

ARE YOU LIVING A DIVIDED LIFE?

SCRIPTURE FOR TODAY:

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:24 King James Version



Christ proceeds to illustrate the necessity of laying up treasures in heaven from a well-known fact, that a servant cannot serve two masters at the same time.

A person's affections and obedience are always divided when we are attempting to live two sorts of life or when we are trying to serve two conflicting interests. A man would fail altogether in his duty to one or the other. One he would love, the other he would hate. To the interests of the one he would adhere, the interests of the other he would neglect. This is a law of human nature.

The supreme affections can be fixed on only one object. So, says Jesus, the servant of God cannot at the same time obey God and be avaricious, or seek treasures supremely on earth. One interferes with the other, and one or the other will be, and must be, surrendered.

Lynne and I see so many Christians today who divide up their lives into tightly packed little compartments: the sacred and the secular. They are attempting to serve two Masters. They think they can serve God on Sunday and the world Monday – Saturday. The sacred is what they do on Sunday – go to Church, be on your best behaviour, say the right things, do the right things, pretend, look the part. But the secular is up for grabs. It's just whatever happens! Business is business – you can't have morals and scruples and be successful at business – they would think that you are a dolt and take advantage of me.

So they have their sacred life at church, and they do their business with the world the rest of the time. And they think they can cope with the compromise but in the end both areas suffer. You can't serve two masters. You can't live two completely different lives successfully. You end up with two different personalities and we all know that means something is really wrong and therapy is required.

But the real Christian life - the Jesus life - is to do all things in word and in deed to the glory of God. There's no difference between what you are on Sunday and what you are every other minute of the week!

You can be a Christian seven days a week. You can be a Christian Monday to Saturday as well as on Sunday. You don't have to fake it; you can be genuine and authentic even in business.

That's why the commandment in Matthew 22:37 KJV ***“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”*** is just so important.

The meaning of this is, that we should love him with all of our faculties and powers all of the time. We love Him supremely, more than all other beings and things, and with all the ardor possible. Our heart is fixed supremely on him, more strongly than on anything else, and to be willing to give up all that we hold dear at his command. I cannot separate my soul and its affection for God into different parts of the week. It's all or nothing! Even my mind cannot think of attempting to be less a Christian during the week than on Sunday.

Jesus reminds us that when we truly love God, it will be with every fibre of our being. It's not that we just give Him one day a week and live however we want the rest of the week. No, we seek to glorify Him with our entire lives. That's real love!