Daily Devotion #127

Put Others First

Romans 12:10 – *“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.”*

Recently I purchased an item that we needed at our home. I had researched the product and decided, after much deliberation in my mind and with others, to make the purchase. However, when I went to the store to buy the item, it was out of stock. But then my eye caught another manufacture’s product, which was better and less expensive, so I purchased that instead.

When I got home, I read some information on the company’s website stating that I would have been given a bonus with the purchase if I had waited one day to buy the product. So, I called the company and asked if it would be possible to take advantage of the opportunity. I understood that they were under no obligation to give me the bonus item since I was a day early. The store was unwilling to give me the bonus item stating that they were unaware of the sales event.

You may disagree with me, but it seems that a company should be willing to simply say, “I’m sorry that you were a day early, and no one told you about the sale the next day, and even though we didn’t know about the sale, we will give you the bonus item anyway just for being a customer and making a purchase so close to the event date.”. Again, I understand they are under no obligation to give me anything. However, I remember well the day when the customer was considered more valuable than the sale.

When Paul wrote to the Roman church, he wanted them to be the kind of people who always considered other people more important than themselves. He wanted them to always give preferential treatment to others even if that meant there would be a cost involved for doing so.

The truth is, as God’s children, we are to be different. We are to always consider others better than ourselves and give them the preferential treatment. That doesn’t mean we give into their sinful desires, but it does mean we sacrifice ourselves and, at times the things that may cost us, in order to give others the best of what we have. Again, we are to be wise and careful, but to always think and provide, if we are able, to the one who is in need.

Too often, like many stores, we are more concerned about what we get from a deal instead of how another is affected by our decisions or actions. Too often we are more concerned about limiting our losses instead of going the extra mile and sacrificing our time, talents, and treasures for the sake of others.

We should be the models of sacrifice. Sacrifice that says, “I love you so much, and God loves you so much, that I will take the cost upon myself to show you how valuable you are to me and to God.”.

What in your life has you in bondage to your desires and your needs? What is taking control of your life so much that others are not considered first or given preferential treatment? Are there people in your life who you are not willing to let go of even if they are not the best people for you? Are there those who you should be thinking about as your priority, but you keep getting in the way?

Surrender yourself and your desires to God so that others in your life are cared for first. In the end, God will make sure you are rewarded. He will make sure your needs are met. And it may be that others will come and give you a greater blessing than you ever dreamed, simply because you were willing to put others before yourself.