

# Priorities

Excerpts of notes from a discussion in a Silicon Valley group of university students and young professionals.

## **The non-Christian's priorities tend to be...**

1. Leave home (independence), finish school and choose the right career (one that pays well, has potential for advancement, and is fun and exciting).
2. Accumulate wealth.
3. Marry the right person. (This process involves either trial-and-error dating and/or a series of sexual partners.)
4. Raise children properly.
5. Go to church and/or get involved in community when there's time, and usually for the purpose of self-improvement or enhanced social status.
6. Retire, get old, die and, presumably, cease existing.

Non-believers often fail to anticipate divorce, ill health, bad news, job loss, economic problems, or disasters. This leads to a sense of emptiness when the goals above are not reached... and even when they are. Each generation has its own *zeitgeist* (spirit of the age), which is opposed to God and *His* purposes for mankind.

*1 John 2:15-17*

## **The Christian's priorities should look more like...**

1. Know God better every day through personal time with Him in the Word.
2. Develop a good prayer life.
3. Be unconditionally available to God for the work of His kingdom and use the spiritual gifts He has given. This requires daily self-denial. (*John 12:24-26*)
4. Maintain fellowship with other believers.
5. Act as salt and light in the world. (*Matthew 5:13-16; 2 Corinthians 2:14-16*)
6. Love God with all one's heart and mind and soul and strength, and love one's neighbour as oneself.

The Christian's battle is a spiritual one. Everything achieved by self effort will be burned up. Only the things Jesus has been allowed to do through the believer will endure.

*Ephesians 6:10-12*

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