

First Things First

The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.” (Isaiah 29:13)

Sometimes the best way to catch a liar is to accept what is said as true and act on it. In time a lie catches up with a person. Insincerity has a way of eventually revealing itself. The reason lies are discovered is in the recognition of a person's priorities. Over time a person develops an internal set of priorities that eventually become recognized by others. Let me explain.

The alcoholic may think he is sneaking drinks when no one is looking, but because sneaking drinks becomes so important, it in time becomes an indicator of that priority in his life. An addiction to pornography, or gossip, or food, or any “pet sins” that people may harbor secretly in life will reflect themselves externally.

As stated above, people may go through the motions of a different priority, and it may fool some people. But, it never fools God. He always knows the condition of the heart. He knows the longings, the desires, and the priorities.

Considering one's priorities is very important, because those priorities become strongest when a crisis occurs. Sometimes that crisis may find a person around the kitchen table facing some terrible development within the family. Perhaps that crisis finds another in the emergency room to make an important decision. If our priorities are not right, our decisions won't be either.

In His Word God established the right priorities. The Apostle Paul wrote: “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31). That's the priority. Everything, including the mundane things like eating and drinking, is all done to glorify God.

That means we do not make decisions that necessarily make us happier, richer, or more popular. We don't even make decisions for others that necessarily spare them from embarrassment, loss of dignity, or even suffering. Every decision – that means EVERY decision – is first and foremost made to accomplish that top priority: to glorify God!

To build this priority we must know what it is that glorifies God. We must listen carefully to sermons. We need to be more attentive in Bible classes at church. We must devote more of our personal time to discover those things which glorify God. We do these things in order to develop a correct internal priority system. With that ever-strengthening priority system we are equipped to face some of the biggest challenges that lie ahead in our lives. We will have the knowledge and the discipline to reflect with our actions the convictions of our hearts that God is to be glorified.

For additional information and resources in dealing with this life topic, visit the Christian Life Resources website at www.ChristianLifeResources.com or call us at 1-800-729-9535.