

Indifference and Ingratitude

"For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?" I Corinthians 4:7

Although the words "indifference" and "ingratitude" differ, they are closely related. People can be ungrateful for what God has done to them, and they are not indifferent about it, but indifference regarding what God has done is an expression of ingratitude. The Apostle Paul reminds his readers that ingratitude is the fountain from which sin flows.¹

The fact that God makes people "differ from one another" and unequally distributes His resources to people can easily cause you to conclude that life is intrinsically unfair. The solution to this inequality is to redistribute the common good to the common man. Government's job is to take wealth from the fortunate and give it to the less fortunate. This in turn creates an environment of envy and entitlement; you resent the disparity of wealth and conclude that you are entitled to have as much as everyone else. Entitlement is the enemy of gratitude.

God created life in such a way that people differ in ability, opportunity, time, and circumstances – in order to keep them dependent upon Him. The Savior wants His people to be generous with what He has given them. When the government takes your wealth and gives it to others, you are robbed of your ability to be generous. When others live off of what has been taken from you, they quickly conclude that they are entitled to it and resent the government refusing to provide for them.

Never conclude that you are entitled to anything in life (either with God or with people), and resist the temptation to create an environment in which others are entitled to anything – lest you inadvertently promote ingratitude and indifference in your own life, as well as in the lives of others.

¹Cf. Romans 1:21