

## *Smoky Mountain Reflections #159*

I'm too busy!! We have all said it and heard it said to us, but if we are too busy, who is to blame? Is it ok to be too busy? And what is our motive for saying we are too busy?

This is a beautiful time of year and it is also a very busy time of year. Graduations, confirmations, spring breaks, and everyone is rushing to get everything done before summer starts because they want to have time to relax and enjoy all those summer activities that fill these sunny warm months of our lives.

Clearly if we are too busy it is our own doing. We make time for the things that are important to us. You cannot be at more than one place at a time, so that means sometimes you have to say "sorry I will not be there" even though you would really like to be. We are just too busy!!! I would like to suggest the following priority list when deciding what to put on your calendar. 1. God 2. Family 3. Friends 4. everybody and everything else. You do not have to put yourself on the list because we are already combating selfishness enough as it is. Besides if you get the first three right, God, your family, and friends will make sure you take care of yourself.

If Item 4 is getting all your time, i.e. extracurricular activities, too much rest is laziness, too much TV, video games, or web surfing, is sloth. And anything from category 4 at the cost of category 1 & 2 is not just poor stewardship it is a violation of your responsibility to love God and your neighbor.

You may be saying 'what about work'? We have to work, why is that not on the list? Your responsibility to God and family requires that you provide the resources and services that are in keeping with your vocation. If you are a child, school and chores are part of your vocation, if you are a parent and spouse then work that provides the resources and services and necessities to nurture and raise children and care for your spouse are part of your vocation. How those responsibilities are distributed are for each family to figure out. Each family unit has a responsibility to be an active, regular (weekly) part of our church family and each of us must do our part as part of that family as well.

I would say that on the surface it is not OK to be too busy, unless you define too busy as a well-balanced daily and weekly routine that has adequate time allotted for everything in accord with its place on the priority list and our season in life. Children must give much time to learning and growing so they can become productive members of society. Young parents must give much time to nurturing, caring and teaching. In our middle aged years we must give much time to serving, teaching, leading and encouraging. In our so called golden years we should spend our time advising, guiding and inspiring. Prayer, worship and fellowship need to be the glue that connects all these responsibilities together into a life well lived.

If we are saying we are too busy to avoid the things we should do in accord with our vocation, in order to give that time to things which are lower on the priority list, then we should ask God to help us keep our priorities in accord with his will. Time management is no easy task but if we do not manage our time .....it will manage us.

In Christ  
Pastor Portier