

Being a People Person

by Anthony N. Wade

A number of years ago Dr. John C. Maxwell wrote a book entitled Be A People Person. As I read this book I realized the importance of putting people first. Many times this has been very challenging in my line of work but none the less, we must mature into being a people person. The greatest thing that I received from his book was that **“People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care.”**

Over the years in my interactions with others, when they realized that I cared about them as a person that made all the difference in the world. How much would a housewife be willing to go the extra mile with her husband if she only knew how much he really cared for her? How many children are crying for the love of their father, and deeply groping for him to honor them as a person? Much of their development is placed in his hands and heart – but they grow up empty, without their father's care. Why? because he has not developed into the person that he wants to be. How can he give something that hasn't been given to him, something that he doesn't have? -- He can't. He is empty and void of the ability to pour what is needed into his very own wife and children.

Many families suffer from this condition. To be honest with you until I have given to my family what they need in the realm of knowing that I care for them, I am a complete failure. **What difference does it make if others think well of me, yet my family hardly knows who I am as a person?** What does it profit, if I gain the approval of others, but my family can't stomach the sight of me? How sad this must be, yet many live with this existence. My friend, being a people person must begin in our homes. Then we have the ability to reach out to others.

CARING FOR OTHERS

Caring for others first of all begins with your care for yourself. If you don't have a care for yourself, you won't have a care for anyone else. Bottom line, if you don't love you, you won't love others. The scriptures speak on this.

Matthew 22:37-39 KJV

{37} Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

{38} This is the first and great commandment.

{39} And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Our first commandment is to love The Lord. Then Jesus makes an incredible statement. Jesus said that the second commandment is to love your neighbor.... as you love yourself. In essence the same care that I would have for my neighbor I need to have for myself. **The foundation of my love for my neighbor begins with my love for myself.** If you don't really love you, how can you love your neighbor? What is so amazing about this whole transaction is that loving 'The Lord,' and loving my neighbor, and loving myself, are all commandments.

Let's face it, the way that we treat others is only a reflection of the way that we treat ourselves. The love that I have for others, is only an expression of the love that I have for myself, and ultimately, 'The Lord'. All are commandments.

To some people love for one's self, appears to be arrogant, and self-centered. But not so. Let's take another look at the transaction – the commandments.

Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind. Then, my neighbor... as I love myself. Jesus stated that everything hinges, or swings – has its existence, on these three commandments. The backdrop of our life is based on how well we implement these three commandments. Why? Because everything else hangs on the three. All of our life's accomplishments are based on our love for the Lord, love for yourself, Then love for your neighbor.

This is what I mean: Let's say you need to hang a set of curtains in your living room. You purchase some very expensive curtains, but instead of getting a curtain rod of high quality you purchase a rod that is inferior, inexpensive, and not strong enough to carry the weight of your curtains. You hang your curtains on that inferior curtain rod. Eventually the curtain rod gives way under the weight of the curtains. The curtains are too heavy, and the rod can't hold their weight, thus the curtains fail to cover the windows in your home.

That is exactly what happens when we try to exist without loving the Lord, loving ourselves, then loving others. The curtain rod of life can't hold the weight, because it has been hung on deceptive, inferior material. The material is too heavy for the curtain rod.

IT'S TIME TO TAKE INVENTORY

The purpose of this article is for all of us to take inventory of where we are. Are we trying to live our life -- hang our curtains, on things that are shoddy, and inferior? **Are things falling around you, because you are trying to exist without using quality material.** Some time ago I was talking to my children and I made this statement. "They are the only thing that I get to take to Heaven with me." The foundation of that statement was my promise to my family that I would do my best to love the Lord; and then love them the same way that I love myself. No, I am not perfect. However, I am doing better this year than I was doing last year. And, I will be doing better next year than I did this year.

None of us have arrived. We are well on our journey. Is your curtain rod inferior? Have you hung your life on things that can't cover your life. Only you, with God's help, can make the change.

Mark 8:36-37 KJV

{36} For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

{37} Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

"People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care."
Dr. John C. Maxwell

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