

Majoring On Minors

One of the greatest qualifications of success in any area of life is the ability to discern between the important and the trivial. A person who cannot do this may work as hard and be as sincere as anyone else, but his efforts may be largely wasted on matters of relative insignificance.

A great failure of the first century Pharisee was their inability to distinguish between great matters and small ones. They tithed mint, anise and cumin and neglected weightier matters of the law - justice, mercy and faith. They gagged at gnats and swallowed camels. They zealously guarded reputation but disdained character; they honored the gold of the Temple more than they did the Temple itself. And they miserably missed the mark on living by God's will. (Matt. 23)

Parents must be able to differentiate between minor matters and major matters. It is most foolish to make large conflicts over trifles and to ignore matters of eternal importance. Elders are dismal failures if they cannot ascertain what is important and what is not. How many church business meetings have been dominated by mundane matters like leaky faucets, trimming a shrub, while matters of teaching the lost, edifying the saved, and restoring the erring were almost totally ignored?

In the early church at Jerusalem, the Grecian Jews complained that their widows were being neglected in the daily serving of food. They would have been glad for the apostles to quit their work of preaching and teaching to serve them. Serving tables was important; the job needed to be done. But the apostles knew it would have been poor judgment "to forsake the word of God and serve tables" (Acts 6:2). Therefore they delegated the work to seven select men.

Wise people recognize the relative importance and immediacy of things. Those who do not will waste much of their time majoring on minors and neglecting the most important things in life. (Author Unknown)

When You Need Encouragement

"It's impossible."
All things are possible (Luke 8:27).
"I'm too tired."
I will give you rest (Matt. 11:28-30).
"Nobody really loves me."
I love you (John 3:16).
"I can't go on."
My grace is sufficient (2Cor. 12:19).
"I can't figure things out."
I will direct your steps (Prov. 20:24).
"I can't do it."
You can do all things (Phil. 4:13).
"I'm not able."
I am able (2Cor. 8:9).
"I'm not worth it."
It will be worth it (Rom. 8:28).
"I can't forgive myself."
I forgive you (1John 1:9-7).
"I can't manage."
I will supply all your need (Phil. 4:19).
"I'm afraid."
I have not given you a spirit of fear (2Tim. 1:7).
"I'm always worried and frustrated."
Cast all your cares on Me (1Peter 5:7).

McGarvey's Compromise

"You are on the right road, and whatever you do, don't ever let anybody persuade you that you can successfully combat error by fellowshipping it and going along with it. I have tried. I believed at the start that was the only way to do it. I've never held membership in a congregation that used instrumental music. I have, however, accepted invitations to preach without distinction between churches that used it and churches that didn't. I've gone along with papers and magazines and things of that sort. During these years I have taught the truth as the New Testament teaches it to every young preacher who has passed through the College of the Bible. Yet, I do not know of more than six of those men who are preaching the truth today. It won't work." (Quoted by Jesse Sewell, 1950, Harding College Lectures; this statement was made to him by J.W. McGarvey in 1902 or 1903)

Nobody Says Amen

By Ernestine Adkins

We come in early and take our pew,
And we sit there quietly for an hour or two.
The preacher has a cute little sermonette,
And he starts with a joke so we won't forget.
Some of us mumble a few short songs --
No instrumental music, for we know that's wrong.
We take communion with a somber face,
And we throw in a dollar when they pass the plate.
We repeat long prayers with heads bowed low,
Shake hands all around, grab our Bible and go.
The strongest of us will return at dark;
For when the doors are opened, we take our part.
In decency and order we place great store,
But nobody says amen any more.

Patching Pants

"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving..." (Col. 4:2). Two preachers' wives sat mending their husbands' pants. One said to the other, "My poor John, he is so discouraged in his church work. He said just the other day he was considering resigning. It seems that nothing goes right for him." The other replied, "Why, my husband was saying just the opposite. He is so enthused, it seems like he is closer to the Lord than ever before." A hushed silence fell as they continued to mend the trousers: ONE PATCHING THE SEAT AND THE OTHER THE KNEES. Let us always pray and not lose heart.

A Moments Wisdom

--Fear knocked on the door. Faith answered. No one was there.
--Good preaching sounds reveille, not taps.
--Nothing is ever settled till it is settled right, and nothing is ever settled right till it is settled with God.
--"People used to blush when they were ashamed. Now they are ashamed if they blush. Modesty has disappeared and a brazen generation with no fear of God before its eyes mocks at sin. We are so fond of being called tolerant and broadminded that we wink at sin when we ought to weep."
(Vance Havner)