

August 4, 2018
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The Serious Consequences of
“Compartmentalization” - Judges 8:22-57

Gideon is listed among the men of faith in Hebrews 11 who led in conquests and were involved in acts of righteousness as leaders in Israel. Yet as the story continues in Judges 8 and 9, we are reminded he was a mere man who like all of us struggled with the sin nature. His life demonstrates the tragic consequences of a compartmentalized life.

I. The NATURE of the compartmentalized life.

A. Faith is EVIDENT in some arenas, Judges 6:24-27; 34; 7:8,15; 8:23.

B. Faith is LACKING in other arenas, Judges 8:24-27; 29-31.

II. The CONSEQUENCES of the compartmentalized life.

A. DEPARTURE from faithfulness, Judges 8:27; 33-35.

B. DYSFUNCTION and DISCORD in the family and beyond, Judges 8:29-32; 9:1-57.

Ultimately Gideon the man of faith is the story of a lost legacy. Unfortunately, it is a story repeated in our day as men and women of faith end up doing foolish things in disobedience to God, leaving a wake of damage to the emotional and spiritual lives of those they influence. How does it happen? It happens when there are aspects of our lives we fail to bring under the rule of Jesus. Avoid the tragic consequences of such compartmentalization that are sure to come. Be warned and take whatever steps necessary to bring every “compartment” of your life under Jesus’ lordship!



Talk openly about how your faith influences the various aspects of your life, from your work to your social relationships, your grocery shopping to your choices in entertainment, decisions about finances and use of time, and the values you hold to as an individual

and family. Discuss: Is your Christian faith a Sunday activity, or the foundation and center of your life as an individual and as a family?

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

- Gideon is recognized in Hebrews 11 as a man of faith, despite the obvious failure to remain faithful in every “compartment” of his life.
 - Does this suggest anything about the attitude we should have and demonstrate toward people who are found to fail in some aspect of their life?
 - Review 2 Samuel 11 and 12. What seemed to be missing in Gideon’s life that was a great advantage to David in a time of such failure?
 - What do we need to be certain we have in place to keep one another “on track” with God?
 - Judges 8:32-33 would seem to imply that Gideon was honored and remained a positive influence in some measure as long as he lived.
 - Is there a perfect leader?
 - What is the responsibility of the “crowd” being led—what do you see in Judges 8:27 and 8:34-35 that was not the fault of Gideon?
 - The story of Gideon’s family dysfunction has parallels in the life of Abraham, and Jacob, and David...
 - What impact do these stories have on how you view God’s narrow-minded approach to marriage and family, as seen in Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:1-12; 1 Corinthians 7; etc.?
 - Have you come to the realization that God’s rules, His Law and the principles He gives for living, are for our good?
 - What other evidence can you use to demonstrate that in the law as well as in grace God is good, and has man’s best interest in mind?
- NEXT WEEK:** Judges 10:1-5, 12:8-15 – Remembered for what?