

## Turning the Crap of Life, Into the Fruit of the Spirit

### Credit – Don't be a glory whore

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#### Life Questions:

Have you ever done something for someone and they never knew about it? What about if they gave the credit to someone else for what you had done? Have you ever taken credit for something you didn't do?

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Steve was a young preacher who use to always make the following statement when he prayed, "Lord we will be careful to give you the honor and the glory for all that we accomplish." I was always perplexed by the phrase be careful. When I think of being careful I think of something different then how I pray and yet here he was leading in prayer with that statement. He made an effort to always give the glory for a good sermon to the Lord. He would say things like, "I could never have come up with that on my own." He had a humble heart that always sought to put God first. So, do you put Him first when glory is given to you? Have you ever said thank you when what you should have been saying was it wasn't my doing but the Lord's?

Yep you all know them. There is one locally, she shows up every time a photo is being taken. And just as mysteriously as she appears, she disappears once the work starts back up. You will recognize her by the fact that everyone else is sweaty but she is not.

Pick up the Alabama Baptist and you will see a photo of a sweet woman who has gone to church for 75 years and there beside her is the pastor and the director of missions for the county or chairman of the deacons. WHY!? Why are they standing there with this lady that is twice as old as they are?

And my personal pet peeve, the people that show up after you finish a major project. You know them from work mostly. Once the leg work is done, the new ideas have been pain-stakingly gone through, there they are to "take it to the next level." What level you weren't here when we were at no level but here you are now ready to grab the idea and make the big presentation to management.

It is like being the guy who walks home in the bottom of the ninth after a home run that won the game but you are the one that gets the credit because you crossed the plate. It is the guy that comes into the football game when the ball is on the one yard line after the running back has already gone the length of the field. It is the guy who takes the foul shots because the guy that was fouled is on the bench with a bleeding eye. Each case is someone getting a chance to do a little something that gives them a big reward, and it is not fair. And Jesus knows, so listen up!

#### 1. We Represent The King, We Are Not The King

##### **2 Cor 5:20-21**

*20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

##### **Matt 28:18-20**

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*18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

In the times of Kings, there would need to be occasions when the King would go to war. Even during times of war, things needed to be dealt with that would only encumber the king so he would leave a steward in his place. That steward would have his own throne and would address things that would otherwise go to the king. In addition, he spoke with the authority of the king and generally only would be held accountable by the king himself. At that same time the king could also send an ambassador to speak for him in negotiations or as a way to find out if another people were friend or foe. That ambassador was the king for all practical purposes and you would treat him as such as a position of honor. But in both cases, these men represented the king but they were by no means the king.

Ever been feeding a dog that you own and have owned for years when you sit down and begin to pet his head only to hear a deep growl as your hand is on his head? Veterinarians tell us that we should never touch a dog while he is eating. When a dog is eating he is solely focused on his meal and any movement of your hands may be seen as your attempt to take his meal away, and you do not want to be between him and his meal. Such is the Lord, it is His glory and we are His representatives, therefore the one place we should never find ourselves is between God and the glory that belongs to Him.

The bible tells us very specifically that we are God's vessels here on earth. We represent Him. As a result, we are the people that act under His authority and for His purpose. Therefore when we accomplish something that gives us glory, it is not to us that it belongs but the Lord. And we should be mindful that as the representative we are not the king.

***Ps 19:1***

*The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.*

We may not give Him the credit, but the heavens testify to the glory of God. Whether we want to or not, we will all give Him the glory one day because every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. That means that we will all one day proclaim it even if we don't believe it now on earth, even if we mock Him or just refuse there is coming a day when we will all give Him the glory.

***Isa 42:8***

*8 I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.*

My little girl isn't a fighter. She is not a tough girl at the moment. She lets the other girls pick on her and make fun of her and it hurts her feelings. As her dad it makes me mad that she doesn't just blow them off so finally I suggested that the next little girl that hit, pushed or made fun of her she should knock to the floor stand over her and scream "What's My Name . . ." Now she won't that would get her in trouble, but I would get her out of it if I could or take her punishment. But even though she will not, God will! Understand He will NOT share His Glory, He tells us that He is a jealous God and here he said I AM, the starting part is a statement of assurance and permanence. Before He even finishes a Jewish man or woman of this time would know that I AM is enough, it is the name God used when talking to Moses. There isn't anything to be added. And He does not share His glory with another. So if you don't want to be knocked to the floor by God and have him stand over your pained body screaming "What's My Name" maybe you should evaluate your position between Him and His glory.

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## 2. We are accountable for our actions

### **Jude 16-19**

*These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.<sup>17</sup> But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ:<sup>18</sup> how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.<sup>19</sup> These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.*

### **Heb 4:13**

*And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*

Every two years there are elections in the United States to determine who will represent us. We elect a person who we think best fits the ideals that we have in an area. That person is our representative in Washington and in Alabama in Montgomery. He/She is tasked with the duty of doing what they said when they were running for election. If a promise is broken, then we have a chance to let them know that their services will no longer be required at the next election. Should things grow too bad, we can choose as the people they serve to have a recall election and force that person to re-win his or her job. Eventually, that person will be voted out of office. Every two years, we as the people have the chance to make the person accountable for their actions.

Much in the same way, we will have an opportunity to stand before Jesus and be judged for the actions we have taken in this life. When we have taken credit for the work of others or refused to provide the glory to the Lord for His blessings, we will have a day of reckoning. Are you really wanting to take glory that doesn't belong to you when you know that you are going to have to answer for it? How would that chance your behavior if you knew one day everything you were doing was going to be made known and you would have to answer for it all? Would it change your actions? For some people, sadly, it wouldn't change a thing. You know these people, you may even be one of them. Certainly, people are not drawn to that behavior.

### **Rom 14:12-13**

*12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.<sup>13</sup> Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather Resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.*

When we are focused exclusively upon ourselves then we cause division and strife in the family of God. You know and can easily identify people by their fruits. When there is nothing for trouble surrounding a person much like the clouds of a thunderstorm, you are able to identify those that use God as a platform for promoting themselves. But God tells us in His word that we all will individually give an account multiple times in His word detailing that we will stand alone before Him and answer. Are you ready for that day? Ready to give an account for the times you took the credit?

So much more so we should be mindful not to let our taking credit put a stumbling block in front of another. When we know we have to give an account of our actions, we should be willing to resolve to help one another to keep from falling in front of another brother or sister in Christ. How many people have left because they have been unable to give that account and have stumbled? Are you stumbling

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because of the actions of credit that another Christian has taken? You can know that you will give an account to God and that He knows even if no one in the world knows.

### 3. Do not seek praise for what you are doing

Do you like to get credit for asking about doing something but not really wanting to do it? Case in point, the dishes are in the sink. Everyone know they need to be cleaned or at the very least put into the dishwasher. But you both wait, because what you want is credit for saying you would do it all the while having no intention of doing it.

You arrive conveniently late to help your friend move. It just so happens all the heavy lifting is done. You go there just in time, pizza just arrived. Trees need to be trimmed at a neighbor's house that is not able to do it herself. You know they need to be done but you are hoping to catch your neighbor out there and join him just as he is finishing so that you can feel good about yourself.

#### **Matt 6:1-4**

*"Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.<sup>3</sup> But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,<sup>4</sup> that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.*

When a verse of scripture starts out with Take heed, what is being said is PAY ATTENTION THIS IS IMPORTANT! Jesus is telling us Himself that when we do something charitable, or in love, we should do it so that no one knows we are doing it. Hide it! Because if you don't, you lose the blessings God has for you. When you tell everyone you are the one that did all the work at church or got the biggest client at work what you are doing is seeking the praise of man. The praise of man isn't worth crap. It has no eternal significance. God isn't going to judge you by asking Tom your coworker to give an account, He is asking you! And when man has given you the glory, then all the glory there is to get is gotten. Period. That is the end of the story, there isn't anything that God is going to give you when you have gotten the praise of man. God looks at our heart and when we do things to get the glory ourselves then there is no glory for Him. And so, why should He reward you for something you have already been rewarded for?

Hide it. Do it in secret. Give your money for the new thing at church in a way that no one knows or just go buy it yourself and leave it at the church. Know that even if your boss at work doesn't know the wonderful job you have done, God knows. And what He knows in secret will be presented by Him in light of all. Basically that means that when you focus on His glory, hide your efforts and put Him first, HE will reward you. Now I don't know what that will be. Maybe finances, maybe praise maybe a promotion and more money, but it is always a better reward than that you get from man!

**Final Analysis:** Glory whores are everywhere. They smell a little bit of praise or glory and they are all about it. They are on it like a dog on a bone and if you try to take it away, better watch your hand. But that is not how we are with God. It is His glory and He deserves all the credit, not us. When we work we should work to please Him, not to get glory for ourselves because when He rewards us it is with something eternal not temporary. So that glory you are holding onto for yourself, time to let it go and give it to the one that has earned it, Jesus.

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