When Is Enough, Enough?
**Introduction:**

We all know that in order to truly be a Christian, we must go the extra mile...turn the other cheek...bend over backwards to accommodate others...bear with the weak....put ourselves out to try to win others to Christ...Right? It is foundational to our faith...so much a part of what being a Christian is all about, that to say otherwise is unheard of. Love is said to endure all things. No one would even dare to insinuate that such is not expected by God. -- But, did you know that the very same book...the Holy Bible...that teaches us to be this way, also says that there comes a time when enough is enough? Same Bible...same Holy Spirit...and just as with many other biblical subjects, it will come down to a question of balance...harmonizing...fulfilling ALL the Scriptures teach.

Sometimes a Christian can become very overwhelmed with all the demands made of them by others...to where you just want to tell them I can’t be there for you.. for every problem you have...all the time. Is it OK to say I can’t continue to be the strong one these people all consider me to be? Is it
wanted this talked about now. The article...the request...and others in the congregation that have had to wrestle with this problem. May God bless the preaching of His word.

being a bad Christian to say NO...I can’t help you this time...and to think of your own needs and mental well-being? Or is that being unchristian and selfish? Permit me to put it bluntly...Is there ever a time you may need to say, enough is enough! I just can’t oblige you this time? -- The quick answer is...YES! And you are quick to say...well is that just your opinion or does God say so? I am glad you are thinking this way...for my opinion is worth only two cents...where have I heard that lately...but God’s truth is a worth a million bucks!

I) Let’s Go To The Bible...

I Cor. 9:24-27...*Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.*
The Christian must be very careful that he does not neglect his own self in his dealings and even preaching to others, so that after all that good work he ends up disqualified.

Though it may surprise you, I think we must save ourselves before we can do much for anyone else. This may sound selfish, but it is not. Effective preaching to others is compromised when the preacher does not preach to himself. Loving others is not going to work, when we do not first love ourself....and you know I do not mean that in some sort of conceited way. We are to love neighbor as OURSELVES. Husbands are to love their wife as THEM SELF. If my efforts to save others is such that I cannot tend to my own self as I should, then I need to back down. Enough is Enough.

II Thess. 3:10-15...For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus family, or your autonomous self to the brethren. No one is to Lord over you...for in so doing you may make the greatest error of all...God is dethroned...and church takes His place. We worship God, not the church. Enough is enough.

Well, of course, the WORLD must never stand in the way of the four above. This one might go without saying....but won’t. Ha! -- Galatians 6:10 places commitment to brethren ahead of the world, therefore if a choice is forced upon me, a fellow Christian will always get the nod. And no amount of earthly concerns or worldly matters (even good ones) must be allowed to somehow excuse service to God, self, family or brethren. This must not be allowed to happen. Enough is enough!

Conclusion: So, there you have it...Enough is Enough!...it can be done...it is not IF, but when, where and how that comes under consideration...Sometimes we have to learn to JUST LET THEM GO. I tried and tried to find an article I read somewhere by that very title...Just let them go. It was probably the seed for this lesson even before I was requested to preach it. Maybe in God’s providence, He
Whenever doing some service to FAMILY causes me to compromise the obligations I have to my own soul and/or God, then family is going to have to be sacrificed. You heard me right. Jesus said...He who loves family more than Me is not worthy of me...a man’s enemies may well then be from your own household. -- In another place He said, and I paraphrase...Come follow me, but they said first, let me go bury my father. I have married a wife...etc. These are all family duties that He did not accept then...nor does He accept it now. Enough is enough. Let the dead bury the dead...you come follow me!

Now this next one will be the challenging one...when BRETHREN get in the way of family, self and God, then I may have to say enough is enough. Peter said that serving the charitable needs of certain widows in the first church must not get in the way of praying and ministering the word. Read about in Acts 6. I have heard in this very building visitors complaining about the previous church they were at practicing such control and demand of them that they could hardly breathe...cult like control over where they worked or how much they gave or when and how they were required to do evangelism. My friend, don’t surrender your Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

We are commanded...not advised or given liberty to consider it...but commanded that if a brother will not work, neither let him eat. That is harsh...that does not sound too christian...oh but it is...we are to refuse a lazy brother any aid. In so many words, tell him enough is enough!

I Cor. 5:1-5...It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Je-
sus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

Paul told the Corinthians in so many words...enough is enough. Give him over to Satan. Stop fellowshipping him...judge him as lost and excommunicate him. If the brother is walking in sin...sinning willfully, then admonish him, admonish him again....maybe in some instances take witnesses so every word can be confirmed, but then cut him off...or as Jesus worded it...treat him as a publican and the sinner that he is. -- We had a lesson not long ago where Paul commanded that certain Christians be avoided and refused. Now that goes so much against our Christian grain. But it is in there...the Bible says it...so no matter how much it seems to go contrary to my feelings...the truth is stay clear of certain Christians that are contentiously teaching error and causing divisions. Enough is enough!

Matthew 5:31-32... “It was also said, Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce. But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the

I have a lesson some of you may recall titled: Five Levels Of Commitment...here is the list...

1. God
2. You
3. Family
4. Brethren
5. World

I believe when the things we are doing for any of these jeopardize or compromise any one above it, we need to restructure things...let me illustrate.

When doing things for ME are drawing me away from God...then I need to say to myself, enough is enough. And drop off whatever weight is besetting me so as to make God first. It may a job that has me unequally yoked with unbelievers...or it may be evil companions that are corrupting my morals...or it may be some good thing that is just too time consuming...then I need to say ENOUGH is ENOUGH!
two children out of the Garden because He loved them...made their life very hard...but He did it. We can, too.

Sometimes it can be brethren where enough is enough may be practiced...My main mentor, Ray Votaw once said, “For many years, while I was messing with knot headed brethren, I was losing my family.” His choice of words, not mine. Ha! He then went on to say that he promised to spend the rest of his earthly days trying to make up for that loss. -- John Trimble, a preacher’s kid like myself, told me before I married, do not make the mistake of thinking church work is the Lord’s work, and family responsibilities somehow are not and can be sacrificed on the altar of service to the brethren. Some may think church members should come before family. I beg to differ. True, family cannot come before God (Jesus taught so - Matthew 10:37) and Paul said when a man marries his focus has to change (I Cor. 7:32-35)....to where a wife and children must become a concern equal to SELF in serving the Lord. But, brethren must never be the cause of me neglecting my family.

God’s attitude about divorce is He Hates it (Malachi 2:16) God’s general rule is divorce should never happen...BUT, God has allowed for a spouse to divorce their mate for fornication...They do not have to divorce and might not for one slip up...but that is a choice they can make...but what about a spouse like Tiger Woods who is having multiple sex partners and its going on for years...when is enough, enough? Does God understand that? You bet. --- Likewise, the apostle Paul says in I Cor. 7:12-15...that a Christian spouse must abide with his or her unbelieving spouse if they are content to do so....but if they are not happy to do so and abandon you, then you are not under bondage in such cases. The Christian is not obligated to follow the unbelieving spouse to all lengths, maybe even engaging in idolatry or some other such thing, making for a relationship. Enough is enough.

* A few misc. passages to wrap up this point..
Romans 1:24, 26, 28...three times it is said, God gives up on people...maybe only temporarily, but He gave them up nonetheless....because of their stubborn wickedness. Even God says, enough is enough. -- This reminds me of a passage in I John 5:16...where we are instructed that if we are aware of a Christian brother sinning...but he is doing so unto death...no need praying for him. It is useless to think God will answer your prayer for that brother to be forgiven or granted life in his unrepentant way. That is enough praying. Enough is enough.

Matthew 7:6 says...do not give what is holy to dogs, nor cast your pearls before swine...lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces. -- In another place Jesus taught that if folks refuse your message of the kingdom, just shake off the dust of your feet and go on to the next town. Enough is enough? Yep.

So, to sum up, is “Enough Is Enough” approved of God? Absolutely. Sometimes it is even commanded. A tough judgment call will have to be made, but yes, sometimes a Christian can tell another, enough is enough.

II) Some Faithful Admonitions

Sometimes this is hardest when it involves a family member. I recall many years ago Ron Middleton related in a Bible class here how that once in his past a cousin had fallen on hard times and needed help. Ron, being the good guy he is, took him in and helped in a number of ways. But, then this cousin’s behavior began to cause a lot of tension in his relationship with his wife, Linda. So that Ron finally had to tell him to leave. Some relatives might threaten the relationship of a husband and wife...that must not be. A husband may have to tell his relatives...even his own parents...enough is enough. This is my house and Dad, you can’t tell me what to do or speak about my wife that way...or whatever. Enough is enough. Parents may have to do the same with a rebellious child...especially if their presence in the home is damaging the other children. It is TOUGH love..but love nonetheless. God drove the original