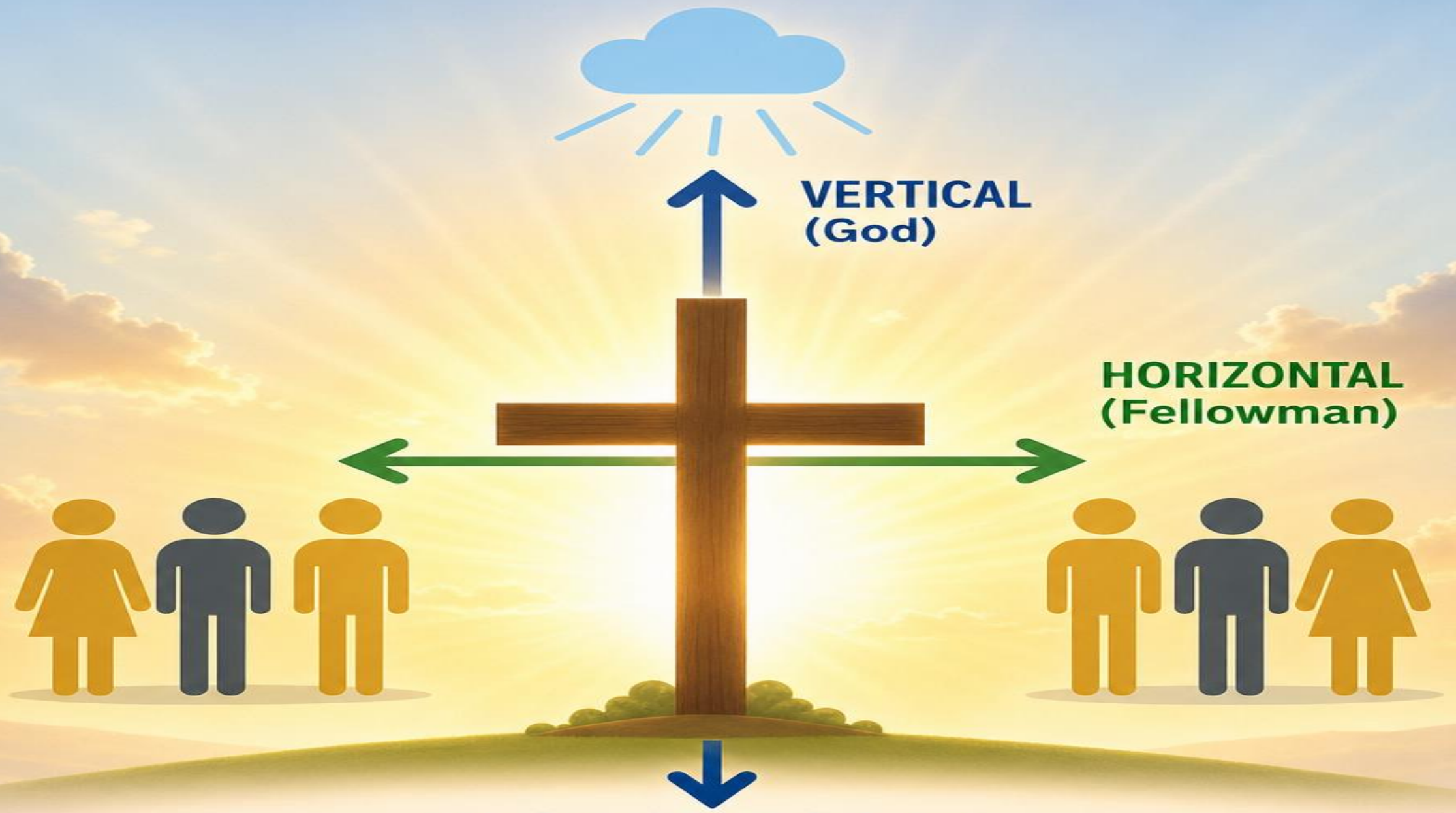


Blessed *by* Involvement



Consequences of Apathy

- **Isaiah 57:1** - The righteous perishes,
And no man takes *it* to heart;
Merciful men *are* taken away,
While no one considers
That the righteous is taken away from evil.
 1. A lack of involvement
 2. A lack of attention given
 3. A lack of caring and concern demonstrated
 4. A lack of effort to remedy the situation



**Relationships:
Vertical (God) and Horizontal (Fellowman)**

Jesus Said About Involvement

Matthew 25:41-46 - “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

⁴⁴ “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ ⁴⁵ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Rich Man and Lazarus

- **Luke 16:19-31**

- 3 Facts

1. Two men lived.

2. Two men died.

- 3 The situation of those two men in the next life was exactly the opposite of what it had been in this life.

REAL Involvement – Good Samaritan

Luke 10:30-37 - Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among  thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. ³³ But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ So he went to *him* and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave *them* to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’ ³⁶ So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?”

³⁷ And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.”

Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

REAL Involvement – Good Samaritan

- **A LEVITE**

1. Priests were Levites . . . But not all Levites were priests.
2. Descendants of the Levite family of Aaron could be priests.
3. Descendants of other Levite families could be assistants to the priests, taking care of the Tabernacle and Temple as well as performing other duties.

- **A PRIEST**

REAL Involvement – Good Samaritan

- **THE SAMARITAN**

1. Immediately he stopped and began administering first aid to the poor man.
2. He put the man on his donkey and transported him to a nearby inn and told the keeper, “Whatever it costs. You take care of him and I will pay you when I get back”

- **The Samaritan became involved.**

The Words of Jesus

- **Matthew 25:40** - And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.'

How Do You See An Opportunity for Involvement?

The **Robber** Sees An Object To **Abuse** - 10:30

The **Religious** Sees An Obstacle To **Avoid** - 10:31,32

The **Righteous** Sees An Opportunity To **Aid** - 10:33-35

Why Are People Reluctant to be Involved?

1. **FEAR** – Paralyzing Fear
2. **SELFISHNESS**...Why Should I Get Involved?
3. **INDIFFERENCE**....Apathy

Selfishness is Not Christianity

- **John 3:16-17** - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
- **Romans 5:8** - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- **Galatians 2:20** - I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Get Involved – Follow in the Steps of Jesus

- **1 Peter 2:21** - For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps

Biblical Attitudes of Involvement

- **1 Samuel 3:9** - ‘Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.’
- **Isaiah 6:8:**

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:

“Whom shall I send,
And who will go for Us?”

Then I said, “Here *am* I! Send me.”

The Greatest Commandments

- **Mark 12:29-31** - Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments *is*: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.’³⁰ And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This *is* the first commandment.³¹ And the second, like *it*, *is* this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”