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Forgive Us Our Virtues

INTRO: A.) In addition to our usual habit of praying for forgiveness of sins, perhaps we would be wise to pray for forgiveness of our "virtues".

a.) How do we spend most of our waken ~~hours~~ HOURS -

1.) being - "workaholics"?

B.) Mt 23:15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharasees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

a.) Here Jesus severely criticized the Pharisees for their proselyting zeal - a thing which they would have considered a virtue.

I.) Forgive us our virtue of TACT

A.) We are often so "tactful" that we fail to ~~stand~~ STAND for anything.

a.) We fail to reprimand the sinner.

1.) II Tim 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

a.) Be always ready to give an answer even if you have to open your Bible to find the answer.

b.) Jude 23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the ~~fire~~ FIRE; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

1.) Be ready to show someone where they are doing something wrong - also commend them when they are doing something right.

b.) We fail to encourage the weak.

1.) Gal 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in ~~the~~ the

spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Rom 15:1-2 pg 1204 a.) We are not perfect, we can sin just as easily as anyone else.

c.) We fail to defend the truth.

1.) I Pet 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.

B.) We love peace so much that we are overly afraid of making trouble.

a.) Aaron made this mistake in permitting the Israelites to have him make the golden calf.

1) EX 32:1-24 pg 103-104

GAL 2:11-12 b.) This must have been at least part of Peter's attitude when he decided to "keep the peace" with the Jews by refusing to eat with the Gentiles.

1) Do as I say, not as I do.

c.) We make this mistake when we, for example:

1.) Permit someone to go unchallenged who is teaching wrongfully.

2.) When we continue to associate with a Christian who begins to lead an ungodly life.

a.) I Cor 5:9-13 pg 1210

1.) MT 18:15-17 pg 1035

* b.) In MATT 9:10-13, pg 1022, Christ is eating with sinners,

* c.) In I COR 11:27-29, pg 1216, whosoever eateth or drinketh of the Lord's table unworthily - eateth and drinketh damnation to himself.

d.) Mt 18:15-17 We are shown the process to go by if discipline is needed in the church.

II.) Forgive is Our Virtue of OPEN-MINDEDNESS

A.) We sometimes accept error through a desire to "see all sides."

a.) Open-mindedness is a true virtue, but one which is easily abused.

1.) We can be so "open-minded" that we fail to see the truth when it is presented.

a.) I Sam 15:20-21 pg 340

2.) Someone said, "a mind, like a mouth, should be kept open until it finds something solid to shut upon."

3.) Someone else said, "There are two sides to every question - until we find the answer."

a.) Right way, wrong way, the army way.

b.) Lack of conviction can be seen as "open-mindness".

1.) Eph 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

a.) LIKE a piece of paper blown by the wind, people go along with whoever happens to be preaching.

B.) "Open mindness" can even lead to a lack of confidence in the very existence of truth.

a.) This shift from a confidence in absolute truth to a philosophy of relativism is one of the major beliefs of twentieth century thought.

1.) REL-A-TIV-ISM - The theory that truths are relative and may vary according to the individual, the group, the place, or the time.

b.) Christianity is based on the premis that truth exists, and that essential truth has been revealed to man.

1.) II Tim 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

c.) Paul gives Timothy a soleman charge to preach the word

1.) II Tim 4:1-5 pg 1267

a.) Paul wants Timothy to preach the word even though he may hurt someones feelings.

b.) People want to hear what they want to hear and not being told that they are not following the truth.

III.) Forgive us Our Virtue of Self-Confidence.

A.) False confidence leads us to make major decisions without prayer.

a.) We say or do something without thinking.

b.) Mk 14:29 But Peter said unto Him, although all shall be offened, yet will not I.

1.) Here we see Peter puting his foot into his mouth.

a.) His "self-confidence" before he denied Christ three times.

B.) False confidence leads us to formulate our beliefs without serious study and prayer.

a.) We should not accept a doctrine without examining it first.

1.) Jn 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me:

a.) "This is what my parents believed, and their parents believed. It is good enough for me.

b.) We should not reject a doctrine without examining it first.

1.) Acts 17:32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.

a) Speaking of the resurrection of Christ.

CON.)

A.) It is necessary to examine all our apparent virtues to see if they ~~are~~ are infact virtues.

a) Of the many things upon which the Pharisees prided themselves, their proselyting zeal came high on the list, yet Jesus found this to be a vice!

b.) Mat 23:15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

B.) a false virtue is more dangerous than a recognized sin:

a) Since it is not recognized as sin, it is not likely to cause guilt, thus it is not likely to recieve our attention.

b.) Since it is not recognized as sin, it is permitted to eat away at our spirituality, quietly and unchallenged.

1) Just like termites

a) If they go untreated they can destroy your house.

c.) A false virtue once recognized can be treated.

1.) Just like the termites.

a) When caught in ~~time~~ time THEY can BE treated and the damage repaired.

1) James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.