

Selflessness and Soul Winning

Isolationism. This word has been tossed about in political circles since the United States was founded. It means in part “seeking to devote the entire efforts of one’s country to its own advancement and remain at peace by avoiding foreign entanglements and responsibilities.” Take note of the words “own advancement” and “avoiding...responsibilities.” These same words have been used by many in criticizing the selfishness of many in today’s narcissistic world. One might pray that isolationism never becomes a dominant world view of Christianity.

Although the Bible warns us of worldly entanglements (2 Cor. 6:14; 2 Tim. 2:4), it also reminds us that we must ever be concerned about the condition of other souls around us: “Deliver those who are drawn toward death, and hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, ‘Surely we did not know this,’ does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds? (Prov. 24:11-12. cf. Ezek. 33:6-9; Jn. 4:35; Jas. 5:19-20). We are also taught that we are not to be consumed with self interest (Mat. 6:25-34; Phil. 2:1-4). The Christian can never be spiritually “isolationist.

Jesus sets the paramount example of selflessness that always characterizes the zealous lover and seeker of souls. 2 Cor. 8:9 says that for our sakes He became poor, and Phil. 2:5-8 declares that, although equal with God, He made Himself of no reputation and humbled, or emptied, Himself, becoming obedient unto the death of the cross. 1 Cor. 13:5 teaches that love does not seek its own, and this was beautifully illustrated in the humble, gentle, selfless seeker of souls (Lk. 19:10) from Nazareth. If we would follow Christ, isolationism can have no part in our philosophy. “O to be like Thee! full of compassion, loving, forgiving, tender and kind, helping the helpless, cheering the fainting, seeking the wand’ring sinner to find.”

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