

What does the term “bottom line” mean? Well, it’s a popular way to refer to a accounting concept in business. The “bottom line” reveals if a business is failing or succeeding. When all expenses and loses are subtracted from all assets and income, you have the bottom line. It answers the questions: “Did the business show profit?” if the business showed profit, then it is deemed a success. The bottom line declares the strength and success of the business because in business...success is determined by profit.

What about the “bottom line” in Christianity—in your spiritual life? If we used the “bottom line” concept to evaluate success in our Christian living, what would be our “bottom line”? The answer to that question is far too important to just give a “run of the mill” answer. The answer is not found in what we think is right, or what we regard as conformity, or the proper religious habits. The answer must come from God. John 3:16 clearly states that God loved the world and sent His Son for the world. It is through that love of God that and the sacrifice of His Son that we live each day with blessed hope. It is that hope that lives within the child of God that spurs us on to love God and seek Him first in all we do. The Corinthian letter written by Paul in chapter 13, tells us that love, the love of God, never fails. And that reader is the “bottom line”.

If you were to have a conversation with God, how would it go considering the “bottom line” concept? Would it go like this: God asks the question—“Why do you consider yourself to be a godly Christian?” You answer—“I never worshipped in a church building without the right name on it; I always was there for the Lord’s Supper; Attendance was very important to me; I object to the use of instrumental music in worship; I always took a strong stand for doing things the traditional way; The “bottom line” is—I always stood for things that were important to you God.” Now it was God’s turn to ask the questions: “Was your marriage sustained by love?” “Did you show your children love and teach them how to love?” Did you promote and develop love in the congregation?”

Then it becomes very clear to you...The “bottom line”...is LOVE. You see reader the congregation here at New Johnsonville has the opportunity to grow and work as never has before in its history. The opportunities before us are incredible. We can grab those opportunities only if we learn how to love as never before. That love that is God’s “bottom line”—that love—is the “bottom line” of successful Christian living. It is that love that will guide us in the pathway which God has laid before us.

I want to encourage each of you to love God like you’ve never loved Him before. When that happens and we move in the direction God has appointed—we will grow, we will flourish, we will be that light set upon a hill that never grows dim and is never extinguished. When we put God first, He will give us the increase. May God bless you and keep you as we work together to broaden the borders of His kingdom.

In Christ,

Joe Rhodes