

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ancient Words: Favorite Bible Words

Work

Introduction:

1. The Christian walk is not a lonely walk.
2. We are blessed to share our walk with many other believers.
3. **Romans 12:3-8**

Discussion:

I. Christians Must Work

- A. God Calls Us To Be His Disciples
 1. We are called through the gospel (remember **Luke 24, Acts 1**).
Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16
 2. The world is upside down because of Satan and evil.
Ephesians 1:18
 3. We need to stay focused on our goal.
Matthew 7:21ff
- B. Christ Saves Us & Exemplifies True Service
 1. He is our great and perfect example.
I Peter 2:21-25
 2. The Bereans received the word and searched the scriptures.
Acts 17:11
- C. The Holy Spirit Convicts Us
 1. It is tragic that many people today have put their names on the do not call list (Are we on God's do not call list like Felix?).
 2. We are the called through the gospel message
Romans 1:6, 10:17, Colossians 2:12
 3. We are called to be saints.
I Corinthians 1:2-3
- D. Satan Blinds Us To Our Calling As Christ's Disciples
 1. Those who do not believe and obey are blinded.
II Corinthians 4:4
 2. Christ came to give us light.
Luke 19:10, II Timothy 1:9

II. Christians Must Work Together

- A. Christians Have Been Given Talents
Matthew 25:14-30, I Corinthians 12:13-27
- B. Christians Are Given Opportunities To Use Them
Luke 10:30-32, James 4:17
- C. Christians Must Find Their Place in the Kingdom
Ephesians 4:11-16
- D. Christians Are Commanded To Work/Live in Unity
I Corinthians 1:10, Ephesians 4:3
- E. When we work together we bring growth to the church.

III. Christians Must Work To Resolve Their Differences

A. The Book of Acts Is A Book About Conflicts

1. *Acts 2* – The apostles were accused.
2. *Acts 4* – The apostles were beaten and forbidden to preach.
3. *Acts 5* – Peter has to approach a couple that had lied to the HS.
4. *Acts 6-7* – Stephen was persecuted and martyred.
5. *Acts 8-9* – Paul led a wide spread persecution.
6. *Acts 11* – Peter defends the inclusion of the Gentiles.
7. *Acts 15* – John Mark, Paul, and Barnabas in a conflict.

B. The Letters of the New Testament Were Written To Deal With Conflicts

1. Lack of Biblical Authority (Leadership/The Role of Women)
2. Worship Issues
3. Sexual Sins/Marriage/Divorce/Remarriage
4. Problems with Prejudice, Love, & Fellowship
5. Forcing Opinions/Binding Traditions

C. The Bible Plainly Teaches The Methods of Conflict Resolution

1. A Christian will recognize the real problem (**Matthew 18:15ff**).
2. A Christian will choose the right time to approach another in the spirit of gentleness (**Galatians 6:1**).
3. A Christian will take the initiative (**Matthew 5:23-24**).
4. A Christian will clarify the area of conflict (**Acts 9, 11**).
5. A Christian will think before speaking (**Proverbs 12:18, 18:21**).
6. A Christian will reaffirm the relationship (**Matthew 22:35ff**).
7. A Christian will express feelings cautiously (**Colossians 3:12ff**).
8. A Christian will be open, honest, and assertive.
9. A Christian will not handle tolerance or evasiveness, but will practice compromise when needed (**I Corinthians 8:1-13**).
10. A Christian will know when to move on and shake the dust.
11. A Christian will pursue resolution and reconciliation.
12. A Christian will enjoy restoration, rewards, renewal and revival.

Conclusion:

1. **Matthew 18:15-17** gives seven qualities to apply:
 - Humility – we need a major league dose of humility
 - Responsibility - no one wants to take it
 - Sacrifice - giving up yourself, denying yourself
 - Love - individual care
 - Discipline - 4 steps (person alone, witnesses, etc.)
 - Fellowship - share life, taking care of difficulties
 - Forgiveness – How can you hold a grudge?
2. We must find a way to get along with one another.
3. Lay down your pride and handle your conflicts.
4. **Matthew 18:22** – forgive them seventy times seven times.
5. You are obligated to forgive those who repent (**Luke 17:4**).
6. You are commanded to love your enemies (**Mathew 5:44**).
7. Are you doing your part to bring growth to the church?
8. Are your in a positive partnership with your brethren?