

May 14, 2017

church of Christ at Alisal

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LIKEMINDED

Ed Smithson

This is the fourth in a series on characteristics of Christianity.

To be likeminded means that sometimes one has to give up what he is convinced is right, especially in his own mind. We are not talking about things that really matter, like doctrine or principles. Paul wrote, "For I have no man likeminded, who will care truly for your state." He spoke this of Timothy. (Phil. 2:20) Peter also said, "Finally, be ye all likeminded, compassionate, loving as brethren, tenderhearted, humbleminded." (1 Pet. 3:8)

To be likeminded means to have the same purpose, goal and understanding of the mission. Certainly everyone is not going to think the same things. We have differences in many things but on some things we need to come together.

"Agreeable" Is another word that fits here. Although we have different "opinions" on things that do not matter that much, we need to understand sometimes we can and must put aside our personal preferences in order to come together on things that really matter.

For instance, we might believe in different ways to get certain things done. We are told, "go into all the world and preach the gospel." (Mark 16:16). One might favor a certain way of doing that, like knocking on doors. Perhaps he has had much success with that method. But other opportunities are available, the printed page, radio, television, etc. While he thinks knocking on doors is a good way, he must understand other ways are acceptable. If it comes down to one way or the other he must agree that other avenues are effective too and not insist on just that one way. In other words he is likeminded that the gospel be preached.

Being "likeminded" makes it necessary to "not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others. Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 2:4-5) Read the first 3 verses as well.

He who heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray. — Proverbs 10:17

Thought

Discipline is not only important to us, but also to those who are influenced by our actions. So often we undervalue the impact of our personal decisions on others. But God has placed each of us in a circle of influence to be a blessing and a redemptive influence on those around us. To choose what is foolish, to ignore godly correction, not only jeopardizes our own future, but also the future of others.

Happy Mothers Day!

Proverbs 31:10, 27-28

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.



Orchid Cactus

The plant blooms once each year. I have had my plant for over ten years and this year is the first time it has bloomed.

Beautiful and has a sweet fragrance.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. (John 1:1-5)

MEETING UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK
Listen on AM Radio 880 KKMC in Salinas, California
2nd Friday of each month @ 1:30 pm

Bible Classes..... 9:00 A.M.
Assemblies..... 10:00 A.M. & 5:00 P.M.

<http://churchofchristalisal.com/>

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class, Singing, & Prayer..... 6:30 P.M.

Welcome

Good Morning Brothers and Sisters!

This Week's Sermon's

A.M. - Making Our Calling and Election Sure

P.M. - Effective Prayer



"Cut Down"

Prayers

By Mike Benson

Every Christian husband wants to believe that his prayers are heard and accepted. "Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth" (Psm. 54:2). He wants to know that his petitions find their place in the ears and heart of Jehovah.

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, what -ever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him" (1 John 5:14-15).

But Peter reminds us that that doesn't always happen. Sometimes a husband's prayers are hindered. "H i n d e r e d."

Let that term sink into your cerebrum for a moment. The English word rendered "hindered" in the Greek is ekkopto and is pronounced ek-ko'p-to. It is a verb and is found sixteen times in eleven New Testament verses (cf. Mat. 3:10; 5:30; 7:19; 18:8; Luke 3:9; 13:7, 9; Rom. 11:22, 24; 2 Cor. 11:12). It means "to cut out, to cut off, or to hew down."

Contextually, the apostle says it is possible for a husband's prayers to "get the axe" What exactly does that imply? Note the following:

1. A husband can AXE his own prayers. There are times when what the head of the household says to God doesn't make it beyond the plaster ceiling. Oh sure, The Father hears everything a man utters (Mat. 12:37), but He chooses not to heed or answer a husband's petitions in the affirmative due to sins and failures (Ezek. 14:3; Isa. 59:2; Psm. 66:18; Prov. 21:13; 28:9; Mal. 3:7-10; Mark 11:25; Jas. 1:5-7; 4:3).

2. By contrast, a husband can ADVANCE his own prayers. Watch those words "Dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel..."

"Understanding" speaks of being sensitive to your wife's deepest physical and emotional needs. In other words, be thoughtful and respectful. Remember, you are to nourish and cherish her (Eph.5:25-28)...

By God's design, a wife is to be the special object of her husband's love and care. As 'a weaker vessel' she is under his authority and protection. "Weaker" doesn't mean weaker spiritually or intellectually, but physically and perhaps emotionally... It's not a negative thing for a woman to be a weaker vessel. In making the man stronger, God designed



a wonderful partnership. One way a husband can protect and provide for his wife is to practice chivalry...

"Giving honor" is another way of saying, "Treat your wife with respect" while "grace of life" is a reference to marriage. "Grace" simply means a gift, and one of the best gifts life has to offer is marriage. Thus when Peter says to give her respect as a "fellow heir of the grace of life," he is commanding husbands to respect their wives as equal partners in the marriage...

These aren't mere casual suggestions. According to Peter, your applying them has a direct bearing on how your prayers are answered" (John MacArther, <http://www.gty.org/resources/questions/QA119/what-does-it-mean-to-dwell-with-your-wife-with-understanding>).

Good brother, are you hacking down your prayers—or are you getting them up to God? "The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry" (Psm. 34:15). What's your relationship with your wife? Think about it.



Trust in the Lord

Trust in yourself, and you will always be disappointed at your level of achievement.

Trust in friends, and they may let you down in your hour of greatest need.

Trust in money, and you will spend your days trying to protect your investments.

But trust in God, and you can rest assured of his eternal presence: "For the Lord is good, his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations" (Psa. 100:5).

Announcements

1. Brother Kerry will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. Thank you everyone for making the hosting of our Saturday breakfast so smooth and enjoyable. I was so good seeing brothers and sisters from Prunedale and Seaside. Everyone shared the work and it was great!

~ On the Prayer list

Kerry Johnson - healing from his leg and knee injury.

Charles Barry - getting well from his sinus infection.

Bobby Glover - to successfully teach others about Jesus while in prison.

Michael White - for helping others as he serves his time.

Our country - and our leaders.

All the saints - and the knowledge and zeal to teach those who are outside the body of Christ.

Have a blessed week!