

Absence of Dignity

6 September 2009 – Practical Christian living service
Discipleship - Stewardship

1Ti 3:8 Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain.**9** They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.**10** And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless.**11** Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things.

Most believers, like me have lost their ability to believe in themselves. Most believers actually view this as a prideful statement and would actually rebuke someone that would say they believe in themselves. It is actually not just the belief itself that seems to be problematic, but the way we think God would view us. We don't really think God need us, and we don't really think that we are any use to Him. Not only this, but also the reality that we don't prioritize what we think to be important. This causes a product of worthlessness and even more a sense of being a joke. Christ is serious about you, and it is time you got serious about you!

1. Dignity or being dignified

1.1. What the dictionary says about dignified

- a) bearing, conduct, or speech indicative of self-respect or appreciation of the formality or gravity of an occasion or situation.
- b) nobility or elevation of character; worthiness: dignity of sentiments.

1.2. Sentiment :

- a) an attitude toward something; regard; opinion.
- b) a mental feeling; emotion: a sentiment of pity.

1.3. Deacons and their wives with Elders were instructed to have these abilities.

- a) Before you dismiss yourself.
- b) Where should we look for these characteristics?
 - Biblical opinion is between believers.
 - Elders and deacons are chosen because they desire to serve others.
 - The characteristics is a proof of the ability of them to be believers in all situations. (Not necessarily of their leadership ability)

1.4. Self respect

- a) Know who I am and therefore it influences what I say.
- b) Know who I am and therefore have a conduct that reflects (example: You are king)
- c) Appreciation of the formality (reality) of a situation, seen from God's side.
- d) Appreciation of the gravity (the weight) of what God say and see in a certain situation.

1.5. We rather reflect the opposite.

- a) We act as if God does not love us, don't care, did not tell us we have all in christ.
- b) We act as if we don't know what His plan is, and what he want to do with us.

1.6. Christ took everything He said serious.

- a) Every single thing He said – He meant, because He could take it serious.

2. The effect of dignity

2.1. You will get serious about things.

- a) You will get serious about what God promised you, and act that way!
- b) You will get serious about what God said about you, and act that way!
- c) You will get serious about what God told you to do, and act that way!
- d) You will get serious and understand that you have the most aggressive enemy this world has ever seen, and act that way.

2.2. Either You believe what Christ said or you stand against Him.

- a) There is no "in between".
- b) There is no "no – fire" zone.

Things to think and do

- God is serious about you and everything He said to you and about you – Are You?
- If you are serious it should affect your lifestyle.