
Words of Truth

Mind Your Own Business

By: Brian A. Yeager

A busybody is: “One who officiously concerns himself with the affairs of others; a meddling person” (Webster). In the Scriptures we read: *“If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters”* (I Peter 4:14-15). The term translated as “busybody” [ἀλλοτριεπίσκοπος] in the Scripture you just read means: “overseeing others' affairs, i.e. a meddler (specially, in Gentile customs):--busybody in other men's matters” (Strong’s #244).

To some degree, Christians have to be aware of what is going on in each other’s lives. First, we have to be fruit inspectors to be sure we are not in fellowship with erring individuals (Matthew 7:15-20). Secondly, we have to be aware of each other’s lives to the point wherein we may aide each other if one stumbles (Galatians 6:1-2). Thirdly, we must be aware of each other’s lives to know if physical aid needs to be given if a brother or sister falls upon hard times (Romans 12:13). Additionally, we just should want to know one another because we are to have a loving relationship with each other (Hebrews 13:1).

All of the good reasons to know what is going on in each other’s lives is completely different than being a busybody. Motives do matter. Being a nosy person is completely different than being a concerned person. Looking after one another is completely different than looking into the affairs of one another just for the sake of being a meddler. We must always examine ourselves (II Corinthians 13:5) and be sure our motives are right. Make sure that you are not a busybody, for with such people the Lord is not pleased.

God Does Not Approve Of Us Being Busybodies

It is certainly possible to be loving brethren, concerned about each other, without being busybodies. Notice: *“But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more; And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing”* (I Thessalonians 4:9-12). The phrase, “study to be quiet” means to strive to refrain from meddlesomeness [Strong’s #'s 5389 and 2270]. Literally, as

simple as it can be stated, the Scriptural point is to mind your own affairs; be busy in your own dealings and not those of others.

Being busy in your own affairs will keep you from being a busybody. This is stated in the second epistle written to the congregation in Thessalonica. Notice: *“For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread”* (II Thessalonians 3:10-12).

By staying busy and not being idle, you will not have time to be overly concerned about everyone else’s business. This is why younger widows are to remarry rather than have idle time on their hands. Notice: *“But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not”* (I Timothy 5:11-13).

Those who are overly involved in the lives of everyone else are often not as concerned with themselves as they should be. A person who is a busybody normally does not have their own affairs in order. Even if a person who enjoys being involved in everyone’s business to be “helpful”, if his or her own affairs aren’t in order they cannot Scripturally be helpful.

Your Affairs Must Be In Order To Judge Those Of Others

Jesus said: *“Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye”* (Matthew 7:1-5).

Conclusion

Have you heard multiple people tell you to mind your own business? Have you heard, from multiple people, that you should be more concerned about your life than others? Do you find yourself being interested in other people’s lives just because you want to know and think about other people’s business? Those things indicate you may be a busybody. Unless the idea of a lake of fire, eternal destruction, and outer darkness sounds good to you; STOP! It is sinful to be a busybody. The result of sin is an eternal hot bath (Revelation 21:8).