

## **Is Christ First In Your Life?**

Recently I met with a couple that I have known for many years who have struggled in their marriage for as long as I have known them. I was called to their home once again to referee their differences. To be honest, I did not want to go. I was tired of dealing with the same old problems. As I drove to their home, I groped for direction in how to counsel them. When I sat down with them, this is what I said.

"The reason your life and marriage is a mess is because Jesus Christ is not first in your life! He must be the center piece of your life in order for Him to truly bless you! You are harsh with one another and the bottom line is that you are selfish and harsh with one another. Until He is first you will continue to struggle."

Here's the Bottom Line! Most people's troubles, bothers, distractions and worries are because Christ is not first! He is not Lord!

### **Jesus Christ is not First in Your Life!**

- Your trouble in your marriage is a result of Jesus Christ Not being first in your life.
- Your trouble in your finances is a result of Jesus Christ not being first in your life.
- Your trouble in relationships is a result of Jesus Christ not being first in your life.
- Your trouble with sin and the not being able to rid it is because Jesus Christ is not first in your life.
- You can't say no to sin and the worry, and fear and the junk of the world because you have not said Yes to Christ, first and foremost.
- Our children's troubles are a result of Jesus Christ not being first in their lives!

Take a few minutes and answer these questions:

1. What area of your life seems to bring you the most trouble?
2. What are the worries and distractions of your life that are keeping you from the peace God has for you?
3. Can you really say that Christ is first in your life, marriage, job, finances, etc.?

**Colossians 1:16** For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. 18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything. 19 For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fulness to dwell in Him,

### **When Jesus Christ is Not First!**

#### **You Are an Idolater!**

**Exodus 20:1** Then God spoke all these words, saying, 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 3 "You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,

1. What is Idolatry?
2. What does it mean to have other gods before God?
3. What is the result of having other gods before God?

**Psalms 115:2** Why should the nations say, "Where, now, is their God?" 3 But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases. 4 Their idols are silver and gold, The work of man's hands. 5 They have mouths, but they cannot speak; They have eyes, but they cannot see; 6 They have ears, but they cannot hear; They have noses, but they cannot smell; 7 They have hands, but they cannot feel; They have feet, but they cannot walk; They cannot make a sound with their throat. 8 Those who make them will become like them, Everyone who trusts in them.

1. What are some of the idols of our day in America? (money, success, children, sports, cars, stuff ect.)
2. What does verse 8 say of those who trust in anything other than God?

**Let me give you a definition of Idolatry that might strike at the very core of your being.**

**Idolatry** – Loving something more than you love God. Depending on something other than God to fulfill what only God can fulfill! It is having something other than Christ first in your life.

Men! Is there anything in your life that you love more than God? What are you depending on to fulfill in your life what only God can fulfill? Is there anything other than Christ first in your life?

**Matthew 6:33** "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

1. What happens when Christ is first?
2. What are all these things?

Could it be that there are things in your life that are more important than God? What would you say are the evidences of having something other than Christ first in your life? What do you think you must do to see Jesus Christ first in your life?

After leaving that couple that day, I thought that I might have been a little hard on them. In reality they are taking the question to heart and making the appropriate changes to make certain Christ is first in their lives.

What are the appropriate changes you need to make to make certain that Christ is First in Your Life?

Next time we will look at what it means to Have Christ first in Your Life!