

Really? Are You The Only One?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

1 Kings 19:14, "And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."

Here are the words of Elijah who had recently witnessed the power of God. Now, a short time later, he is discouraged and thinks that he is the only one following the Lord. How sad it is to see anyone think that they are alone, whether it is because they think no one else believes, or because they think that they're in a class by themselves. Either way, the thought is wrong. God is still in control, even though the devil would like for us to think otherwise. The Lord went on to tell Elijah, "Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him." **1 Kings 19: 18**.

To feel this way by being discouraged is bad enough, but to

think this out of pride is even worse. God condemned those who felt better than others. One verse in **Isaiah 65** gives their opinion of themselves - "Which say, Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou. These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day;" (**Verse 5**). God's Word tells us that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Those who are saved are saved by grace, not by works, so no one has any right to look down on others.

Even though the bible tells us to not judge others, or to look down on those that are not like us, people still like to do it. There are still those who think themselves to be special and close to God and all others unsaved. They may not stand up and say it directly, but their actions say it very loud and clear. Consider this passage from **Luke 18** starting at **verse 10**. "Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. **11**. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. **12**. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess." He may not have said these words out loud, but they were in his heart. God heard

them and judged the thought as sinful.

The Pharisee didn't have any love, or concern, for this publican. Even the publican called himself a sinner, but the Pharisee didn't think that he was guilty of sin. The sin of pride was evident at least. Would he have talked kindly to the publican, or would he have fussed at him and wound up in a heated debate? That is what pride brings, a debate where the person talks at you and not to you. I don't know of anyone being won to Christ through this method. The Lord tells us to lead, not to try to drive people to him. To the modern day Pharisee I would ask this question. Are you trying honestly to win a person to the Lord, or really just trying to win another argument?

Someone brought forth an interesting thought years ago. He said, "You know, it might surprise us in heaven to see people that we didn't think would be there. Also, we might not see some that we thought would surely be there." The point is, God judges, not man. I'm thankful that the Lord is my judge, and not man. God is merciful - Praise the Lord!

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FOR ALL THE YEARS I LABORED FOR THEE, THOU HAST TREATED ME UNKINDLY!

LET US MAKE A COVENANT - I AND THOU!

GATHER STONES!

WHAT CAN I DO TO THEE WHO IS MY DAUGHTERS' HUSBAND - COME LISTEN TO MY WORDS!

AND LABAN'S MEN AND JACOB'S MEN BUILD A HEAP OF STONES...

NOW LET THIS MOUND BE A WITNESS THAT NEITHER I NOR THOU SHALL IN ANY WISE DO HARM TO EACH OTHER!

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