

Something Is Wrong With Our Priorities

by Bill Crews

When I refer to “priority,” I have this meaning in mind: “precedence in order, rank, privilege, etc.” Some synonyms are “precedence, greater importance, preference, urgency, immediacy, the lead, preeminence.” By “priority” I refer to someone or something that is more important, that should come first, that must be given emphasis over other persons or things.

It is a principle encountered frequently in the Scriptures. The New Testament says of Jesus, “that in all things he might have the preeminence” (Col.1:18), literally, “that in all things he might be first.” Jesus declared, “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me” (Matt. 10:37). If our priorities are straight, we will love Jesus more than we love anyone else. Jesus declared, “But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things (food, drink, clothing -- necessities of life, BC) shall be added unto you” (Matt. 6:33). The soul should be given priority over the body (Matt. 10:28). Spiritual things should be given priority over material things (2 Cor. 4:16-18). The things that are above should be given priority over the things that are upon the earth (Col. 3:1-2).

SOMETHING IS OBVIOUSLY WRONG WITH THE PRIORITIES OF THOSE WHO:

1. **Leave God and Christ out of their lives.** They have time for other things, but no time for their Creator and their Redeemer.
2. **Leave the Bible out of their lives.** They drink at various fountains of human wisdom, but have no interest in the fountain of divine wisdom.
3. **Have more concern for the academic education of their minds** than they have for the spiritual enlightenment of their souls.
4. **Give much time to the care and preservation of their physical bodies,** mere temporal tabernacles, but no time to the needs of their immortal souls that reside in those physical tabernacles.
5. **Have time or take time for their secular jobs, their earthly homes, their entertainments and pleasures,** but have no time or will take no time for the spiritual activities that will promote their true happiness and prepare them for eternity.
6. **Are more concerned about “animal rights” than they are about “people rights,”** who can go through life focusing on creatures who have no existence beyond this life while all but ignoring the only creatures made in the image of God and who will never cease to exist.
7. **Who militantly oppose what they perceive to be “cruelty to animals”** while being little concerned about world-wide “cruelty to humans” -- “man’s inhumanity to man.”
8. **Who staunchly oppose capital punishment** (and some any punishment) for criminals guilty of heinous capital offenses, but who, at the same time, staunchly advocate the right of adults to murder innocent unborn babies. “Capital punishment of criminals -- no! Abortion of innocent unborn babies -- yes!”
9. **Who are more concerned about any perceived pollution of the earth’s environment** or destruction of the earth’s resources than they are about the needs of human beings to survive or about the characters and morals of human beings.

WE DO NEED TO GET OUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT!

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