

EACH UNTO HIS OWN

We have all heard this phrase before, and it seems that there are many in our world who exercise this as their rule of life. It's kind of like the old view of "it's my life, and I'll live it however I please." Friend's whether we want to accept it or not, the choices and decisions we make whether they are good or evil do not just affect us but rather everyone around us. Jesus was asked questions quiet often on various matters, and on one specific occasion that I would briefly like to point out, He was questioned about our relationships to those about us. In Luke the 10th chapter a lawyer came asking Jesus about how to inherit eternal life. Jesus gave several requirements in verse 27, one of which was to "love one's neighbor as thyself." The lawyer we remember wanted to justify himself and asked the question "Who is my neighbor?" Beginning in verse 29 Jesus gave the answer

- 29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?
30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.
31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.
32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.
33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,
34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.
35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.
36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?
37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.*

This is often called the Parable of the Good Samaritan, but as we can see that the actions of the Samaritan aren't the only one's mentioned here. When we read of this, we often think about the kindness, and generosity of the Samaritan, but also remember the coldness, and cruelty of the priest and the Levite. You see friends that there were several people involved here, and the actions of each had an effect on the world around them, and the Holy writ has each of them connected together because of their association with this man who had fallen upon thieves.

*We often encounter people in our world who are so shortsighted, that they often go about making decisions without any consideration of those about them? The root of the problem in this line of thinking is **SELFISHNESS**. There are so many who do not have any regard about the outcome of others, just so everything works out in their favor. This goes on in business, personal dealings, family relationships, and many other areas of life. Consider this example:*

If a man or a woman makes the decision to cheat on their spouse with someone else, who is affected by that?

- 1. The first victim that comes to mind is the man, or woman's husband or wife.*
- 2. Then we must consider the children who are emotionally scared for life, not to mention how it affects their grades and behavior.*
- 3. The next victims are the families involved on both sides of the marriage, with Fathers and Mothers who see the child they have loved, and raised betrayed, and heartbroken.*
- 4. What about the co-workers, and friends who it affects because of the change in behavior by the one cheating.*
- 5. Have we thought about the community, and how it is weakened by a home that is destroyed?*
- 6. Think about the Church, with the brothers and sisters in Christ that are closely connected spiritually with the family.*
- 7. What about one's relationship with God, and how the folly of sin hinders one's prayers, and has made God look away in shame. (Isaiah 59:1-2).*

Consider another example with me:

If I choose to become a New Testament Christian, and do not attend the services faithfully, do not help or take part, am not fully committed to living for the Lord, and live with one foot in the church, and the other foot in the world, what people are impacted by my choices? The answer is everyone!

- 1. My spouse who is depending on me to work as a partner with them to go to heaven, or my spouse who may not be a Christian who is watching my example.*
- 2. My children who God has entrusted to me to teach and to guide in His way, who I teach to be faithful or unfaithful by where I put Christ in my priorities.*
- 3. My family that might be lost, and needing me to encourage them to become Christians as well.*
- 4. My neighbor that might not be a Christian who knows when I am home, or at Church, and might see my car stay home on Sunday, and Wednesday nights and concludes that church must not be very important to me.*
- 5. The congregation in which I attend that is depending on me to be faithful and true, that needs me to be able to teach Bible Class, Present for Worship, and active in the work that so desperately needs to be done.*
- 6. The Lord who died to make this opportunity available to me, who I let down because of my being lukewarm, selfish, and indifferent.*

You see each of us is not unto his own, whether it is the cheating spouse, the drunk behind the wheel, the person experimenting with drugs, the unfaithful Christian, and on, and on it goes. What you do affects me, and what I do affects you because we are all tied together. As children of God we should strive to be mindful of the impact we have on the world around us, and how that because of poor choices many, many, many people suffer.