

**General Topics :: Family situation**

**Family situation - posted by MaryJane, on: 2010/6/14 16:14**

Some who know me know that last August my dad passed away. There were no services at the time of his death because he had a special request that his ashes be spread out over a favorite spot of his along the coast and it took some time to get things worked out. Anyway I my brother and sister let me know that the services will be soon and that they want me to come along with my boys. I found out that a Catholic priest will be speaking, offering prayer and give a blessing for the deceased or something. I have decided not to attend because I do not support the RCC and do not want to take part with what is planned. This has caused some troubles with my siblings because they are saying I am unwilling to honor my dad and his last wishes. I feel like in this case it better for me to follow what the Lord is showing me then to attend a Catholic service. Just wondering what others thoughts are about this? Anyone else been in this situation?

God Bless  
mj

**Re: Family situation - posted by LoveGodsWay2, on: 2010/6/14 16:36**

I am a former catholic. The Lord saved me 16 years ago. But I have to deal with catholic family members and it can be difficult.

Some questions to think about: Why do you think attending this service will support RCC? Have you or can you use this as an opportunity to testified to the true gospel?

**Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2010/6/14 17:31**

Thanks for the reply. Its not that I think it would support the RCC its more I have no desire to sit under that kind of speaking, sharing and I do not want my family around it either. Sorry for not being a bit more clear about that. Sadly no there would be zero chances of sharing with anyone of my siblings at this service. They have all made there wishes known and clear. They are closed off completely. I was thinking about what my older brother said about how I should honor my dad s dying wishes and him saying I was dishonoring my dad if I don't come. Not seeing this as a way of dishonoring my dad . Not really sure I could do that since he is passed away???

Thanks  
God Bless  
mj

**Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2010/6/14 18:10**

MaryJane,

Excellent advice from LoveGodsWay2 and being he was a former catholic.

Do we really think that all the sinners Jesus sat to eat and drink with were saved?

If Jesus had of isolated Himself from sinners and religious leaders during his day because He disagreed with them would some of them still have been saved?

Is staying away from sinners the same as staying away from sin?

Do we have to stay away from people who are wrong to prove we are more right?

Is it more pleasing to the Lord to stay away from people who are wrong on every occasion than it is to endure some things on a few occasions to strive peacefully to show your faith in hoping to witness the true gospel of Christ?

Should we be always walking away from the darkness instead of turning our light on in the midst of the darkness that we encounter?

Some occasions will only come once in a life time and what ever decision we make will be the one that we will have to live with.

May God bless you in your decision.

Blessings to you!

**Re: , on: 2010/6/14 18:55**

Go to the memorial service.

Be open to any opportunity to honor Christ... in this case, as you honor your father.

Some sow,  
some water,  
but God gives the increase.

Phileo,  
Gregg

p.s. My girls currently attend a catholic school per one flesh -(us, their parents) decision, and rather than folding, they are at the top of their classes, managing to earn scholarships through scholastics, so that tuition and nearly everything else is covered.

Now, we both know that is not what is most important though, right?

Other parents have come and talked with me about my daughters' witness... and this has developed room for amenable conversation with those who cling to the HRRC as their salvation.

These daughters have kept teachers in check and the nuns who teach religion. i was clueless about this til i ended up being called to conference after conference with instructors, because, as they say, " Your girls are destroying the other children's faith."

In conference, it came to be realized that it's not really the children questioning, but the instructors and leaders who have doubts about this belief system compared to what the scriptures say that is contrary to it.

It's prayed that more deceived parents, children, instructors, and ritualists will all realize before it's too late that it's God's way or perish.

EDITED:

rere-edited because editorial editing edited has been edited. After it was re-edited, it was re-edited again.

**Re: Family situation - posted by Lysa (), on: 2010/6/14 19:09**

MJ,

sometimes we gag at a knot and swallow a camel in trying to keep to our beliefs but the greater call is love. You cannot show love of Jesus towards these people if you are not there.

My dad had to have two funerals when he died! He became Catholic to marry his second wife but three months before he died he was born again in the hospital! He told his wife, "Do what you feel you need to do but I want a Christian burial." We had his Christian burial and I was appalled at the preacher who dismissed Catholics right in front of daddy's Catholic.

olic family.

So we load daddy up and take him to the Catholic church for the funeral there, now let me share with you that there was more love in that priest's words than there were in the preacher's words. They night before, they asked me if I wanted to say something during the funeral and I said, "yes, that verse "we look through a glass darkly,"" the priest knew the verse better than I did and formed the whole service around that verse and others.

All I'm trying to say, MaryJane is that there is love that is LONGER than the length of a day and an understanding that goes way beyond our doctrinal beliefs that effect people to their marrow by the power of the Spirit. That's what I desire from the Lord. I want to be His hands and feet to whomever, what religion-ever and where-ever. We tell Jesus, "We'll go where you send us, Lord;" thinking it will be around the world but what about going to where we don't want to go? I'm just saying... it's goes way deeper than them just being "Catholic."

God bless you in your decision,

**Re: - posted by rainydaygirl, on: 2010/6/14 19:29**

Mj

I have not posted in a long time but I read what you shared and even though I will most likely be the only one to say this, do not attend this service if you feel the Lord leading you not to. Put it to prayer with your husband and ask God what His will is for you in this situation. Don't assume just because it seems like the right thing to do that it is God's heart or desire for you. You are not dishonoring your dad if you do not go. God comes first no matter what family thinks or tells us. This is not a doctrine issue this is a submission issue pure and simple.

much love to you sister  
rdg

**Re: Family situation - posted by mguldner (), on: 2010/6/14 19:49**

This would be a tough one, my gut instinct is No for a number of reasons but there is definitely wisdom from the other posts and I hope to convey some small grain of wisdom as well. My head pastor is a former catholic and has many Catholic brothers and sisters even has an uncle that is a priest. His dad recently died a while back and he went to the funeral, he said he saw through the service and the priest spoke truth other than their errors of doctrines like praying to Mary. Most if not all of his brothers and sisters are closed off to the gospel message because of his past attempts but from the death of his father his mother is actually now open. Something happens when someone passes away the heart is naturally soften to receive it seems for those in deep grief probably why those that Mourn are Blessed. :)

If you are worried about your boys then I would go by yourself if that is an option. Oddly enough my dad just got into a huge argument with my aunt and mom about Memorial day, they have both hardened their hearts because they lost both their father and mother but their step mother is still alive but they want nothing to do with her. They were placing flowers on my grandpa's grave when my aunt said "Dad should have the most flowers on his grave" and my dad said "Why?" She said because he had six kids. This all ran into the big argument of why do we place flowers on a graveside when the person isn't alive nor doesn't really care about the flowers especially when there is an unsaved step mother that is completely shut off.

Not going I don't think would be dishonoring for father, but not going definitely closes any door for ministry to your brother and sister as they would harden their hearts even more toward not only you but Christ Jesus since one of your main reasons for not going is religious dispute. I would definitely be in prayer about the whole thing and ask God if you do go to use you as a faithful witness of His Love for His Glory. I will pray for you Sis I hope that you are obedient to the Holy Spirit either way.

God Bless,  
Matthew

**Re: - posted by Richard365, on: 2010/6/14 20:13**

WWJD? Simple as that. All the others who spoke of love being the greatest reason to go are right. So what if the Priest says something you don't agree with. You aren't there for yourself...but for family. Don't help drive a wedge between your family. Go and humble yourself to your family. Maybe this is hard to hear, but maybe you should apologize to your family and show a true humble example of Christlikeness. That in itself may show a glimpse of Christ that they've never seen before. And may your heart not be hardened to what your fellow brothers and sisters have said.

God Bless...

**Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2010/6/14 23:18**

Thank you for the responses to my post. I really appreciate you all taking the time to share what the Lord has placed on your heart. I spent time with my husband in prayer and we both feel the Lord leading me not to go. I feel going would be a compromise for me and I know my mother would see it that way, it would give her a false hope that I am returning to the RCC. She would take it that way and I don't want to do anything that would make her believe that. My husband also feels strongly sense there is a plan to give a special prayer and blessing for the dead(my dad) that my children should not be exposed to that and I agree with him.

I do understand what some of you have shared about being a witness but as I said that is not a possibility, in the "very limited" contact my siblings are willing to have with me they have all made this very clear.

Thank you again for sharing with me.

God Bless  
mj

**Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2010/6/15 0:18**

If the Lord is leading you, follow the Lord.

Blessings on what ever you decide sister.

**Re: , on: 2010/6/15 0:29**

Maryjane, you wrote.....

"Sadly no there would be zero chances of sharing with anyone of my siblings at this service. They have all made their wishes known and clear. They are closed off completely. "

Well sister, I have to disagree with that :) There is nothing impossible with God and He can reach hearts that seem completely closed off. What you should never do is violate your conscience. If you search your heart and you can honestly say that it has nothing to do with the complexity and possible unpleasantness of the situation, then that is good.

I was raised a Catholic and know the troubles it can cause, especially when it comes to rituals. Take First Holy Communion and Baptisms for instance, I personally would never attend such events for some of the reasons that you stated. I have attended Catholic marriages of friends. I also attended the marriage of an Episcopalean friend but stayed in my seat when it came to communion. Amazingly, out of that large crowd she noticed this and did not speak to me for about six months, which of course is her prerogative :) There is a price to pay for the truth.

Let your heart be pure before the Lord sister and walk in the peace that comes from walking in His will. He will lead and guide you and also convict you when He will. I pray that the lies of Catholicism would be crushed in the hearts of your family members and I pray that you would indeed get opportunity to share about the reality of actually knowing Jesus. I pray also that you would be a living epistle that your family can read and that everytime they look at you, they see Jesus....  
...Frank

**Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2010/6/15 1:07**

Quote:  
-----"Sadly no there would be zero chances of sharing with anyone of my siblings at this service. They have all made there wishes know n and clear. They are closed off completely. " Well sister, I have to disagree with that :)  
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You are right of course. God can change a heart. When I was writing that I was thinking about my dad, he held on to his faith and trust in the RCC right up until he died. He never did see his need for Jesus all his hope was in the church and t he deception he had always held to. I still pray for my mom though. I pray for my brothers and my sister but I should clea r up that I have next to no contact with most of them. They stopped talking to me years ago. My oldest brother who is arr anging this whole thing has not even spoken to me in over ten years. This correspondence is the first I have heard from him and his plans and wishes he made very clear.

You are correct in saying that there are a lot of complexities in this situation but none of those issues is keeping me from going. I simply feel I need to walk in what the Lord has shown me this evening.

God bless you  
mj

**Re: Honour your father, on: 2010/6/15 4:12**

Will not going bring honour to him for the fact of being your father?

**Re: - posted by rainydaygirl, on: 2010/6/15 10:31**

Quote:  
-----Will not going bring honour to him for the fact of being your father?  
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I don't see how not going dishonors him? I also don't see that you can honor or dishonor a person who is already passe d away. The definition below states that to honor a person is showing them respect how can you show respect or not sh ow respect to someone who is no longer living? This just does not make sense to me. Its not like the person who has pa ssed away can receive or acknowledge being shown respect or honor?? Honestly this idea that MJ would somehow be dishonoring her dad by not going sounds like a tactic used to make her feel guilty. Just not seeing it I guess???

honor, honÂ-ored, honÂ-orÂ-ing, honÂ-ors  
1.  
a. To hold in respect; esteem.  
b. To show respect for or to.

**Re: , on: 2010/6/15 10:52**

I had plenty of reasons to stay away from my mothers` funeral but I went because I did not want her to be the subject of gossiping. For the same reason I remained in contact with her through her life though it would have been much better for me not to. I`m not trying to make you feel guilty, just pointing something out that may occur to you when it is too late.

**Re: Family situation - posted by learn (), on: 2010/6/15 10:55**

My advise would be to ask you to pray and see what God wants you to do.

There may/may not be a chance for you to witness there--only God knows and He decides. If God doesn't want you to go but you go because of advise to show love to others, to honor your father and there may be a possibility for you to witness to them--will that be right in God's eyes. No. Will you succeed in what you hope to do. Most likely no as it's not what God wants you to do. Most likely the opposite will happen.

And vice versa.

This case is not as clear cut as some others (eg: should one go to an occult event--which answer is clearly no) and is a major thing.

As for my family's case, my sister did not attend my grandmother's burial because the rites were done in another religion. However, whether it's because that's what she felt God ask her to do, I do not know.

Edit to include: God can use both situations to His glory ie God can use your going for His glory. Similarly God can use your not going for His glory also. We should not limit God on what he can do when we do not go just because we can't think of what good it can do. I personally can think of a few. One was that when my sister did not go--it gave me an idea that she was certainly serious in her faith and that's 1 of the things that I respect about her (now that I am a Christian and I am recalling that situation). This could very likely happen to one of your family members also. And maybe when they are in a bind or want to learn about Christianity, they may just look you up because they have more confidence that you are a real Christian and walk the talk.

So, my sister pray--pour out your confusion, your uncertainties and ask God to tell you what He wants you to do. Not what you want to do or what you hope to achieve if you are going/not going. I will say a prayer for you too.

**Re: - posted by rainydaygirl, on: 2010/6/15 11:35**

Quote:

-----I'm not trying to make you feel guilty, just pointing something out that may occur to you when it is too late.

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Krautfrau

I did not mean to imply that you personally were trying to make Mary Jane feel guilty I was referring to her family members. I think she mentioned her brother said something about this not honoring her dad if she doesn't go.

I only commented because I don't see how you can dishonor a person who is no longer living??

rdg

**Re: , on: 2010/6/15 11:53**

You can bring dishonour to a person's reputation after they are gone.

**Re: - posted by learn (), on: 2010/6/15 12:13**

Krautfrau's quote : You can bring dishonour to a person's reputation after they are gone.

Krautfrau,

We need to take this up in prayer and do what God wants us to do, not what we think will happen if we do not go.

Luke 14:26

"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--he cannot be my disciple

If it so happens that God doesn't want her to go for reasons that we are unable to understand now, will not God also honor her. Will God allow her father's reputation to be dishonoured. No. Maybe in the short term, there may be some pain etc, but in the long term, God will honor those who honor his wishes.

**Re: , on: 2010/6/15 12:42**

Hey Maryjane. Is there any significance in the fact that your brother has not contacted you for over 10 years and now has? Just wondering. My dad does not go to any Catholic events what-so-ever, although he did go to his mother's funeral, but very reluctantly. The problem I see with my dad though is that he is extremely bitter against the Catholic church because they lied to him. He was born-again at the age of 49. The real problem for me about my father is that all anyone sees is his anger, it's sad.

I just wanted you to know that I understand the complexities of your situation.

I was born a Catholic, Catholic education, Catholic community in Scotland. Although, praise the Lord, my mother was born-again when I was 7. So I was raised by a drunk, non-practising Catholic father and a wonderful born-again mother. The parish priest used to come up to our house every Friday night supposedly to talk to my dad, but of course it does not take a rocket scientist to figure out where an alcoholic would be on a Friday night.

So he would talk to my mother at length about Christianity. He was fascinated by someone claiming to actually know Jesus. My poor grandma went to mass seven days a week. My mother would witness to her mother-in-law all the time and of course my mother's life was a witness of the reality of Jesus. A few years before she died she almost had what they thought was a nervous breakdown. She was extremely distraught and kept telling people that her sins had helped crucify Jesus. My mother gently explained to her that this was true but that there was mercy to be found at the cross if she would surrender her life to Jesus and that she would find her peace in Him. The very next day the family had her committed. The next time my mom saw her, she told her that she "had made her decision." My grandmother chose the Catholic church and died in her sin.

The Catholic church has fooled countless millions over the centuries. Catholics are a rich harvest field but can be very difficult to share the Gospel with. It takes much wisdom and love and patience from the Lord, especially when it comes to families.....brother Frank

**Re: - posted by rainydaygirl, on: 2010/6/15 12:43**

Quote:  
----- If it so happens that God doesn't want her to go for reasons that we are unable to understand now, will not God also honour her. Will God allow her father's reputation to be dishonoured. No. Maybe in the short term, there may be some pain etc, but in the long term, God will honor those who honor his wishes.  
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I agree completely. Trust in the Lord and the leading He has for you.

rdg

**Re: , on: 2010/6/15 12:44**

Learn

God has already said His will. Of course He might say differently in certain circumstances and that is what should be sought.

**Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2010/6/15 16:25**

Frank you wrote:

Quote:  
-----Is there any significance in the fact that your brother has not contacted you for over 10 years and now has? Just wondering.  
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My brother stopped talking to me years ago, even before this last spell of ten years. My oldest brother made a promise to my dad and I am sure he wants to keep that promise so he is attempting to bring all the children together for this service. My dad died last August in 09 and I did not hear from my brother at that time so I do not think that there is any desire on his part to reconnect. Even his email made it clear what he is hoping to accomplish in having us all come for this service and spreading of my dad's ashes. This is my brother's way to fulfill a promise he made to my dad.

Thank you for sharing with me.

God Bless  
maryjane