

FRUSTRATION

Scripture: Galatians 2:20-21
1 Peter 2:21
Matthew 16:24

Introduction

Charles Sheldon, in the book "In His Steps", wrote of Henry Maxwell, pastor of the First Church of Raymond. Pastor Maxwell, in a sermon, proposed that the members of his congregation for a period of a year predicate their decisions upon the principle, "What would Jesus do?" Many responded, and the results were astonishing.

Many modern Christians are frustrated. Faced with the demands of modern society and Christian love, they are confronted with an almost insoluble dilemma. Can the latter be used to help the former? Can a Christian not be frustrated in modern society?

I. I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Matthew 16:24

A. Why should I deny my self?

1. Personal sacrifice produces greatness
2. Above verse renders "Protestant Ethic" invalid
3. Neither asceticism nor self indulgence a substitute for self denial
4. Paul knew the value of self denial

a. I die daily

1 Corinthians 15:31

- b. ...if so be that we suffer with him that we may be also glorified together.

Romans 8:17

I. I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live

B. How can I take up the cross?

1. Jesus said, **Occupy till I come.**

Luke 19:13

2. **Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.**

Isaiah 6:8

C. Is it possible to follow Jesus?

1. **Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.**

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;

Hebrews 12:1-2

D. Crucified but living

Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

John 12:24

II. Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.

1 Peter 2:21

A. Get to know Jesus

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Philippians 3:10

B. Determine to be Spirit led

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God

Romans 8:14

- II. Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me
C. Turn the helm over to Jesus

Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

1 Peter 4:19

But you say, Preacher, the fundamental question is still unanswered. How can I keep from being a frustrated Christian?

III. What would Jesus do?

I do not frustrate the grace of God.

Galatians 2:21

ALLOWING GOD'S
PLAN TO BE
FULLY DEVELOPED
IN OUR LIVES

- A. How does Jesus view my material blessings?

For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required.

Luke 12:48

- B. We are not masters, but stewards

1. Ye are not your own

For ye are bought with a price

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

2. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:2

- C. Must Jesus bear the cross alone
And all the world go free?

No! There's a cross for everyone
And there's a cross for me.