



L.E.A.N. Letter

Making The Distinction...Are You A Business Or A Ministry? [©]

As believers, distinguishing our identity in Christ is key to being most effective in all areas of our lives. This is especially true when it comes to knowing how we are representing ourselves (and Jesus) with what the Lord has given us as our profession. Whatever distinction we choose, understand that it's not about being right/wrong, good/bad...it's just important for the sake of clarity. This clarity is not only important for ourselves, but for others who cross our path and the experience each person walks away having. For instance, when it comes to rejuvenating our human bodies, are we in a state of sleeping or resting? These terms can be misconstrued and thought to be the same thing, but are different. Sleeping is meant for the body while resting is for the spirit. It's important to know the distinction between the two and the primary reason why each are necessary for optimal physical and spiritual health. (More on this in a later article.)

So, if we say we are a ministry, yet someone feels like they just walked out of a commercialized setting only concerned about dollars and cents, profit margins, etc., then false perception and confusion may have just been created. That is not the lasting experience we want someone to have especially knowing that our encounter with that individual may have been the opportunity to witness our love for Jesus, our opportunity to share the Truth of salvation and/or pray them into the Kingdom, or a moment to just love on them in Jesus' name. It may be that person's last opportunity to come to know Jesus. So, without clarity of our true motives for doing what we're doing, or being ready to serve in a place where the Lord has positioned us, we can ultimately determine the outcome of what happens with those He chooses to put in our path. Also, when we do not create this distinction in our identity, especially if we are chosen to oversee the Lord's ministry, then we have just become another worldly entity most interested with the bottom line... making money.

Some may believe that having a business, like all of our worldly possessions, belongs to the Lord, which is true, since everything belongs to Him in the first place (**Psalm 24: 1-2**). However, there is a different mentality running a business versus running a ministry. The business mentality typically leads to personal ownership of an idea, a service, making a profit, etc. Running a ministry, however, is quite the opposite. Sure, we are used as vessels/instruments as the Holy Spirit works through us, but ministries of any kind, do not belong to people. Ministries belong to Jesus, and are meant to operate in the Spirit only. Any confusion in this area will likely lead to corruption and more opportunities for the enemy to intervene with worldly ways and concepts that can take what belongs to the Lord down a turbulent path.

Jesus is not interested in the various things we sell, His primary concern are the souls of the people who cross our path, and the opportunities He gives us to bring glory and honor to His name. Besides, if we truly believe (as the Word states) that Jesus will always provide for our needs, then what is the big hang-up on making money (**Philippians 4:19**). If we are running the Lord's ministry, and staying in His will, then it only makes sense that Jesus will provide for what belongs to Him.

Understand, there is absolutely nothing "wrong" with making a living, earning a profit, and providing for our needs or the needs of our family. That is not the takeaway intended for those reading this message. However, being transparent in who we say we are, and standing in it, is. It's important to avoid calling ourselves ministries and acting like businesses, and vice versa, because when the body of Christ causes confusion for others, we become the stumbling blocks for them as well, which ultimately puts Jesus back up on that cross and persecutes Him all over again. If we do not take personal responsibility in changing the world's perception when it comes to living a life in Christ Jesus, then who will?

~ These inspired words are intended to strengthen the body of Christ so that we can eliminate "obesity" of our spirit (unnecessary confusion and distraction), and to set ourselves apart from the world so that we can stand out as the mighty warriors we are called to be In Jesus' name! (These inspired messages/teachings are never to substitute the pure Word of God found in The Holy Bible.) ~

May you be blessed, and may you "Live L.E.A.N. (Loving Everyone As Neighbors)...Live Long!"

~Scripture passages are cited using the NIV Holy Bible.~