

Pastor's Corner

Denying Christ

June 3, 2009

Dear Friend,

I think we've been pretty hard on Peter in the past. You know, the way he denied Christ, just at the time when Christ needed him the most. And he denied him only a few hours after Christ even told him he would deny him, which he vehemently denied he would ever, ever do. A lot of denial going on there! But I think we've been too hard on Peter, because we look at his denial with a smug satisfaction, flattering ourselves that we would have never done what he did.

This morning I read in [Matthew 10:32, 33](#): "Therefore whoever confesses me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Ouch, I don't want to deny Him, do you?

Sometimes we think that denying Christ is simply saying you don't know Him, and then, if pushed, swearing about it like Peter did. But is that all it means to deny Him? If so, then I feel pretty safe. But there's more ways you and I can deny Christ. Even though it's different than the way Peter did, it's still a denial of Him.



Here's a very eye opening quote I read this morning:

"Men may deny Christ by –

1. Evilspeaking
2. foolish talking
3. words that are untruthful or unkind
4. shunning life's burdens
5. the pursuit of sinful pleasure
6. conforming to the world
7. uncourteous behavior
8. the love of their own opinions
9. justifying self
10. cherishing doubt
11. borrowing trouble
12. dwelling in darkness

In all these ways they declare that Christ is not in them. And 'whosoever shall deny Me before men,' He says, 'him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.'" [Desire of Ages](#), page 357.

As I read this list, and then read it again, I am convicted I have some areas that definitely need work in my life. Though I might not be denying Christ in the same way Peter did, I still deny Him in other ways. And it shows me that I need to spend more time in prayer, and more time seeking God's help to overcome. And I'm going to try to memorize this list, so that I will become more aware of the times I deny Him.

How about you? Would you like to join me? Let's stop denying Christ!

Mark