects of Anger

In Psalm 32, David described what anger did to him: “My bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.” “Roaring” is *sheagah*, a word that speaks of a person who is angry mentally, emotionally, and physically because he is not right with God. During this time in his life, David was on the devil’s side. He was an angry man for one whole year!

In Psalm 32:3, “All the day long” is *yowm*, an adverb referring to an extended period of time when David manifested his frequent mood

swings. He could hide it for a while, but then the mood would be revealed in cycles. All during that time he was in the flesh. The best David could do was try to change the wretched ‘old man’ by living in human good, and that didn’t last long. He was only trying to change because of guilt. The guilt that controlled him was never dealt with in truth. Day and night it continued to roar. David couldn’t sleep because God’s hand was “heavy” upon him (*yad kabad*), which speaks of something heavier than sand (Job 6:3), like a heavy chain (Lamentations 3:7), or sin (Genesis 18:20), or of being conquered by another (Judges 1:35)—it was the heaviness of God’s hand of chastisement.

The Cooling Effect of Confession

Psalm 32:4*b* says “My moisture is turned into the drought of summer,” meaning that vital moisture in his vessel was drying up. “Summer” refers to the time of cutting off the harvest of fruit in areas that never get any rain, especially midsummer, the hottest time. People who suffer with certain kinds of arthritis know what it means to lose precious moisture in their joints. The stiffness and inflammation cause excruciating pain with the slightest movement. David’s

body was reacting to the wearing down of his natural defenses.

But watch how David got out of his cycles, his mood swings, and his guilt. First, he stopped living in denial. Many men and women think that they don't live in denial. David, however, knew where he stood. He said in Psalm 32:5, "I acknowledged my sin unto thee..." (*yada chattah*). In other words, David was saying, "I know what I've done, and I'm going to face up to it and make it right." *Chattah* means an offense against God that produces guilt, and the punishment is to be separated from fellowship with God. David acknowledged his sin unto God. He faced the reality that he had been living in his old sin nature for a year.

In verse five he continues, "...mine iniquity have I not hid." "Iniquity" is *avon*, referring to emotional rebellion against total repentance. David had been angry. He had no joy, he couldn't sleep, and he wouldn't get right because of pride and arrogance in his position as king. Then, he got a visit from the prophet Nathan. I'll tell you, if Nathan were around today, he would go straight to our national leaders (beginning with Christians). He wouldn't be speaking smooth and flattering words to immoral politi-

cians, but he would say, “Get right with God. I come to you in the name of God!” But Nathan would go alone, just as he went to David; he wouldn’t tell the news reporters and make a spectacle. He would do everything in God’s order with a purpose to draw the leaders to God’s side. It worked with David, because God honors His Word.

Acknowledging Sin and Iniquity

David acknowledged his sin before God. He would no longer conceal the sin of his mind, or the rebellion in his emotions. He would no longer live in denial. He said, “I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD” (Psalm 32:5). “Transgression” (*peshah*) means to go against known authority and known truth. The Hebrew word for “confess” is *yadah*, meaning that David made an exact confession concerning the thing he had done, and made himself accountable to make it right. He said, “I refused to obey what I knew to be true and right. I knew what I was doing, but then I concealed it because I couldn’t face what I was doing, so I entered into denial.”

We have to deal with personal sin in order to reign and rule over our emotions. We have to deal with the authority of rebellion in our emo-

tions against the precise Word of God. And then we have to deal with our transgressions when we know the truth.

What happened when David acknowledged his sin? God forgave the iniquity of his sin. “Thou forgavest” (*nasa*, a *kal* preterit) describes God bearing the punishment of sin for us (see Genesis 4:13, Leviticus 5:1, Numbers 5:31).

“You forgave the iniquity of my sin.” In other words, “For one year, I was so one with Satan that no air could come between us. It destroyed me physically, emotionally, and psychologically. My sin caused my emotions to rebel, to be angry, and to roar. But You, God, forgave the emotional rebellion that caused my mind to live in the old sin nature. And in Your forgiveness, You bore it instead.”

That’s how to stop living in denial. The heart is the premise for motivational thinking, the basis for operational behavior, and the supreme center for communication in the inner man. Therefore, when we allow the conviction of the Holy Spirit to begin the process of repentance in the heart, our thoughts and emotions will adjust to truth, and our decisions will be right. God came through beautifully when David finally acknowledged his sins and stopped living in a lie.

He will also come through for us.

Did the Lord wait for us to get right before He made a way for us to come over to His side? No. Did He say, “Now if you get right, I’ll guide you, and then you can have a chance to believe”? No. Jesus said, “I’ll die for you *before* you believe, and I’ll bring you over to my side purely by My grace.” Now we can have a ministry of reconciliation with a word of reconciliation that glorifies God and draws men to His side.

Study every category that reveals the Lord’s side. Be a steward of grace. Love as Christ loves (John 15:12), and be willing to lay down your life in every situation (1 John 3:16). We need to have the virtue love of grace and forgiveness. Then, be willing to make a stand with the Body of Christ. Recognize that you are a member of His body, flesh, and bones (Ephesians 5:30). That’s what it means to be on the Lord’s side.

CONCLUSION

To be on the Lord's side, we need to have His priorities. His priority is for us to seek *first* His Kingdom and His righteousness. His priority is for us to hunger and thirst after righteousness (Matthew 5:6) and to have a single eye (Matthew 6:22).

Make it a priority to win the lost. How can a Christian go six months without evangelizing one time, and still think that he is on the Lord's side? That person may be right in many areas of his life, but he is not on God's side when it comes to obeying the Great Commission. If people *can't* go, they can pray.

Make it a priority to be on the Lord's side. Make it a priority to be one with people who bring peace, love, and patience into situations that desperately need reconciliation. May we all have priorities which manifest the sweetness, and spice, and virtue love of God's essence as we walk with God on His side.