

Women's Auxiliary Department

Topic: "Demonstrating Priorities"

Sub-topic: "Modeling Your Priorities"

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you"

Matthew 6:33

I. Is God a Priority in Your Life?

Make a mental list of the four most important things in your life.

With that compiled, now take away the least important of the four things.

With those three things left, now take away the least important of the three things.

With those two things left, now take away the least important of the two things.

Now consider what is left. Whatever it is that you have left, that is the most important thing to you.

As Apostolic women, our list should have something in common. We should all have God at the top of our list of priorities. However, if God was not most important, then it is my prayer that you can make God most important in your life.

II. Prioritizing Your Daily Activities

A. Daily To-Do List

On your daily to-do list, all items are not created equal: Certain tasks are extremely important while others are not. Therefore, it is imperative that you prioritize your daily activities and complete each task in the appropriate order of importance.

B. Doing First Things First

The principle of doing first things first is simple in theory but more complicated in practice. Well-meaning family, friends, and co-workers have a way of making unexpected demands upon your time. Furthermore, each day has its own share of minor emergencies; these urgent matters tend to draw your attention away from more important ones. On paper, prioritizing is simple, but to act upon these priorities in the real world requires maturity, patience, determination, and balance.

If you fail to prioritize your day, life will automatically do the job for you. So your choice is simple: prioritize or be prioritized. It's a choice that will help determine the quality of your life.

C. Organize Your Life According to God's Plans

If you are having trouble balancing the many demands of everyday living, perhaps you've been trying to organize your life according to your own plans, not God's. A better strategy is to take your daily obligations and place them in the hands of the One who created you. To do so,

Modeling Our Priorities

you must prioritize your day according to God's commandments, and you must seek His will and His wisdom in **all** matters. Then, you can face the coming day with the assurance that the same God who created our universe out of nothingness will help you place first things first in your own life.

D. Are You Living a Balanced Life?

Are you living a balanced life that allows time for worship, for family, for work, for exercise, and a little time left over for you? If your to-do list is "maxed out" and your energy is on the wane, it's time to restore a sense of balance in your life. You can do so by turning the concerns and the priorities of your day over to God – prayerfully and earnestly.

Remember, whatever you love most, be it watching television, shopping, talking on the telephone, seeking things that bring you pleasure, or God, that is your god.

III. Why Must God Take Priority in Your Life?

In general, every woman has priorities in her life. To better understand the concept of priority, consider the illustration of the wagon wheel. No matter what you have in the center, everything else will revolve around that which is in the center.

A. Your List of Priorities Will Reflect What Is In Your Heart

1. Proverbs 4:23 – out of the heart flows the issues of our lives
2. Proverbs 23:7 – as a man thinks in his heart, so is he
3. Matthew 6:21 – where your treasure is, there your heart will be

B. How Does a Person Establish Priorities?

Sometimes a woman will establish her priorities based upon what will benefit her the most

1. Job – money, promotions, social status, lifestyle
2. Lifestyle – social status, certain friends or acquaintance

IV. How Will God Taking Priority Affect Your Life?

There are many areas in your life that will be affected by letting God take priority.

A. Your Speech or Conversations Will be Affected – Ephesians 4:29

B. The Type Clothing You Wear Will be Affected – 1 Timothy 2:9,10

C. The Type of People You Associate With Will Be Changed – 1 Corinthians 15:33, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

D. You Will Study the Word of God – Deuteronomy 6:1-10; 2 Timothy 2:15

In other words, every step you take, every word you say, every thing you do must be in the name of Christ according to His authority (Colossians 3:17).

V. Modeling Our Priorities

We should show our children, by our example, that Christ is first in our lives. What kind of an example are you? Remember, our children, family, and friends watch our actions and will take notice if God is our #1 priority or if He is not our #1 priority.

Making Time For God

Our days are filled to the brim with obligations and priorities,
but no priority is greater than our
obligation to our Creator.

Let's make sure that we give Him the time He
deserves, not only on Sundays but also on every
other day of the week.