

## I Will Be God

by Michael W. Lee

So I am sitting at my desk and I get this email from a friend who has been made aware of an online debate that is about to begin on where (public schools, Christian schools or home school) children of Christian families should be educated. My friend suggests to me, "Maybe you'd like to make a comment." I couldn't resist taking a look at the website but found that no comments had yet been entered.

Wanting to participate but having no time to do so, I simply made a copy of the CCS brochure called "Why Christian Education?" and pasted it into the comment section. By the way, if you haven't seen a copy of that brochure, it is in our lobby and on the CCS website.

Fast forward two weeks and about 90 comments later (from others) on that website, I found myself greatly discouraged. The arguments that were made by the vast majority of people had nothing to do with what God says in the Bible.

What is my opinion on the subject of where children should be educated? I'm not going into that here. As I mentioned above, you can look at the school brochure that outlines what we believe to be true. My point is this: make your decisions or, in this case, your argument for what the Christian should do based on what God has told us plainly to do!

Many of the comments made in the debate went like this: "well, I went to public school and I turned out all right so..." or "I went to Christian school and I've been so blessed because now I am such and such".... Or, "we home schooled, then Christian schooled, then public schooled and my kids are all doing so well."

Personal stories, especially ones that have good endings, are nice, but those experiences have nothing to do with what God says to do in His word. There was even a comment made from a pastor who noted that Moses was educated in an

anti-Christian school and he turned out OK so, based on that, he felt that public schools were the way to go. Following that flawed logic, we should all teach our children (whom we want to have hearts after God's own heart) to commit adultery and murder like King David did.

Another point that was made by many people who entered comments on the site was that we should not get wrapped up in trying to figure out what the Bible says about these things but should all be led by the Spirit. Well, I agree with that completely, and I am so grateful to God that the will of God has been expressed by the Holy Spirit through the Bible. That's right; the best place to be led by the Spirit is to know what He has graciously given us for all of life in black and white - The Bible. Is that just my opinion? No. Look at this passage (2 Tim. 3:16-17) from the Holy Spirit:

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

Furthermore, God never is wrong, never gets new information so He has to change His mind, and never gets confused and contradicts Himself. There are no "revised and updated" versions of Scripture.

So then, what are people praying about when they have to make decisions about what to do in life when, many times, the information about what to do has already been placed right before them in the Bible?

Well, let me take myself for example. There are so many things that I struggle with every day, but one common to most men is lust. What is there to pray about when I get a free Sports Illustrated swimsuit edition in my mail at home? There is nothing in the Bible that says not to look through the Sports Illustrated swimsuit edition, right?

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I can almost hear an audible voice in my head that says, “Gee, I wonder what these women look like. I’ll bet they are beautiful. I’m a man wired to be attracted to women and there is no way that I’ll ever see these women and be tempted to have a relationship with them, so what’s the big deal? Just look for 10 minutes and throw it away — it won’t affect you.”

But then I am reminded that I am to seek purity and avoid sexual lust, no matter how small the sin is, because there is danger to my heart - even to the point of “plucking out my eye or cutting off my hand.” Hence, the magazine goes into the trash without being opened.

Every decision in life can be made based on knowing what Scripture says. Should I buy the silver Camry or the red one? God doesn’t care about paint color, but He does care about what I choose as it relates to my heart, so if I want the red one so more attention can be drawn to myself, I’d better get the silver.

Brothers and sisters, there are really very few times in life when we don’t have enough information from God as to what to do. It’s there in the Bible. So, why is it so hard to do it? Ask Eve.

Clear instructions from God —

“The LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.’”

Ignoring God’s commands and rationalizing that it was a better idea to do what she wanted to do —

“When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.”

What a bummer. Now we’re all fighting this battle over obedience to God. You see, when we do anything that isn’t what God has told us to do because we have a better conclusion about it, we might as well say, “I will be God!”

What about your life? Are you stressing out over hard decisions because you are trying to get peace in your heart over something that you know God has said in the Bible but you don’t want to do it? I have spoken with many Christians who have dug their heels in and refuse to do it God’s way for a long enough time so that they can finally say that they are at peace about it - even convinced God has given them that peace - but what they have is a seared conscience in the matter.

Yes, many of the things that God commands us to do are incredibly difficult to do, even seemingly impossible. But you will never see how He does the impossible if you refuse to trust Him and His ways.

Are there things that you KNOW you need to change? Things that you need to stop doing, stop spending time or money on, things that maybe no one else knows about but you and God? Is your flesh and the devil succeeding in twisting and suppressing the truth of God so you don’t have to change? What are you modeling to your children? Is it, “God said it so we do it,” or is it obedience when it’s convenient for your lifestyle and the things that you love to do?

Will you be God or will God be God in your life? Remember, because the Christian is adopted into the family of God and is in Christ, God CANNOT do anything that isn’t for our ultimate good and His glory. Can any person make the same claim? ■

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