

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

"IN ORDER TO" OR "BECAUSE OF"

Text: "We Love Because He Loved Us First." I John 4:19.

Men act from two primary motives. One motive is "in order to." Many of the things that we do, we undertake in order to accomplish something or gain something for ourselves. We work hard to get a promotion or an advance in salary.

"In order to" is a primary and necessary motive. No man can succeed at anything without it. But it is an incomplete motive.

The more important motive in human life is "because of." The things that people do because of something are far more important than the things they do in order to accomplish something. The fact is that there is very little that you have to do in order to be a Christian but there are a host of things that you have to do because you are a Christian.

It is not always easy to see the difference between these two motives, but they are worlds apart. There is all the difference in the world between going to church in order to gain peace of mind, or to prove to yourself that you are a good respectable person; and going to church simply because you love Christ.

Nobody teaches a Sunday School class in order to be a Christian. You don't have to. But some of our members teach a class of boys or girls Sunday after Sunday because they are Christians. They have gone beyond the primary motive of all human beings of doing something in order to accomplish something for themselves, to the Christian motivation of doing things because of their fundamental loyalties.

Our failure to see this distinction explains the lack of discipline in our religious living. Religious discipline can be gained by the "in order to" motive, but it is not Christian discipline.

What a mockery we make of the Gospel of love when we make it our excuse for taking our spiritual responsibilities so lightly. God loves us no matter what we do, some reason, so it makes no difference what we do. Why should we go to any unusual exertion in prayer, or Bible study, or church attendance? This is the deadly sophistry of many church members, who have never honestly faced the things they must do because they are Christians.

How many things do you do during the week because you are a good Christian?

You do many things because you are a good businessman. You improve the efficiency of your operation. You look carefully after your investment. You develop good public relations. You spend enough hours on the job to get the work done. You eliminate methods that do not get results and find those that do.

You do many things during the week because you are a good housewife. You do a multitude of things because you are a good mother. How many things do you do because you are a good Christian?

Peter and Andrew were good businessmen. They owned their own boats and had a good fishing business. But we don't remember them for that. Most of the women in the New Testament undoubtedly were good housekeepers and did a good job with their families. But we don't remember them for that. They had the same good human motives that we have, but they knew, and we know, that is not enough.

Christ came into this world to claim men's supreme loyalty. He said that He came before a man's business, before a man's home, before any of his human relationships. No other man in history would dare to make such a claim. He dared to because He proclaimed a Gospel of Love that put men under a new and a unique responsibility. If he saved us from our sins and



REV. D. M. CLARK

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Church Directory

DEADLINE for church news and photographs is Friday noon preceding the next Thursday publication date at the Rev. Mr. Clark's home, 1676 N. 'E' St., telephone 642-1560. All items submitted must be accompanied by the sender's name, address and telephone number.

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CATHOLIC

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH
Mgr. William J. Devlin, 382-9953
704 W. McWilliams Ave., Las Vegas

Sunday Masses: 11 am and 5 pm
Weekday Masses: 7:30 am; Saturday, 9 am
Holyday Masses: 9:30 am and 7:30 pm
Confessions: Saturday, 4-4:30 and 7:30-8 pm
Adult Classes: Monday and Friday, 7:30 pm
Child Classes: Monday, 4-5 pm; Saturday, 9-10:30 am
Rosary: Daily, 7:30 pm except Sundays

PENTECOSTAL

CHURCH of the LORD JESUS
Eld. Hosea Coleman, 642-8741
1260 Bartlett St., Vegas Heights

brought us into a new relationship with God, then our supreme motive in business, at home, and in every human relationship must be to discover His will and to do it--"because of" our love for Him.

CHURCH of GOD in CHRIST

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Bishop C. C. Cox, 385-1541
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1155 Lawry Ave., Vegas Heights

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Eld. Coruth Hall, 649-1523
301 N. D St., Las Vegas

(All Churches of God in Christ)

Bible Band: Tuesday, 8 pm
*Young People: Wednesday, 8 pm
Consecration: Friday, 8 pm
Sunday School: Sunday, 10 am
Morning Service: Sunday, 12 noon
YPW: Sunday, 8 pm
(*Inspirational at Progressive)

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