

rebuke and moving to do what is right. When the standards of God are set for us on an individual and a collective basis, we are at our best! But when we arbitrarily honor some of God's standards and defy others we make life hard on everyone and sow disorder among the *company of His people*.

II, Discussion:

- A. In all conduct: respect the Lord. It is the beginning of knowledge and a vital matter. *When rebuked the king takes it from God (19:2-3) and goes into His duties as king as one who honors the Lord. Note how he instructs the judges of the land (vs 6ff) in the way in which they should fulfill their offices, honoring the Lord. Nothing is too mundane to be done for God, no aspect of life or conduct can be done realistically without honoring Him---for the believer, that is.*
- B. In all dealings, practice integrity. Put together verse 7 and 10 to see how the king makes this a standard for the land. There is no reproach for integrity and truth...there is difficulty with what is done falsely or deceitfully. If you can't get your Sunday School lesson prepared properly....just confess it to the superintendent and pray to do better...don't blame it on the dog or cat!
- C. In all duties: wholeness of heart. You can see this clearly in vss 9 and 11 and you will note how well it ties in with Colossians 3 as Paul exhorts us as to the fact that all we do should be done for the Lord with a complete heart effort. Whatever you may do for the fellowship, do it heartily. If you cannot do it in a hearty manner, it might be better not to do it at all although I have no biblical warrant for that. Put your heart and soul into it without apology or excuse. Your efforts will be rewarded by God and be a rejoicing to the fellowship.

III. Conclusion: The standards of God are honor, integrity, wholeheartedness as I have mentioned in this discussion. There are many other aspects to be seen, of course, but if we "allow" God to set these standards for us in what we have to do, we are off on the right foot! Anything less is a half-hearted Christianity that tends to disappoint everyone.

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