

DISAPPOINTMENT... THE FRUIT OF IGNORANCE**22/2/09**

*For the average church member, disappointment is often the result of not understanding one of the most common of all bible principles. The Christian life is made up of two principle commitments... to love (serve) God with all our hearts and minds and secondly to love (serve) our fellow brethren with the same zeal as ourselves. Neither can be separated from the other. Disappointments arise when our expectations or hopes are not met, likewise joy returns when the opposite is true. **PRO 13:12** Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.*

Disappointments multiply when we forget that we are all serving and being served by God. Instead, our lives can be dominated by the actions and weaknesses of men, rather than God's strengths (this is can be equally true from within and without the church). Paul understood this great truth and expanded the principle in his letter to the church at Rome.

Let's reveal God's wisdom in the same sequence that Paul presented it.

ROM 14:1 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations (not to judgments of your thoughts). We are obliged to present God's views and not our own when dealing with spiritual issues.

2 For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. This example is offered as a sample of what our attitude towards others should be... it is not a ruling on food or diet.

3 Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. We are God's children first of all... thus God's view counts ahead of our own.

4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. We all have differing values and priorities in the way we live our life, the way we spend our money, the things we like and dislike, etc... this will often clash with the views or actions of others... from this comes disappointments. The next verse reveals the key for wise Christians to avoid most of life's disappointments.

6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. All things we think and do should be unto the Lord's values and not our own. Even though the majority of our actions involve people... the primary awareness must rest in the knowledge that in all things that we do, we do them unto the Lord. With this in mind, the responses and actions of others are dramatically minimised. If we get let down by someone, get the sack from work, fall out with a friend, receive an unjust action... the way to wise management is to remember that we are servants of God and his principles, not the frailties and shortcomings of the human race. God blesses and rewards us, regardless of the way we are treated... because he is a perfect parent.

9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Our focus must remain on God when it comes to the way we view the people in our lives. We must see them the way God sees them... overlook the hurt and failings that often occur and serve them in the Spirit of truth (none of us need tolerate continuous abuse if we are unable to manage it... but at no time should the shortcomings of others lead us to see people any other way than how God sees them!!).

11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. God is the master of all judgements... not us. Where would we stand if we were each other's judge? We would all fail.

12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. No one will escape Christ's judgement.

13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. This will leave us a lot happier and produce a lot more blessing and contentment. Disappointments will be few if we do all things unto the Lord! The next verses build upon these reasonings...

ROM 15:1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

2 Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. Now we are doing all things unto the Lord, we also have room to apply these values. Remember, we cannot serve our brother without disappointments arising, if we are not aware of and not applying this life changing principle.

3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. This commitment is revealed as a blessing... it is not an added burden upon our lives.

5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

6 That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God. The awareness and application of this great principle will shield us from the vast majority of the disappointments of life. We don't need to make enemies and we don't need to fall out with the church... we only need to do all things unto the Lord... just as he has done for you.