

Today I thought I'd discuss a few matters about general attitudes that have, at least, been quite important in my own life's experiences.

I think it's good for us to think of what is our purpose as Christians. I've dealt with this in chapel, but would like to recapitulate a little. I think the Lord has ~~zme~~ us here in order to develop us into the sort of people he wants us to be. For that we have a very crucial passage in Gal.5:22ff where reading from NIV:"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." The development of those qualities within each of us I believe, is perhaps the primary purpose of God's keeping us here.

There is also the second purpose which is equally important which is His purpose of using us, and we ourselves become === if he uses us a lot and we ourselves become a castaway that's not fulfilling his purpose for us at all.

But there is also the very important purpose of the service we can render to him. That service is to lead others to know the Lord, and to help others to grow just as He wants us to. So those are the purposes of a Christian being here. If a Christian is not fulfilling those purposes, his life is not accomplishing what it should.

Those should be primary in the life of the Christian. I've been greatly impressed particularly just before we came up here to start the seminary--I was articularly impressed with Eph. 4 with its great stress on the unity of the body of Christ. And the importance of each Christian being interested in the whole of the body of Christ, in every member of the body of Christ, however much we may differ on certain points.

I was thinking also of Gal.6:10 where we read: "Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." It's very common among Christians to get a very narrow attitude as to our fellowship and perhaps as to our ~~z~~ wishes to help other people. It seems often as though the people who are comparatively nearest to each other are the ones who have the -- or the groups that are nearest each other, are the ones that have the greatest antipathy toward each other, much more than they have sometimes toward those who are much further away.

So I was thinking, in a way you can divide people into nine groups. I was thinking of what my attitude has been, I believe, through my life, so far as emphasis and interest is concerned. I would say you have first what is perhaps the largest group in the world-- it is those who would be lazy and self-indulgent. People who have no purpose in life except for their own enjoyment, I say lazy, they are not accomplishing. Enjoyment of the particular minor things they find pleasure in. I have always felt the least interest in that type of person, of any type. But I believe I have always been ready to help such people in any way I could.