

GREAT QUESTION?

In Luke 9, Jesus' disciples argued. First they argued with scribes about casting out demons. Then they debated with each other about which one of them was the greatest. Then they questioned whether they should try to stop someone from casting out demons in Jesus' name, since he did not follow Jesus with them. Jesus replied, "*the one who is not against you is for you.*"

This raises a question. Can you be neutral? Neither for nor against? Neutrality is often claimed by atheists or others with anti-God philosophy. When you dig into it, it seems that other schools of thought or religions are satanic at heart. The slightest twisting of truth corrupts it. Satan twists, imitates and pollutes what the Bible teaches, with the deceitfulness of occult power.

GREAT FALLACY - Truth-twisting is the dark underbelly that is still at work all over the world, at the highest levels of government, commerce and culture. What's really going on is a cosmic spiritual battle, played out in the human conflicts of control, confusion and coercion.

Neutrality is the great fallacy of all who are anti-Christ. Jesus asked the great dividing line of reality: "*Who do you say that I am?*" He posits in Luke 9:18-20. Can one be neutral about Christ? "Jesus says there is no neutral point of ground," declares RC Sproul. "One is either for Christ or he is against Christ. If you have not received Christ, then you have rejected Him."

GREAT TRUTH - It's right there with John 3:16, which says, "*for God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life*" and verse 18 which says, "*Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.*"

Scripture says whoever has believed in Jesus as Christ, Lord, Savior, has been born again, indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Whoever is with Christ and for Christ should not be filled with pride, which is antithetical to Christ and His mission. Antidotes to pride are gratitude and humility.

GREAT POINTS - Both point to Christ and all that He is and all that He gives, for His glory. Gratitude recognizes that all you have and are, come from God and are for His purposes. Not to make you greater than others, but so you can serve in greater ways and bring glory to Jesus.

"Pride is the sin we cannot see in ourselves and yet so detest in others," notes Sproul. What is humility? It is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less. Putting needs of others ahead of your own. This needs to be done by individuals, parents, and citizens at every level.

We've seen plenty of the opposite in the covid chaos, mis-use of selective information, draconian measures which defy true science and common sense, and act against individual liberty and responsibility. As someone noted, a better acronym for covid is Christ Offers Victory In Distress.

GREAT QUESTION - Rather than microscoping others, like the disciples did, how about ask yourself, how am I growing Christ's kingdom? As Jesus taught in Luke 9:48, disciples represent Christ on earth. And if you are not relevant in times of trouble, you never will be. Do people know that Christ matters to you? He gives plenty of opportunities to serve others in His name!

How are you sharing the good news about Jesus? Encouraging others, obeying Christ and growing His kingdom? Our communities offer numerous ways to serve Him, through your church and through other initiatives that seek to help meet the needs of others. How are you taking part?

GREAT ANSWER - Throughout history it has been the church that ministers in the midst of crisis and plagues of all kinds, reaching out to the needy and lowly, in Jesus' name. Romans 12 has a great list of ideas. Jesus said, "*He who is least among you all is the one who is great.*" John 3:27-30 records John the Baptist's words: "*Christ must increase, but I must decrease.*"

Chuck Colson puts it well: "Jesus Christ exhibited no self-conscious aloofness. He served others first; He spoke to those to whom no one spoke; He dined with the lowest members of society; He touched the untouchables. He had no throne, no crown, no bevy of servants or armored guards.

"A borrowed manger and a borrowed tomb framed His earthly life. Kings and presidents and prime ministers surround themselves with minions who rush ahead, swing doors wide and stand at attention as they wait for the great to pass. Jesus said that He Himself stands at the door and knocks, patiently waiting to enter our lives." What is your response to Him, the Greatest? □