

Indispensable People in the Church

Text: Philippians 4:1-7

Introduction

1. Parents naturally love their children.
 - a. Some disappoint them and cause them anxiety and sorrow.
 - b. Others delight them and bring them joy.
2. In establishing many local churches, the apostle Paul had many “children” in the faith. (Phil. 2:22)
 - a. Some disappointed him.
 - 1) The Corinthians. (1 Cor. 3:1-3)
 - 2) The Galatians. (Gal. 1:6)
 - b. Others delighted him, the Philippians being his “joy and crown.” (Text)
3. Those who comprise the church today are much the same.
 - a. In some, we and the Lord are disappointed.
 - b. Others are a “joy and crown” to the church in which they worship and serve.
4. The church cannot do without them for they are the faithful.

I. Faithfulness Is Required

- A. The Lord does not require greatness as man thinks of it.
- B. He does require faithfulness. (Rev. 2:10-11)
 1. The parables of Matthew 25 demonstrate this principle. (vv. 1-30)
 2. Christians are to be faithful stewards. (1 Cor. 4:1-2)
 3. “God does not require that you possess a beautiful voice to sing His praises, but He does command that you possess a beautiful life. One cannot live a sinful life and offer holy worship unto God.” (Keith Sharp, “Worship of the Church, *Truth Magazine*, Vol. XXIV, No. 1, Jan. 3, 1980)

II. Some Characteristics of the Faithful

- A. Willing. (2 Cor. 8:3,12; 1 Tim. 6:17-18)
 1. Some are willing, others do what they are asked, some are unwilling to do anything.
 2. Usually, the ones who complain the loudest and whine the most about others are the “do-nothings.”
 - a. Such are depressing people.
 - b. They are also destructive people: to themselves, others and to the work in general.

- B. Able to see .
 - 1. They have vision. (John 4:35)
 - 2. They see not only the needs but also the possibilities.
- C. Optimistic. (1 Sam. 17:45-47)
 - 1. They believe things can be done. (Phil. 4:13)
 - 2. They rejoice in the Lord. (Phil. 4:4)
- D. Boosters. They encourage. (Acts 4:36; 11:20-24)
 - 1. In the face of discouragements, limited abilities and resources they continue to be supportive of the work and devoted to the Lord.
 - 2. They are not like boosters of a team that can only be enthusiastic when it is winning—they endure the bad times as well as enjoy the good.
- E. Liberal. (2 Cor. 8:2)
 - 1. In the positive sense of being willing to share.
 - 2. They are liberal with money, time, abilities, etc.
 - 3. Stingy people never prosper.

Conclusion

- 1. Are you one of those people the church cannot get along without?
- 2. Are you a source of anxiety and sorrow, or are you a “joy and crown?”