



Welcome to West Side!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

March 13, 2022

God, I Give You Everything...Except This

Article by Tim Tripp

I once had a man for a client who really wanted to leave his wife. He claimed to be a committed Christian. He attended church regularly. He was involved in the ministries of his church. He was by all appearances an active, engaged, faithful follower. He was also unhappy in his marriage. He couldn't cite a lot of good reasons for being unhappy. The reasons he did bring were not unusual marital struggles. He had, however, fallen for another woman and I suspected that had more to do with his unhappiness than anything else. When I asked him what he believed God would want him to do he said, "God would likely not want me to divorce my wife but I'm probably going to do it anyway."

At least he was honest with something that a lot of us do and are less than honest about. At least he was willing to admit that he was holding something back from God. He would give God most of his life but when it came to his romantic relationships, his marriage commitment and his sexuality he was going to keep those to himself. Most of us do the same, we just don't want to admit it.

Through the prophet Malachi, God confronted the Israelites for choosing to obey in some, but not all things. In the writings of Malachi, God confronted the practice of Israelite men marrying foreign women or women who worship foreign gods. He also confronted the frequent occurrence of divorce among Israelites. He also challenged their failure to give a full tithe of their income and wealth back to God. It seems that holding things back is not a new thing at all.

Significant other relationships, sex and money are things that our culture sets firm boundaries around as well. "My body, my choice" is a mantra that we hear on the news and on social media frequently. It places those things completely in the realm of individual choice. Many feel that neither laws, culture, communities, churches nor even families should have any say or even express an opinion on these issues to an individual except in involuntary, unequal or extreme expressions (of sexuality especially).

Because of the intense cultural focus on the freedom of individual choice around those issues, Christians have been pushing back more and more on discussions regarding Biblical boundaries around such things. While I agree that Biblical boundaries around finances, sexuality and significant other relationships cannot be bound on a secular culture, they must be taken seriously by those who claim to follow Jesus.

For those who follow Him, Jesus was clear, *"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."* Following Jesus involves sacrifice. It means disciples are committed to doing things his way not theirs. When a person chooses to commit themselves to Jesus, they give everything over to him. That includes choices for significant other relationships, sexuality, and finances. It means discerning what he wants in those areas of life and then being obedient.

All of us need to examine ourselves and ask ourselves what we might be holding back from God. What parts of our lives do we keep for ourselves? As painful as it is, when we expose those areas and give them over to God, the blessings he gives for doing that are awesome.

What might those areas be for you?

ONLINE CONNECT CARD

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westsidear.org/connect



Last Week:

Sunday Class & Conversation - 99

Worship - 293

Giving - \$15,495

Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 106

Prayer Requests

We extend our sympathy to Cathryn Cates in the loss of her sister Ruby Jean Verdin. Please keep Cathryn and family in your prayers for peace and comfort in this time of loss.

We extend our sympathy to Chad and Mellicent Crain as well as the rest of the family and friends of Jesse Boshears who passed away last week, after a long battle with illness. May they feel God's presence and be comforted with peace that only He can provide.

Continue to pray for
Tami Robinson
Sofia Juarez

Note of Thanks

Thank you all for the expressions of thoughtfulness at the passing of my sister. We appreciate and love our church family,
Reba Cox

Other News

MNFTM needs Little Debbies (or any type of snack cakes) for the Monday night meal distribution. Please drop off items in the box provided in the hallway outside of the KFC Room.

New Song Lunch Today!

We will have a 'New Song Lunch' today following morning worship. Bring (or pick up) your own lunch and meet in the family center for a time of fellowship centered around singing and learning a couple of new songs for worship. Singing will begin around 12:30

Pie Auction Fundraiser

Camp Caudle Chili Lunch & Pie Auction Fundraiser will take place on March 27th following morning worship, in the Family Center. See the WS Friends & Family facebook page for more details.

For information like this and more visit www.westsidear.org & subscribe