



Don't let the world label you as a loser!

Losers and Winners

There are all sorts of sayings that tell us the difference between winners and losers. One well known saying is, *"Your limitations and success will be based, most often, on your own expectations for yourself."* I'm sure that there are a lot of people that think Christians are losers, but we know better. When a Christians expectations of themselves reaches the height of God's expectations for them, then they know for sure that they are winners and not losers.

Winning by doing good

Galatians 6:9 *"Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."* In trying to help others we often run into resistance, ingratitude, busy schedules, the risk of being judged incorrectly, and a multitude of obstacles that can confront us. But as Christians we know that we must not lose heart in doing these things, for in due season, or due time, we will reap if we do not grow weary. The due season speaks of the final rewards stored up for those who continue in the path of Christ.

The tough part is not growing weary! Barnes commentary puts it this way. *"It is implied here, that unless a man perseveres in doing good to the end of life, he can hope for no reward. He who becomes disheartened, and who gives over his efforts; he that is appalled by obstacles, and that faints on account of the embarrassments thrown in his way; he that pines for ease, and withdraws from the field of benevolence, shows that he has no true attachment to the cause, and that his heart has never been truly in the work of religion. He who becomes a true Christian, becomes such for eternity. He has enlisted, never to withdraw. He becomes pledged to do good and to serve God always. No obstacles are to deter, no embarrassments are to drive him from the field. With the vigor of his youth, and the wisdom and influence of his riper years; with his remaining powers when enfeebled by age; with the last pulsation of life here, and with his immortal energies in a higher world, he is to do good. For that he is to live. In that he is to die; and when he awakes in the resurrection with renovated powers, he is to awake to an everlasting service of doing good, as far as he may have opportunity, in the kingdom of God."*

The Right time to share!

The first step in being effective in trying to assist others in turning to God is to check our own hearts. What is our motive? Are we trying to change things in another's life to suit our own taste and view of what is acceptable, or are we attempting to share the Wisdom of God and do we really care for their well being or are we doing it because we are trying to follow some dead formula that will not produce anything but dead works?

The second thing is to consider the openness of the person we are trying to help to receive our proper motives to help them in their lives. **Proverbs 17:12** *"Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs, Rather than a fool in his folly."* **Proverbs 17:27** *"He who restrains his words has knowledge, And he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding."* We need to ask God to prepare the right time in order for someone to listen to His Counsel, and as the second Proverb suggests we need to stay cool in the midst of these conversations.

The third step is to show consistency in your own life as a living Epistle and Ambassador of Christ. The Apostle put it this way: **1Peter 3:13-17** *"Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. for it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong."*

Sincerity and Love are powerful attractions

The only way to avoid being perceived as someone trying to shove the Gospel down someone's throat is by a sincere desire to help. This tied to allowing God's love to shine through you will be powerful attractions even to the most difficult cases. The simple words. "I am praying for you." can be the beginning of moving the mountains in someone's life. God knows the heart and He can work on anyone's heart, but they have to open to receive His instruction. Let us all be careful to be gentle and reverent when we share. Frustration is *"a deep chronic sense or state of insecurity and dissatisfaction arising from unresolved problems or unfulfilled needs."* So many are frustrated today. They are looking for something or someone to solve their problems and unfulfilled needs. The Gospel is the answer but the Church at large has not presented the Gospel as the life saving message it truly is. We need to lead them to the waters of life and then they can decide if they want to drink from it or not.



*Jeremiah, known
as the weeping
Prophet*

In Jeremiah chapter 20 the Prophet complains to the Lord that his message has been rejected and that he viewed his ministry as a failure because no one was listening to him when he warned of the upcoming judgment of God for the sins of Israel. I am sure that Jeremiah was very excited to have the high honor of being called into the ministry of a prophet, but it took its toll on him. Everyone else was saying there is no judgment coming, peace and prosperity are on the horizon.

I have heard preachers over the years quote the word of God as a fire shut up in their bones and they could not hold it back. I always heard this as a good thing, good news for good things, in their ministry and I believe that the majority of them meant it exactly that way. But what was Jeremiah really saying. Let's take a look at that quotation. **Jeremiah 20:9** But if I say, "*I will not remember Him Or speak anymore in His name,*" Then in my heart it becomes like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; and I am weary of holding it in, And I cannot endure it." Without going into great detail Jeremiah was mocked and ridiculed for speaking of judgment. If he withheld the words that apparently no one was listening to, it was like a fire that he could not endure anymore. It was painful. At the end of his ministry the time for warning had ended and he just told the people that they had been judged.

It is very tempting for preachers and teachers of the Gospel to only emphasize the blessings and never plumb the depths of the cost of rejecting the Gospel. When God calls His ministers to denounce false religion and false hope and reject the sinful conditions of people as just "that's the way things are today" it's painful and hurtful to the heart of the preacher or teacher to see it rejected. Each man and woman must make their own decisions. Preachers and teachers know what salvation should be bringing, but when they see hard heartedness and outright rebellion they wonder who is listening?

I am not looking for sympathy and by no means do I make a claim to be a prophet, but I thought I would let you know what goes on in the heart of a minister. I fight my own struggles and receive many prayers in support of the ministry and my family and I am so very grateful for those who stand with me in the ministry and the love displayed toward me and my family. I believe God has called me to a path of correcting past errors and to preach the truth in the face of any apparent rejection. The truth hurts, cuts deep, and often times may seem to be too harsh. But the cross hurt, cut deep into Jesus' flesh, and was the harshest punishment of the day. And yet He paid the price willingly for our freedom for all who would accept His sacrifice for their own personal sins.

If I, or anyone else waters down the price that Jesus paid on the cross for our salvation and do not Preach the life change that should accompany salvation I will be judged by God harshly. I never want to hurt anyone, but if the truth hurts I must still preach it. There are enumerable blessings for those who accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior in this life and the next, but severe judgment for those who would excuse sin, deny the Wisdom and truth of God for Church growth, and settle for anything less than a changed life as evidence of Salvation.

The Gospel is a message of the love of God, but along with the love of God sin must be dealt with. Unless someone knows that they are a sinner in God's eyes and not the worlds eyes, they have no need for a Savior. It is the working of the Holy Spirit that exposes the sin in our lives and brings it to the light of God. Nothing else will do it. No amount of hollering, crying, income, man or woman, or anything else will do it. John the Baptist lost his head over calling sin, sin.

The work of the Holy Spirit

John 1:715 *"But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper, the (Holy Spirit) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you."*

Before and after every message I preach I search my heart and ask God for confirmation. I do not take lightly my responsibility, but pray that my Savior will say well done thou good and faithful servant, and I pray that the fruit of salvation will accompany the preaching and teaching in the Christian Fellowship Church.

I covet your prayers that the work of this ministry will be greater in the latter days than in the former days, and that all of us would share in bearing greater fruit in the kingdom of God in these latter days. We all know people who have real problems and we know the solution. But they need to accept what God has made available. Let God arise in our midst!

Pastor Vince