

## Way Too Busy

“I am just too busy to take on one more thing.” How often have we heard someone say that, or quite possibly caught ourselves saying that to someone else? Today we rush from place to place and involve ourselves in so many things that there doesn't seem to be any time left over to take seriously our obligations to one another as brethren. When there is a sick brother or sister in the congregation, do you make time to contact them to offer assistance or to pray with them for relief from their infirmity? When a brother or sister is having difficulty with a particular spiritual issue, do you realign your priorities to make sure that there is room in your schedule to make a phone call to encourage them, to visit them, maybe even arrange a bible study with them?

The book of 1st John chapter 3 and verses 15 through 18 reads as follows:

***Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.***

If there was ever a charge to show brotherly love, this is it. We are encouraged by these verses to not just hear about someone on Sunday and to feel for them, but to take action on what we may know or hear about in the announcements made by the elders. If we are not willing to aid brethren that need us, just as the verses mention, how can we say that the love of God dwells in us? Consider what the book of James has to say in chapter 2 and verses 15 through 17.

***If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.***

It is a good thing that we are concerned for our brethren when they have needs, but if that concern is not moved to action, what good is it? Just as faith without works is dead, concern without action is lifeless and indicates a lack of proper attitude on our part. Just as the verses from 1<sup>st</sup> John chapter 3 pointed out, Christ laid down his life for us, and we are instructed that we ought to be willing to do so for our brethren. The sacrifice made for man was borne out of the great love that God has for us; from where can we say that our being to busy for one another comes? We should seriously consider that question before we answer.

It is obvious from the word of God that we have obligations to one another, but we should also be of a particular mindset about others. Philippians chapter 2 and verses 3 and 4 reads:

***Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.***

Can we say that we truly esteem our brethren better than we do ourselves? Do our actions show that we have that kind of spirit? From the simple study that we have done in this article, it is obvious that we had better have that kind of spirit in us. Let us all resolve within ourselves not to give a pittance of our time in service to our brethren from this day forward but to truly have the kind of spirit that esteems our brother better than ourselves. If our brethren need us, whether for spiritual edification or to fulfill some physical need, let's resolve to do what needs to be done for the good of our brethren and that we may be pleasing to God.

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