

In Defense of a Choosy God

- Intro. 1) Nobody likes to be left out!
- 2) I can definitely identify with the feeling some have:
- “You people are too exclusive.”
“You don’t accept all believers.”
“You are too prejudiced.”
- While I might take exception to these charges. . .
- 3) Still – No one likes “selectivity” and “exclusion.”
- 4) I am a little “turned off” by . . .
- a) Housing developments with stringent, exclusive deed restrictions
 - b) Apartments for adults only
 - c) Clubs with racial or social acceptance restrictions
 - d) VIP seats for wealthy alumni donors.
- 5) But, before you go accusing the church of being choosy, we’d better notice that the Bible describes God as: Choosy, selective, even discriminatory.
- a) Mt. 22:14 – “Many are called but few are chosen.”
 - b) Mk. 13:20 – “. . . for the elect’s sake, whom he chose, he shortened the days.”
 - c) I Peter 2:9 – “You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people.”
- 6) God is very partial to His people
He is very selective to who they are. (In Christ)
He adds them – Acts 2:47 – “The Lord added to the church . . . those being saved.”
- a) No voting
 - b) It did not matter what people thought or said – God adds the saved to His church.

- 7) But He is not unjust
 - a) I Tim. 2:4 – “God would have all men to be saved and come to knowledge of truth.” (What does God want? To add all to church. Individual responsibility to know the truth.)
 - b) Rom. 2:6-11 – God will render to every man according to his deeds. There is no partiality with God.
 - c) Heb. 5:9 – “He is author . . . obey him.”
- 8) God is choosey, but His choice depends on your choice.
 - a) He would have you to be saved already
 - b) Note these arguments in defense of a choosy God.

I. God Does Not Refuse the Untaught – If they will learn.

A. Ethiopian Nobleman – Did not know

- 1. Acts 8:26-40 – Story recorded
- 2. “Do you understand . . .?” “How can I . . .?”
- 3. “Began at that scripture and taught . . . Jesus”
- 4. He learned, believed, obeyed.

B. Can’t be saved if we do not learn.

“No man can come to me unless the Father draw him – It is written in the prophets, they shall all be taught of God. Everyone that hath heard from the Father, and hath learned, cometh unto me.” (Jn. 4:12)

C. Ignorance is no excuse with God –

Acts 17:30:31 – “The times of ignorance . . . now commandeth”
Must know Jesus – “No other name . . .” (Acts 4:12)

II. God Does Not Refuse the Immoral – If They Will Be Washed Clean

A. I Cor. 6:9-11 – READ

- 1. They were not permitted to continue

2. There is a washing to remove sins – Acts 22:16. “Why tarry – arise . . .”

B. Eph. 2:1-5 - READ

III. God Does Not Refuse the Wayward – If They Will Return

A. Luke 15 – Story of Prodigal Son

1. A foolish mistake – leaving a home of love & treasure.
2. A waiting Father – looking for his return.
3. A glorious celebration – He was not refused.

B. When we stumble – we are taught to repent, confess, pray.

1. Acts 8:22-24 – READ
2. I Jn. 1:7-10 – READ

C. God wants the erring rescued. (Jas. 5:19-20 – READ)

IV. God Does Not Refuse – Even the Most Despised of Humanity.

A. Gentiles – regarded as “dogs” to the Jews.

1. Hated, despised, looked down upon, made fun of
2. Yet – God saw willing, pliable hearts.
 - a. He had Peter teach the first Gentile convert – Acts 10
 - b. He appointed Paul their special “apostle”
 - c. Soon – bulk of the church was Gentiles
3. Eph. 2:13 – “But now you who were formerly far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”
4. Peter told Cornelius – “God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation he that feareth him and worketh righteousness is acceptable to him.” Acts 10:34-35

B. Criminals? “Oh, those people will never change.”

1. Mt. 21:31-32 – To the pious religious leaders of the day. “The publicans and harlots go into the kingdom before you” Why? “For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and you believed him not, but the publicans and harlots believed him; but you – when you saw it did not even repent yourself afterward, that you might believe him.”
2. There was a thief on a cross (Lk. 23:39-43)
 - a. Jesus saved – “This day . . .”

C. Heathen/Uncivilized Pagans

1. Mt. 28:18-20 – “All authority . . . go make disciples.”
2. Mk. 16:15-16 – “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation, he that believeth . . .”

Conclusion

- 1) God reaches out to all men
 - a) Even indulgent Felix – “When Paul reasoned of righteousness, self-control, and judgment to come, Felix trembled – Go for now – when I have a convenient time, I will call for you.” (Acts 24:25)
 - b) Even indifferent Agrippa – “Would you with little persuasion try to make me a Christian” Acts 26:28
- 2) Yes – God would have all men be saved.
 - a) But he is choosy
 - 1) He will not refuse the untaught – but they must learn.
 - 2) He will not refuse the immoral – but they must repent.
 - 3) He will not refuse the wayward – but they must return.
 - 4) He will not refuse any person –
 - a) Who believes in salvation through the Blood of Christ
 - b) Who confesses that belief

c) And is baptized into Christ.

5) Could that be you today? If so, then come . . .