

Who Are You Resisting? God or The Flesh

1 Samuel 18

1. Responding to Others vs. 1-4

With David being God's anointed king and Jonathan being rejected by God as the future king due to his father's hard heart, a response of being enemies towards one another would have been anticipated. However, Jonathan and David's faith in the LORD allowed them to become closer than brothers; a covenant relationship.

Resisting God: Treat People As Your Enemies

Resisting Flesh: Loving Others and Displaying Grace

2. Responding to Success vs. 5-10

With every mission that Saul sent David on, David not only was rewarded a high rank in the army, but he had more success than Saul. Saul a man of pride became jealous and angry, as his life was based upon praises from others and remaining king of Israel.

David faces the challenge of success. He understood his success was through God's provisions and continued to serve God and Saul with humility.

Resisting God: Pride fuels Jealousy & Anger

Resisting Flesh: Serving the Lord fuels giving God the credit and humbly serves.

** Many people who handle adversity well enough fall under the challenge of success.*

Question:

Do we get upset if someone else receives praise? Do we crave attention and praise for the things we have accomplished? We need to remember that pleasing God is more important than pleasing man. Our image is not important. If it was Jesus would not have been born in a manger and hung on a cross.

Have you ever been in a similar situation? When one of your coworkers or friends received greater praise than you? How did you handle those feelings of jealousy?

3. Responding to Opposition vs. 10-30

Saul understood that God was with David and became afraid of David and the success that he was having. Saul's fear response was one of hostility and tried many ways to harm and even have David killed.

David's response to Saul's hostility was not of fear or revenge, but remaining humble, trusting in God's plan and continuing to serve in the ways that God led him to do.

Resisting God: Fear fuels hostility

Resisting Flesh: Serving the Lord fuels humility; trusting in God's Sovereignty.

Reflection Exercise

⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires."

Romans 6:9-12

In order to resist the flesh (desires contrary to God), we must choose daily through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit "to count ourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ."

On the tombstone, list what God is calling you in your own life to which you need to die to. Please share with someone who can help be your accountable support.

