

Strings

Pt. 1 - Loose Ends

Example - Hanging by a thread, no strings attached, stringing someone along, tying up loose ends, string theory. (8 pm 8:02)

Isaiah 33:22, Your ropes are slack; they cannot secure the mast or spread the sail. Then an abundance of spoils will be divided, and even the lame will carry off plunder.

Note - Loose Ends (defined) - Unfinished business

- There are some real loose ends in Christianity today.

Matthew 21:28-31, “But what do you think about this? A man with two sons told the older boy, ‘Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.’ 29 The son answered, ‘No, I won’t go, ’but later he changed his mind and went anyway. 30 Then the father told the

other son, 'You go, 'and he said, 'Yes, sir, I will. 'But he didn't go. 31 "Which of the two obeyed his father?"

Note - We are judged by completion not intention.

Example - Those of us in our autumn years should not leave loose ends as it relates to our estate and our end of life planning.

- Of all the loose ends in Christianity, perhaps the most significant is real connection in Christian community.

Note - The Bible's instruction is not that we just 'go to church' but that we be a part of a church!

1 Corinthians 12:27, All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.

How to Tie up This Loose End

1. Through consistent attendance.

Hebrews 10:25, And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Note - The early church met weekly at the temple and daily in their homes. They recognized the threat of isolation.

2. Through consistent support.

Note - The principal of the tithe was put in place to ensure ministry is in place and so are we.

Matthew 6:21, For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

3. Through serving.

Ephesians 4:12-16, Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church,

the body of Christ. 13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. 15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. 16 He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Note - Serving ensures the church's mission is fulfilled and so are we.

Ephesians 2:10, For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

4. Through submission.

Hebrews 13:17, Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls and will give an account for their work. Let them do this with joy and not with complaints, for this would be no advantage for you.

Note - There are distinct advantages to being submitted to spiritual leadership - accountability, encouragement, correction, counsel, guidance, etc.

Example - Pastor Denny's rebuke

5. Through discipleship.

Hebrews 5:12, You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies...

Note - We can't disciple someone we aren't around, we don't know and we have no connection with.

Example - Everyone needs a Paul, a Barnabas and a Timothy.

- Loose threads are the easiest to pull out of the fabric.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: 10 If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. 11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Note - Jesus warned that in these last days many would lose out with God.

Matthew 24:12, Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.