

Fire Pit Topic: Deference -The Lost Art of a Noble Man

March 2018

Definition: The willingness to limit my freedom or liberty in order not to offend the preferences or choices of others. The lost art of preferring others.

Why would we call it the lost art of a noble man? Suggestion: Because, in our culture, a strong man is usually seen as someone who demands his rights and freedoms above all else. A man of nobility may chose to limit his own rights for the sake of others or for a greater goal.

Fire Pit Discussion:

1. Talk about the definition and try to illustrate the concept.
2. Historical illustration: In the 2011 Baseball World Series, the national league team had to use a designated hitter when they played in the American league team's home park. One of the star players from the NL team, volunteered to be the designated hitter, giving up his field position to another team member, when he could have demanded his earned right. This demonstration of deference proved to be beneficial to the team as he was instrumental in securing specific game win that lead ultimately to the World Series Championship.
3. References in the Bible
 - a. I Corinthians 8: 1- 13 (Focus on verse 9 - Do not let your freedom cause others to stumble)
 - b. I Corinthians 9: 1- 27 (Paul gives up his right to get paid to preach)
 - c. Matthew 6: 33 I must always defer to the Kingdom of God. It is my chief aim, not my personal rights or liberties.
4. Illustrated in the life of Jesus
 - a. Philippians 2: 1- 11 (Here Paul speaks of how Jesus limited Himself in order to accomplish His Father's purposes and our salvation.) Look carefully at verses 6-8.
5. Application: Am I willing to practice deference in regard to some of my personal rights and liberties, for a higher cause and purpose- the Kingdom of God? This does not mean being a "doormat", but it does mean living in a way that prefers others. Romans 12: 10 (Honor each other).