

## Some Oft Downplayed Instructions

### I. Introduction:

A. Sometimes people obey just part of God's instructions (**II Chronicles 33:10-17**).

1. The high places they had constructed of their own will did not please God (**Ezekiel 20:29-32** and **Micah 1:3-5**).
2. Since they did not fully obey God, they were accursed (**Deuteronomy 27:26**).

B. In Christ, we should never leave the other undone (**Matthew 23:23**).

1. Not giving preference to one instruction of God over another (**I Timothy 5:21**).
2. To keep part of His ways is to err (**James 2:10**).

### II. Body: Let's Examine Ourselves (**II Corinthians 13:5**) By Considering Some Oft Downplayed Instructions From God.

A. One instruction that is oft downplayed is the command to grow (**II Peter 3:10-18**).

1. Increasing in knowledge is expected by God (**Colossians 1:10**).
2. Increasing in godly attributes is expected by God (**II Peter 1:3-11**).
3. Increasing in faith and love is expected by God (**II Thessalonians 1:3**).

B. Consider how we ought to abound [excel, increase] in what we have learned and not just in gaining new knowledge (**Colossians 2:7**).

1. Are we doing and abounding in what we know (**I Thessalonians 4:1-2**).
2. Aren't we failing when what we should know has to be taught all over again (**Hebrews 5:12-6:2**)?
  - a. I am not dismissing the need to review (**I Timothy 4:6**, **II Timothy 2:14**, and **II Peter 1:12; 3:1-2**).
  - b. Yet, there has to be a point wherein we perfect what we have learned (**Colossians 4:12**).

3. There has to be that point where it can be said that you don't have to be taught something because you know it (i.e. **I Thessalonians 4:9**).

C. Sometimes having a household in order (**Genesis 18:18-19**) is downplayed.

1. Roles are not lived up to (**Ephesians 5:22-6:4**).
  - a. What about men who just will not take the lead (**I Corinthians 11:3**)?
  - b. What about married women who still look to their earthly fathers rather than their husbands (**Colossians 3:18** and **I Peter 3:1-6**)?
  - c. What about men that abuse their authority; that don't treasure their wives (**I Peter 3:7**)?

2. Mature Christians [having many years of faithfulness] should be patterns in these areas (**Titus 2:2-8**). If capable, aren't they failing when they are not good examples to follow?

D. How about the command not to be unwise (**Ephesians 5:15-17**)?

1. One's abilities certainly comes into play here (**Luke 12:42-48**).

a. However, even for a one talent person (**Matthew 25:14-30**), foolishness perverteth his way (**Proverbs 19:3**).

b. Unfortunately, there is not much one can do for a foolish person (**Proverbs 12:15**, **Proverbs 17:10**, **Proverbs 17:24**, **Proverbs 23:9**, and **Proverbs 27:22**).

2. Think about when good counsel is given in areas of authorized liberties (i.e. **I Corinthians 7:8**; **7:26-30**).

a. If an unmarried person in Corinth, after getting this godly counsel, choose to get married; what could they say if their spouse and/or children were killed (**Galatians 6:7**)?

b. Think about what some Christians did under the threat of violence (**Acts 26:11**).

c. Think about how this applies to being wise (**Proverbs 1:5**).

E. Think about how the instruction to not love the world (**I John 2:15-17**) is downplayed by using Scriptures against Scriptures.

1. We know that people will twist Scriptures to try and justify themselves (**Matthew 22:23-33**). So, what about when a person says...

a. "I have to provide for my family" (**I Timothy 5:8** and **II Thessalonians 3:10**).

b. "God says I can enjoy the things of the world" (**I Timothy 6:17**).

c. "God says a married person cares for the things of the world to please their spouse" (**I Corinthians 7:33-34**).

2. How can you use the Scriptures in points 1-3, but ignore that we are not to love the world? How about this one: **I Corinthians 7:31**?

3. If your affections are not above, you are NOT pleasing God (**Colossians 3:1-4**).

F. What about how we relate to our brethren (**I Peter 3:8**)?

1. The work involved in unity (**Ephesians 4:1-3**).

2. Compassion [sympathy; pity] (**Jude 1:21-23**).

3. To be courteous [polite, respectful, or considerate in manner] (**Romans 12:10**).

G. Think about instructions that would stop us from teaching certain people (**Matthew 7:1-6**).

1. An evangelist, who is expected to be ready to teach always (**II Timothy 4:2**), is given clear instructions of when not to (**II Timothy 2:14-16**; **2:23**).

2. If someone doesn't "consent" [come to] "wholesome" [sound] words, withdraw yourself (**I Timothy 6:3-5**).

III. Conclusion: The list could be really long as most of God's instructions are downplayed by people. The question each individual must consider is if you are doing ALL that God requires of you (**Matthew 28:14-20** and **Revelation 22:14**)?