Daily Devotion #115

Remember to Whom You Belong

*Ephesians 4:1  “Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,.”*

I had a friend who would often repeat to his children what his mother told him when he was a teenager wanting to go out to spend time with friends. She would say, “Don’t forget who you belong to”. What my friend’s mother was doing was putting into his mind the fact that he was not an entity to himself. She was telling him that life wasn’t just about him and what he wanted, but that there are many people who were associated with him who would be either positively or negatively affected by his actions. She wanted him to think before he did something stupid that would potentially ruin not only his reputation but also the reputation of his whole family.

Many children have no idea how hard their parent(s) work. They are often oblivious to the thoughts and energy that go into making life happen. Because they are sinners themselves, children easily get lost in the way they want life to be and what they want life to be, so they are unaware, sometimes purposefully, of all that those who have gone before them have done to give them the good life they have. Tragically, many young people have ruined their lives as a result. When all they had to do was be aware and grateful for those who had provided so much for them.

I have thought about my friend’s mom’s statement many times. Mainly because it is very appropriate for not only living this life as a person who cares about those who raised us but even more deeply, it is a good reminder to pay attention to our spiritual lives because we belong to God.

Too often our sinful natures forget that there are others affected by our words and our actions. Children who have parents who are public figures know this all too well. But I wonder how many of God’s children think about how their words and actions affect Him – after all He is the supreme public figure.

When the Apostle Paul was writing instructions for the church in Ephesus, he wanted them to remember to whom they really belonged. This was because the church was in the midst of an environment where it was easy to get caught up in the worldly temptations and forget they were children of the King. And if they did, they would certainly, or at least potentially, damage God’s reputation. So he called them to pay attention to their lives. And to remember that they belonged to the One who had given them new life after He paid for their sin with His own blood.

That really is Paul’s point. God has done so much for us. He has given us eternal life. How could we be anything but grateful? And how could we do anything less than to pay attention to our lives so that we are reflecting our appreciation for and to Him for all He has done?

As you look at your life today, I’m sure there are many frustrations about how you wish life could be. And it is easy to get frustrated with all that is happening in our world and why others don’t pay attention to the things that could make society better for all of us. But we must remember, many of those people we are frustrated with do not have the Spirit in them. They don’t have the call of God on them. Therefore, they literally cannot see or understand the things we understand.

That’s why this reminder is so critical for us. We are to be different. We are to show the world that we have been changed. And we are to show the church, who often forget this truth, that we are to reflect the call of God on our lives. And that’s for one reason, because we represent our heavenly Father. May our reflection today be one that shows the beauty of our God, so others will come to know Him and so those who say they know Him, remember to whom they belong.