

Weightier Matters: Faithfulness

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(Matt.23:23; Gal.5:22)

I. Definitions

Reliable; trustworthy; steady in allegiance; loyal; true to one's word

II. God is faithful Lam.3:23

- A. God is faithful in character, not by compulsion (Deut.7:7-9/ 2 Tim.2:13/ Tit.1:2)
- B. Faithfulness is the basis of faith (Heb.10:23; 11:11)
- C. We count on Him (1 John 1:9/ 1 Thess.5:24/ 1 Peter 4:19 / Ps.119:75)

III. Central to the role of a Christian

- A. We are to imitate God so as to advertise His faithfulness (Eph.5:1; Psalm 89:1)
- B. It is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:22)
- C. This is what pleases God (Matt.24:45-47; 25:21, 23 / Luke 19:17)
- D. The fulfillment of the Law (Matt.5:31-37)

IV. The Mandate of faithfulness

- A. Success is not required, but faithfulness is (1 Cor.4:2)
- B. Faithfulness unto death is the calling (Rev.2:10)
- C. Faithfulness in the small things is the proof (Luke 16:10-12; 19:17)
- D. Those accompanying Christ are called, chosen, faithful (Rev.17:14)

V. Rarity of faithful people

- A. Faithfulness a disappearing quality (Psalm 12:1; Hosea 6:4)
- B. Hard to find a faithful man (Prov.20:6)
- C. Hard to find a faithful woman (Prov.31:11)

VI. The display of faithfulness in human relations

- A. Truthfulness — Psalm 89:1 / Prov.14:5
- B. Keeping promises— Psalm 15:1-4
- C. Keeping secrets — Prov.11:13
- D. Performing duties — Prov.13:17; 25:13; Matt.25:21, 23; Luke 12:42