

What Is Important To Me

It is remarkable how capable people are, when they are interested and, therefore, determined to accomplish something. Some people have lifted great weights, or ran long races, or endured great suffering because they counted something as important. Maybe the glory of being the strongest, or winning the race, or pure survival, is able to drive them. Perhaps there are some less extreme things that people count as very important like family or friendships. What is important to you? There has to be something that you care about very deeply, something that you have set your mind on accomplishing. I would hope that at the top of that list would be the salvation of your soul — which is the greatest accomplishment of this life. There are some things that I hold very important and I hope that you would too. Open the Scriptures and consider these thoughts with me.

Family Is Important To Me

Family is a natural born relationship or in some special cases a chosen relationship. Family is supposed to be loving and supportive: With parents who are actually willing to be parents (Ephesians 6:4) and with children who are subject to their parents (Romans 1:28-32; Ephesians 6:1-3).

From my perspective of family, I have a role and must respect it. In my greater family I must be a respectful son. From the ancient Commandments of the Old Covenant (Exodus 20:12) through to our Covenant (Ephesians 6:2-3), God has expected children to respect their parents. The only qualifier for this obedience is found in three words; that are part of the command in Ephesians 6. We are told, “Children obey your parents in the Lord...” This sets the boundary of our obedience to the limits of God’s will, we must not obey parents, or anyone else, in transgressing the will of God.

In my immediate family, I must be a good husband, to my wife. I am instructed to be such, by God (Ephesians 5:25, 28-33). It is incumbent upon me, regardless of what examples I may have seen, to be a good husband (Colossians 3:19). A good father to my children; raising them in their needed developments: their wisdom; stature; in favor with God and men (Luke 2:52). Raising them to be like Jesus, so one day they will be (Ephesians 4:13—“the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”). Raising them with the most essential nutrition: “the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). Family is important to me, how about you?

Friends Are Important To Me

Friends are an important part of this life. As they are supposed to be: supportive (Proverbs 17:17), comforting, and helpful (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10). From my perspective of friends, I have a role and must respect it. Supplying what is best for my friends. Being dependable (Proverbs 18:24); providing when I can (Luke 11:5-8); offering what I would prefer to receive (like we do for our brethren — Romans 12:10); and, seeking to share the gospel (Acts 10:24).

For my friends I supply these, but also expect them in return. The essence of friendship is mutual care — a “one-way road” is not a friendship. Paul’s friends set an example of care in Acts 27:1-3. Epaphroditus also supplied care for his friend Paul (Philippians 2:25-30). Friends are important to me, how about you?

Faith Is Important To Me

Faith is not just an emotional conclusion. So many people base their faith on what they “feel” is right. Feelings are important but they do not trump knowledge. We are told that faith is to be based on knowledge, in Romans 10:17, “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” It is all-important to prove our faith by His word (Ephesians 5:8-10; 2 Timothy 2:15).

From my perspective of faith, I have a role and must respect it. I am personally responsible to seek the needs of my soul. A relationship with my Creator (Acts 17:17; Hebrews 11:6) and a release from the bondage of sin (Romans 6:16-18). I also must search for and find God’s hope: His will, not my own (Matthew 7:21; 26:39); His gospel (Mark 16:15-16; 2 Thessalonians 2:14); and, His one and only way — Jesus (John 14:6).

With something as extremely important as my soul, and with a great concern about eternity, I must verify all that I do in faith: testing all things through the filter of the word (1 Thessalonians 5:21); seeking God’s authority for all that I do (Colossians 3:17); and, following God instructions with diligence (James 1:17-22). Faith is important to me, how about you?

Sometimes we get important things in the wrong place. Some refuse God’s way for their family’s sake. Some allow their friends to distract them from the importance of their soul. Some let their feelings dictate their direction. There is no doubt that I value my family, friends, and faith. But I cannot let my family stand in my way. I cannot let my friends take me away. I cannot let anything other than the proven knowledge of God’s word to show me the way. It is beyond important to avoid separation from God; the hope of Heaven is ours if we will determine to seek it. How about you? Your salvation is far too important to let anything, or anyone, hold you back. There is no excuse good enough to continue avoiding your obedience to God — obey God and embrace true hope right now.

Adapted from T. Sean Sullivan