

## **CHRISTIANITY: PREFERENCE OR CONVICTION?**

### **INTRODUCTION**

- A. Most things we do, we do because we want to do them.
- B. The ability to commit ourselves to a cause is fast becoming a lost art.
  - 1. I.e., athletes, marriage, employees, etc.
- C. We are not a Christian because of the title worn.
  - 1. It is because of our beliefs and obedience to them.
  - 2. In other words, not in name only, but in word or deed.
- D. Scriptures dealing with commitment:
  - 1. Matthew 10:32-39
  - 2. Matthew 22:34-40
  - 3. Romans 12:1-2
  - 4. Galatians 2:20
  - 5. Philippians 3:7-11
  - 6. Colossians 3:1-4
  - 7. 1 Peter 2:11-12
  - 8. 1 John 2:3-6
- E. Are you following Christ through preference or conviction?

### **I. WHAT IS BELIEF?**

- A. Only Two Types:
  - 1. Preference and conviction.
  - 2. In both:
    - a. Must have a knowledge of the belief. Romans 10:17
    - b. Must be able to express that knowledge.
- B. Definition of a preference:
  - 1. Can be a strong belief held with strong feeling.
  - 2. Full time service might be given.
  - 3. All our wealth might be given to it.
  - 4. Might be energetic in “proselyting”.
  - 5. You want your children to accept it.
- C. It is still just a preference if it can be changed by:
  - 1. Peer pressure.
  - 2. Family pressure.
  - 3. Threat of a lawsuit.
  - 4. Possibility of a jail sentence.
  - 5. Possibility of death.
- D. Symptoms of preference include:
  - 1. Worship and Bible class attendance not a priority.
  - 2. Little time (if any) set aside for Bible reading and study.
  - 3. Little (if any) involvement in church activities.
- E. You cannot change a conviction because it is a God ordered requirement.
  - 1. Refer to the scriptures read previously.
- F. Further Definition of Conviction:
  - 1. It is something purposed. Daniel 1:8
  - 2. You can stand alone. Daniel 3:8-12
  - 3. It cannot be negotiated. Daniel 3:13-15
  - 4. Need not be assured of victory. Daniel 3:17-18
  - 5. The example of Daniel in chapter 6.

### **II. HOW CAN WE KNOW IF WE HAVE CONVICTION?**

- A. It will always show up in a person’s lifestyle. Matthew 7:15-20, by their fruit.

- B. It is lived consistently. James 2:18, 26
- C. Matthew 16:24-26 – take up cross...