

USED OR LOVED

PASTOR TIMOTHY GREEN

1 Cor 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

As Christians, we belong doubly to God. First He made us and then He bought us. He gave us life and then he purchased our salvation with His own blood. God's desires for us is to glorify Him. That is our purpose. That should be our reason for living.

Phil 1:19-21 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

For Paul, life meant glorifying God. Death meant glorifying God. He didn't care if he lived or died as long as God was glorified. Do you? Do you care more about life than you do glorifying God?

To glorify God doesn't mean that we add to Him more glory. That is impossible. It is more like the word magnify. Whenever we glorify God, we magnify Him, so that others can see Him better.

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

How does that make you feel? It makes me feel wonderful. But I've met some who resented being chosen by God. They resent being told to live holy. They don't want to be seen as peculiar. They don't want to be different from the majority of the world. God did them a favor and they don't appreciate it. Instead of feeling loved and cherished they feel used and abused.

The reason that some people feel used by God instead of loved by God is because they have a warped conception of the word love. They think to be loved means that they are to be given their way. True love, God love, is doing what is best for someone else.

What does it really mean to love someone? Does it mean to give them flowers and gifts and tell them what a wonderful person they are? I believe true love is to tell someone about the greatness of God and how much He loves them and the fact that He died on Calvary's cross for them and their sins. That is true love!

Love is not giving someone a box of chocolates, love is telling somebody about the mercy and grace of Almighty God. Love is sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.