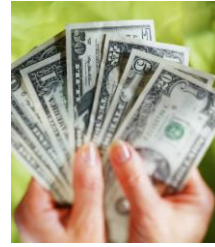


Resolving Temporal Values

Temporal values are placing a higher priority on possessions, hobbies or interests, and personal goals than on relationships with God and others. When people focus primarily on their careers, money, pleasures, or hobbies, relationships with God and others are neglected.



Focusing on temporal values causes us to lose sight of what is important. When our primary focus is on possessions, position, power or prestige, we lose sight of the most important things in life—those things that are permanent such as our relationship with Christ and others. Christ said we cannot serve God and money (*Matt. 6:24*). We either place God first in our lives, or we put other things before Him. Jesus also said, “*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also*” (*Luke 12:34*).

Example: When a man treasures his career above his wife, she feels neglected, unloved, and alone. She will search for emotional intimacy in other relationships such as children or other adults to meet her emotional needs. However, focusing on Christ and what He values will keep everything in proper balance.

The burden of daily responsibilities causes us to neglect time with those we love. In Luke 10:38-42, Martha placed a higher value on serving than on relationships with her sister and the Lord. She was distracted from what was essential by the pressures of daily responsibilities. When she complained to the Lord that Mary wasn’t helping her, Jesus told her that fellowship with Him was more important than her service.

Our central focus should be on pleasing the Lord. Paul saw the value of counting all his gain as loss that he might win Christ. Because his central focus was on pleasing the Lord, his life goals were subject to that focus (*Phil 3:8-12*). His commitment caused him to sacrifice everything in order to have a closer relationship with God. The things he left behind, such as his position and prestige, he considered as refuse or dung. They were no longer valuable to him nor did they any longer consume his thoughts. “*For me, living is Christ,*” was Paul’s attitude. David Livingstone reflected Paul’s sentiments when he said, “*I am determined not to look upon anything I possess except as in relationship to Christ.*” Is your focus on relationships or on possessions, position or power? For me, living is _____! You cannot serve two masters. God promises to honor those who choose to put Him first (*John 12:26*).

Freedom from Temporal Values

- Step 1** **Pray.** From your heart, pray aloud the prayer below on this page.
- Step 2** **Worksheet: *Resolving Temporal Values*.** What things have you placed before your relationship with God and with others? Check each area that applies in your life.
- Step 3** **Pray to resolve each issue.** Acknowledge to the Lord and resolve each area checked by praying through them, using the prayer on the worksheet *Resolving Temporal Values*.
- Step 4** **Questions for personal study.** Answer the questions at the end of this section for a personal study.

Prayer

“Lord, I acknowledge that I have placed other things as a priority above You and above those who are close to me, I choose to make You first in my life and to establish priorities that honor You and count for eternity. For me, living is Christ, therefore, I choose to focus my heart on the treasures that will last forever. I desire to live each day in a way that pleases You and counts for eternity. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.”

Resolving Temporal Values

Check the areas that you view as more important than your relationship with God or others:

<input type="checkbox"/> Job/work/career	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> Money & financial goals	<input type="checkbox"/> TV/video games/computers
<input type="checkbox"/> Possessions/thing	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal goals
<input type="checkbox"/> Prestige & position	<input type="checkbox"/> Other_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreational activities /sports	

“Lord I acknowledge that I have placed a higher value on (item checked above) to the neglect of my relationship with You and others. I ask Your forgiveness and I make a commitment to value my relationship with You and others above (item checked above).”

Personal Evaluation Questions

1. Why are my relationships with God, my spouse and others more important than even my service to God? (Luke 10:38-42)
2. Why can't a person focus their primary attention on two things at once? (Matthew 6:24)
3. Why is it so difficult for a believer to stay focused on relationship with God and others?
4. If you choose to make relationships a priority in your personal life, what will need to change?
5. What commitment are you willing to make to set priorities in your relationships?

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