Dos And Do-Nots

Some Christians approach their life as a Christian as though it were a checklist. For example: I must be at worship on Sunday, I must give my money in the collection plate, etc. These must dos, for the most part, are in direct opposition to the things the Christian has been instructed not to do. Example: I must not use curse words, I must not party hardy with my friends, etc. Consequently then, some Christians see their life as a series of dos and do nots, listed accordingly. Thus, for some, they may do the right things, but do them for the wrong reasons.

First, consider that even though worship and giving are required (John 4:23-24, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2), making it a do on the list, a true Christian should desire and be joyful for the opportunity to please our God and Father. Consider the simplicity of Acts 20:7. Paul joins himself with other Christians who have come together to worship. Luke states, "Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread..." I would suggest that what we read about in Acts 20:4 is a continuum of the same attitude of joy we see expressed in Acts 2:41-42, "Then those who gladly received his word... continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers." The dos, as God had defined and prescribed for one to truly be His child, should not be that which we dread or perform robotically. Rather, as Christians we transform our minds into understanding the benefits and joys resulting from serving God.

Second, when it comes to the do nots, we as Christians must learn to hate sin. We must hate sin because we understand the effects of sin upon our family and friends, upon our own souls, and especially upon our Savior and our God. Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome, “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to

what is good (Romans 12:9)" Abhor means to detest, loathe, despise, to cast off or reject. We loathe sin only if we understand the effects of sin. John writes that everyone who does what is sinful is of the devil (1 John 3:8). How can we claim to love God if we desire and think on those things that are sinful? Perhaps you have heard it said that the more a doctor loves his patient, the more he hates their illness. Similarly, the more we love God, the more we will hate the sin, which can separate us from God. The Hebrew writer declares, "You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness" (Hebrews 1:9)." Understanding how our God feels about sin gives us a better understanding of why Christians should hate sin. Sin in our life displeases God and makes us unclean.

The dos and do nots of God exist for our spiritual well-being. Considered and applied accordingly, Christianity is who we are and not simply the things we do.