

Does God Grade On The Curve?

Now comes the dating process, that is of this writer. I can remember when I first attended school in what was called "grammar-grades" that there were some students that did not pass to the next higher grade because they did not perform in accordance to the authorized standard established by the school board. I can vividly remember studying hard so that wouldn't happen to me. After all, who would want to be left behind! I can recall two boys that were two years older than the rest of the class. At that time I didn't feel sorrow for them. All I thought of was I didn't want to be left behind. Then in my teenage years the school board changed their standards. They replaced a set standard for all to a standard that would grade each class in accordance with the achievement of that class. If no one received 100 percent on a test, the teacher would take the highest score achieved and use that as 100 percent. Simply put, grading on the curve. It made the majority of children and parents feel better about the educational system. Our society has come so far from the original standard that there are some high school graduates that can not read as well as some "middle grade" students of my time frame.

It is strange how what seemed to be a good alternative to a real problem, has created even a larger problem than what it originally was. Society has and I guess will always tend to be followers of "New Ideas". The "Old Standards" are just not good enough. The major problem with this thinking is that it has invaded the Lord's church.

Adam and Eve had a standard that their Maker (God) gave to them. They did not keep that standard and suffered the (known) consequences of that standard. Was the standard attainable? Yes! Because Adam and Eve didn't attain to this standard did God lower His standard? No! How do I know that? Look at the following: In Genesis chapter 4 Cain and Able had the very same standard to live by, one followed the standard, the other did not. Did God grade on the curve and let Cain set the standard for man kind? No, He did not. Cain suffered the consequences of his sin (not keeping God's standard) as did Adam and Eve suffer consequences for their sin. God's word is filled with examples of His creation not keeping His standard and a description of their sufferings because of their failure to do so.

What happens when the majority of individuals want a change? Change usually occurs. Look at Israel they wanted a change. They wanted a King like all the other nations. In essences they wanted the same standard as their neighbors. God has always set a standard and given the consequences of not keeping the standard to His creation. Now, they want a King. God directs Samuel to tell Israel the consequences of having a King: 1 Samuel 8:11 And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: he will take your sons, and appoint them unto him, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and they shall run before his chariots; 12 and he will appoint them unto him for captains of thousands, and captains of fifties; and [he will set some] to plow his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and the instruments of his chariots. 13 And he will take your daughters to be perfumers, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. 14 And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. 15 And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. 16 And he will take your men-servants, and your maid-servants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work. 17 He will take the tenth of your flocks: and ye shall be his servants. 18 And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king whom ye shall have chosen you; and Jehovah will not answer you in that day. 19 But the people refused to hearken unto the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay: but we will have a king over us, 20 that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles. 21 And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of Jehovah. 22 And Jehovah said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city.

Looking at what the Lord has stated, you would think any logical minded individual would at least reconsider his position. We know that they didn't! In 1 Samuel 10:17-21 God reminds His people how He delivered them out of the land of Egypt and how He saved them from all of their calamities and distresses. What if you were there, with all of this evidence before you, what decision would you make? They said, " and ye have said unto him, [Nay], but set a king over us".

God granted Israel a King, But God also gave them a standard to live by, see 1 Samuel 12. In this chapter Israel admits to their sins in asking for a King. Samuel demonstrates the power of God. Samuel then tells them to "23 Moreover as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against Jehovah in ceasing to pray

for you: but I will instruct you in the good and the right way. 24 Only fear Jehovah, and serve him in truth with all your heart; for consider how great things he hath done for you. 25 But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.

King Saul did right in his own sight: 13:11 And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines assembled themselves together at Michmash; 12 therefore said I, Now will the Philistines come down upon me to Gilgal, and I have not entreated the favor of Jehovah: I forced myself therefore, and offered the burnt-offering. 13 And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly; thou hast not kept the commandment of Jehovah thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would Jehovah have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. 14 But now thy kingdom shall not continue:

Was King Saul serving the God of Haven when he offered sacrifices unto God? Was he not doing what appeared to be a religious act of worshipping God? Didn't Israel recognize that these were acts of a man that feared God? Beloved, appearances can be deceiving, we can as did Israel of old deceive ourselves into believing that we are serving our Lord and Savior by offering acts that appear to the majority as pleasing to God. BUT if they are not in accordance to the standard that God has revealed to us in His Standard we are not pleasing to Him and we will, as those of old, suffer the consequences.

Beloved, do we make choices in our lives to please God or ourselves. Do we keep the Lord's Standard (Gospel of Christ) or do we seek those who grade on the curve? What is our "KING"? To be like those of the world? Just remember that there are consequences and they are eternal. Brethren remember the command that Paul gave unto the Corinthians: 2 Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore Come ye out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, And touch no unclean thing; And I will receive you, 18 And will be to you a Father, And ye shall be to me sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. 7:1 Having therefore these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Brethren, do we understand the word adoption? God through Christ has offered this to each of us, IF we keep His Standard! If we are not adopted by God, Who's children are we? When God calls His children home, don't be left behind!