

Three Things to be Planted

As spring arrives we are reminded that it is time to plant. In a spiritual sense we are also planting. I think spiritually we could use three metaphors to describe three types of planting. I believe that each person's life represents one of these examples in some form or fashion. 1) If you want to grow something that last a season plant flowers. 2) If you want to grow something that last a lifetime plant a tree. 3) If you want to grow something that lasts an eternity plant a church.

Those who represent the flowers are those who just live life for the moment. There are even some believers that could possibly fit this category. Live, eat and be merry. Whatever brings instant gratification just do it. It may indeed bring pleasure for a moment, but then it is gone with no lasting benefit, just the stems remain.

Those who represent the trees are those who may work hard for a lifetime, they educate themselves, they live a moral life, they put their kids through school and college and climb the career ladder and perhaps have been very successful in business. These individuals who represent the trees have planted some oaks, but the extent of their life is just what they have accumulated in this life and they leave no lasting spiritual legacy.

The other group of planters are those who plant churches. When I say plant churches I am talking about those who invest their lives in others by sharing with them the Gospel of Jesus Christ and leading people to faith in Christ which brings them into the body of Christ where they become part of the church universal, the body of Christian believers that the bible calls the Church. (Acts 2:47, Ephesians 5)

How do we as Christians practically plant churches? I think the key revolves around the Lordship of Christ in our lives. Is Christ

ruling supreme in your life where every decision you make you are seeking His divine plan, or is Christ just a figment of religious symbolism that you pull out every Sunday when you put your church clothes on and go through drudgery of going off to church? Depending on how you view this subject of the Lordship of Christ will determine if you plant flowers, plant trees, or plant churches.

The lordship of Christ - What does it mean? Jesus is called by a number of different titles. He is called the Christ, Son of God, Son of Man, Savior, and Messiah. He has also been called "Lord." Jesus Himself says in Luke 6:46, "Why do you call me, Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?" To make Christ Lord and recognize Jesus Christ as our Lord, the first requirement is total, absolute, obedience to Christ. As Lord, Jesus Christ deserves reverence, honor, and obedience because of the glory that was bestowed upon Him by the Father and because He was obedient unto the father, even unto death on the cross, we are to take the same mind of obedience that Jesus Himself had toward the Father and as followers of Christ we must acknowledge Him in all of our ways. We are only to do what pleases Him and what He has commanded us to do. The Lordship of Christ means that we recognize Him for who He is and give Him the honor that He is due. He has earned it; He is worthy of it, He is Lord.

The Apostle Peter had to deal with the issue of the Lordship of Christ before he could be used of God at Pentecost to lead 3,000 souls to Christ and establish the New Testament Church. Peter, who just fifty days prior to Pentecost had denied that he knew Christ. Fifty days prior He was planting flowers and living for the moment, but when he finally made Jesus the Lord of his life and realized that this is the resurrected Savior who is worthy of his life and service it changed his life forever. Likewise when we come to grips with who the risen Savior is and that he desires to use us in the greatest task in all the world (planting churches) it will change

both our lives and those around us forever as it did the early church in Peter's day.

Once Peter dealt with the issue of the Lordship of Christ and made Christ the Lord of His life he no longer was plagued by spiritual vacillation, but he was focused on bringing all people irrespective of culture or background to the Savior. Equally, when we come to grips with who the risen Savior really is there will be no more vacillations, no more apathy, no more denying, no more living for the moment, no more planting flowers or trees, but living totally for Jesus and investing our lives in bringing people into the family of God that will have a profound impact not for a season, not for a lifetime, but for eternity.

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