

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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CONSIDER

John Edwards

The word “*consider*” suggests to be aware, conscious; perceive with the mind, think about. Here are some things the Bible says we need to consider:

THYSELF. Paul told the Galatians, “*Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted*” (Gal. 6:1). One must know his weaknesses and fortify himself against them. Jesus taught that before trying to help others with their problems, we must first consider ourselves (Mt. 7:1-5). Haggai, the prophet, exhorted the people of God to “*Consider your ways*” (Hag. 1:5). Paul encouraged folks to “*Examine yourselves...*” (2 Cor. 13:5).

ONE ANOTHER. It is written, “*And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works*” (Heb. 10:24). Paul said, “*Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others*” (Phil. 2:4). In our consideration of one another, we should be loving (1 Th. 4:9), forbearing (Eph. 4:2), forgiving (Eph. 4:32), serving (Gal. 5:13), and comforting (1 Th. 4:18). There should be mutual interest and care on the part of the members of the body of Christ

(1 Cor. 12:25).

JESUS CHRIST.

“*Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus*” (Heb. 3:1). Consider His life, His love for man, and His sacrifice.

THE RAVENS AND THE

LILIES. Some people are all the time worrying about what they are going to eat today and wear tomorrow (Lk. 12:22). However, “*The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls? ... Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these*” (Lk. 12:24, 27). The God who has the power to feed the fowl of the air and clothe the grass of the field has the ability to feed and clothe man (Lk. 12:28). We must put the Lord’s church and God’s word first before everything else in our lives, and our food and clothing will be provided (Mt. 6:33).

THE WAYS OF THE ANT.

Solomon wrote, “*Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: which having no guide, overseer, or*

ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest” (Prov. 6:6-8). Several lessons of wisdom can be learned from considering the ways of the ant. Ants are very industrious. Some people today are sluggish and lazy! Many, who could work, would rather let someone else support them. The Bible teaches, “*...if any would not work, neither should he eat*” (2 Th. 3:10). Also, ants work together. Christians are to work together (2 Cor. 6:1). Further, ants make preparation (Prov. 30:25). We must prepare to meet the Lord (Mt. 25:1-13).

AND, YE FATHERS

John Edwards

The apostle Paul wrote these words to the Ephesians: “*And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord*” (Eph. 6:4). Here are some responsibilities the Bible places on fathers:

PROVOKE NOT YOUR CHILDREN TO WRATH. A parallel text states: “*Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged*” (Col. 3:21). Fathers may provoke wrath by failing to treat their children justly or by using excessive punishment. It is possible to irritate a child in

such a way that will discourage him.

BRING THEM UP IN THE NURTURE AND ADMONITION OF THE LORD. The wise man recorded, *“He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes”* (Prov. 13:24). Further, *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”* (Prov. 22:6). Solomon revealed, *“The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame. Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul”* (Prov. 29:15, 17). One reason so many young people are wayward is because their fathers did not bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord!

PROVIDE FOR YOUR OWN. Paul taught, *“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel”* (1 Tim. 5:8). The father who does not provide for the well-being of his family is worse than an unbeliever. As a father, are you providing for your family’s

physical and spiritual needs?

ASSUME THE HEADSHIP OF YOUR FAMILY. The apostle Paul declared, *“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body”* (Eph. 5:23). The Bible pictures the husband as the head of the wife, and the wife in subjection to her own husband (Eph. 5:22). This does not mean that the man is to rule as a tyrant! Woman was never intended to be man’s slave, but his helper, nor was man to be woman’s oppressor, but her protector. Not from man’s head or feet was she taken, but from his side, near his heart, that she might be loved by him and from under his arm that she might be protected by him (Gen. 2:18-24). Fathers need to learn to *“rule well”* their own house (1 Tim. 3:4-5). Some men are too timid to accept this role.

THE CHRISTIAN’S ATTITUDE

John Edwards

Solomon said, *“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...”*

(Prov. 23:7). Attitude is the reflection of what is on the inside of a person.

ATTITUDE TOWARD LIFE. Peter stated, *“For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile”* (1 Pet. 3:10).

ATTITUDE TOWARD SIN. *“...sin is the transgression of the law”* (1 Jn. 3:4), and *“the wages of sin is death”* (Rom. 6:23).

ATTITUDE TOWARD WORK. The Bible teaches us to work for the things that we need (Eph. 4:28). Paul taught, *“...that if any would not work, neither should he eat”* (2 Th. 3:10).

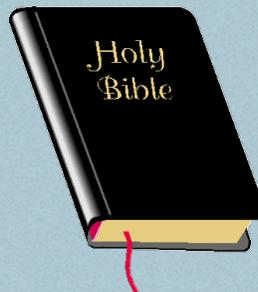
ATTITUDE TOWARD SELF. How one feels about himself is important. Some lack self-esteem, not having enough confidence in themselves. Paul said, *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”* (Phil. 4:13). If you think you can’t, you probably won’t! We need to learn to deny self (Mt. 16:24), and esteem others better than self (Phil. 2:3).

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