

Separation

Solomon loved the Lord so very much.

We are in a world in which the draw away from God and righteousness is everywhere. The subtle works of the wicked one are constant, and unless we are willing to trust the Word of God and follow It's instruction when we do not understand, we will surely fall prey to his wiles. Notice the slow decline of Solomon:

1 Kings 3:1 "And Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and took Pharaoh's daughter, and brought her into the city of David, until he had made an end of building his own house, and the house of the LORD, and the wall of Jerusalem round about."

vs. 2 "Only the people sacrificed in high places, because there was no house built unto the name of the LORD, until those days."

vs. 3 "And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places."

Solomon made a terrible decision about associating with Egypt and Pharaoh's daughter. Yet, verse three says that he loved God and walked in the statutes of God. Solomon was a good man who loved God. God blessed Solomon (as is seen in verse 5-6).

vs. 5 "In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee."

BUT... his lack of separation was leading him to ruin.

Some wonderful people love God sincerely, and their hearts are not evil at all. BUT... their lack of separation is drawing them away from the very love they cherish.

It was not long before Solomon built churches for heathen wives; not long after, he worshiped those same false deities.

When a parent or preacher says some action is wrong, they are not judging people; they are not saying these people are bad or evil. When a preacher says some church is bringing in worldly activities or worldly music, he is not saying that they do not love God. He is only warning people that they are heading into dangerous territory. He is saying that there is a direction in the lives of certain people that is dangerous.

In the story of 1 Kings 3, even though Solomon was in a relationship with the king of Egypt and had married a heathen woman, we find him very pleasing to God.

vs. 10 “And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.”

One can still be pleasing to God, even though he is not in line with God’s thinking. Understand that none of us are perfectly in line with God’s thinking, and this causes our decision-making abilities to become frail. God is happy with us when we love Him and try to please Him. God chose Saul to be the first King of Israel. Saul was said to be little in his own sight. Slowly, Saul drifted off course until God sent an evil spirit to trouble him.

1 John 2:15 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

You may play with the world and love God, but your children will not! Most likely, your children will chose the world. I have seen this type of situation many times in the last forty years, and I can assure you that those who are hurt most by worldly activities and associations are your children and the young people in your church.

When an old preacher cries out about the worldly lifestyle of young preachers and their churches, he is not saying they do not love God; he is saying there is a bridge out down the road, and that they need to change roads. The old man who lifts his “voice like a trumpet” is not unloving or judgmental. He has traveled the road of life long enough to read the road signs; and while youth runs happily toward destruction, the old men are bothered. No one says that the youth do not love God, but that they are headed for trouble.

1 John 4:5 “They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.”

You will lose your church, or your family, or your teenagers if you stay on a worldly path. If that happens, the world will suffer because no one will be left to preach and sacrifice to bring the Gospel to the world. Considering all the suffering and loss, yes, someone needs to “cry aloud and spare not.”

Isaiah 58:1 “Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.”

Do folks who run with the world also love God? I have no reason to doubt it. Are they traveling on a safe road? NO! Not if they are joining hands with the world and bringing compromise into their homes and churches.

John 15:19 “If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”

Romans 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Phones, TV, movies, social media, social drinking, sports fanatics, and worldly friends do not mean you do not love God; but what they do mean is that the road you travel is terribly dangerous. Someone is going to be hurt -- probably many someones.

www.thepreachersfriend.com