

Personal/Small Group Study

Week of November 5, 2023 A.D.

God's Priorities for My Life

Life is a series of choices. Each choice has consequences. Therefore, the successes or failures of my life will depend upon the choices which I make and the wisdom with which I make of those choices. God has given to the world an instruction manual called the Bible. God's wisdom and God's priorities for our lives are contained within the pages of the Bible. If we follow the wisdom and the priorities which are given by God, our lives should experience a high level of success and a low level of failure. Let's talk about that today.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read Matthew 6:31-34

1. According to verse 33, what is the highest priority in the life of a follower of Jesus?
2. In verse 32, Jesus refers to God as being "your heavenly father". Is God the Father of all mankind? Or is God the Father of only those who follow Christ?
3. How can a person seek (a) the Father's kingdom and (b) the Father's righteousness? What promise does Jesus make in verse 33? Is that promise to be taken literally? Please give some illustrations in which you have seen the fulfillment of that promise in your life or in the lives of others?

Read Matthew 22:34-40

4. Will every person stand in judgment before God? Based on these verses, what will be the primary issues which will be examined when you stand in judgment before God?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:1-3

5. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Anything with two heads is a freak. God has established the man as the head of the woman so that there may be order and authority in the family."
6. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Because the head of every man is Christ, God expects every husband to model the love and behavior of Jesus in the husband's relationship with his wife."

Read Ephesians 5:21-33

7. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "God (i.e. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) has the first priority in the life of a Christian. A man's or woman's spouse has the second priority in the life of a Christian."

Read Ephesians 6:1-4

8. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "After placing God first and your spouse second, your children are the next priority in the life of a Christian."

Read Exodus 20:12

9. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "The family is God's idea. Any person or society that rejects God's instructions for how to manage the relationships which exist within their immediate family will experience serious consequences for their behavior."
10. Based on the Scripture texts which you have reviewed in this lesson, which has the higher priority: (a) between career and family? (b) between church and family? (c) between personal activities and family activities?
11. Refer separately to each of the pairings found in a, b, and c in question 10 above. Please state your opinion of (a) how well our culture/nation seeks to follow God's priorities in each of those three pairings and (b) how well you personally seek to follow God's priorities in each of the three pairings.

Read Matthew 12:46-50

12. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "The church is the family of God. God expects himself to be the first priority in the life of every believer in Christ. Also, my church family should have at least equal priority with my biological family."
13. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "The Bible instructs Christians to love both their church family and their biological family. I must study the Bible, pray, and learn to discern the Spirit of God so that I will know how, when, and to what extent I am to give priority to one of those families over the other."

Consider: Life is all about relationships. My first priority is my relationship with God. My second priority is my relationship with people. I must study and obey the precepts of the Bible so that I can discover how to live in right relationships with God and with people.