

We can become so easily distracted and entangled in the weeds of life that our service and devotion to the Lord suffers. Eventually, these things can completely kill our commitment to God. It takes time and effort, and a steadfast determination, to get rid of the weeds and produce fruit.

To see how bad things might actually be, think about this...maybe even write these things down on a piece of paper to truly see how many weeds are in your yard.

How much time do you spend going to Bible class and worship services compared to watching television?

How much time do you spend in school or recreational activities (band, football, basketball, scouts) compared to reading your Bible and praying?

Are these fair comparisons? You be the judge. You also need to be honest with yourself. Are you spending enough time in spiritual pursuits or are the cares of this world choking you to death...and you like it?

- Steven F. Deaton

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Sin In The Home Stay-At-Home Dads

Society is anti-God. There is no question about it, the world is under the sway of the wicked one (1 Jn. 5:19). Its values are contrary to what the Bible teaches, including on matters of the home. Specifically, society tells us that a stay-at-home dad is a wonderful thing.

The feminist movement in the United States came on strong in the 1960s and 70s. Its fruits are being borne today. Women are taught to be career-minded; go to school, get a degree, find a job, climb the ladder, make something of themselves. A woman's worth is tied to her job.

Along with the feminist ideas of women, is the notion that men are no different. A woman can and should do anything a man can do. And, a man can and should do anything a woman can do. If the woman has a good-paying job, better than her husband (if they are married), and children come along, the man should stay at home. After all, the wife makes the most money and she should not take a back seat to the husband, sacrificing her career and their material well being just because she has ovaries.

It is sad that some Christians have bought into this humanist philosophy.

God ordains that men are the provider for the home (1 Tim. 5:8). It is the man's duty

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to get a job or have a line of work that supports his family. If he decides to become a homemaker while his wife goes to work, it is sin. If not, why not?

The Bible teaches that a woman's primary role is to be a homemaker (Titus 2:4, 5). Does the fact that her job pays more than the husband's give her the authority to ignore this duty?

Let's get something straight: a man can do work around the house, including taking care of the children; and a woman can do work outside the home (Prov. 31:10-31). However, this does not mean a man is the primary homemaker and the woman the primary breadwinner. When a husband and wife reverse roles as given by God they are in sin.

Some think it old fashioned to follow the "traditional" roles of husband and wife. The world sees it as down-right backward. What is backward and old fashioned is actually biblical and godly (cf. Lk. 16:15). The reason these roles are traditional is because people used to have a greater respect for the Bible. Let us make sure we do not allow the anti-Christ world delude us into living an ungodly life.

- Steven F. Deaton

Why Did David Use Instruments?

In discussions with denominational folks about instrumental music, they will sometimes claim that David's use of them justifies their use today. Is this true?

First, let us establish that David is not our Savior. He is not the authority in Christianity, Jesus is (Col. 3:17; Matt. 28:18). David was a prophet; he was the sweet psalmist of Israel, guided by the Spirit of God. Still, the New Testament reveals that we are not to follow and heed the Law or prophets, but the Son of God (Matt. 17:1-5).

Second, David used the instruments because God commanded him to (2 Chron. 29:25). It is not as though David presumptuously changed the worship of God. Many

today believe they can. Without a commandment from God, they alter what the New Testament says about worship. They add instrumental music, social activities, even outright entertainment. All such activities are without divine authority and render the worship vain (Matt. 15:7-9).

Third, there are many things David did that we cannot do. David offered and commended animal sacrifices (Psa. 51:19). He had many wives (2 Sam. 3:2-5; 5:13; 12:8). Who will argue that we should offer bulls and goats or that a man can practice polygamy because David did? Honesty demands that none of these things are permissible because of David's practices; not sacrifices, not polygamy, not instrumental music in worship.

The bottom line is, David used instruments because that is what God commanded him to do. In our worship we must sing, because this is what God commands us to do (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). Let us be like David, people after God's own heart, by submitting to the Lord's will, not living by ours.

- Steven F. Deaton

Weeds

Are there too many weeds in your yard? Mine too; and we need to get rid of them.

It will take effort and may cause some discomfort. However, when it is done, we will be grateful and blessed by the Lord.

That's right, we are talking about "those weeds." The ones that choke out the word. The ones Jesus talked about in the Parable of the Sower. In Mark 4:18, 19, He explained the seed that fell among the thorns. It sprouted and grew for a while, but "the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful."

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

- 1 Corinthians 15:58
