

# THE LEXIA EDIFIER

**ROMANS 14:19 ...Let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.**

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2013**

## **SINCERITY=BIBLICAL AUTHORITY**

**Jim Stauffer**

The concept of sincerity is that of purity. Something that is unadulterated. The fact that one may participate in religious activity zealously does not necessarily equate to sincerity.

As children of God we are to *“long for the sincere milk, which is without guile that we may grow thereby unto salvation.”* (1 Pet. 2:2) No amount of zeal or religious fervor will compensate for a message that is not the sincere or pure milk of the word of God.

God has always abhorred worship that was designed for the pleasure and convenience of the worshiper rather than in obedience to His request. Amos decries this practice in his day. **Amos 4:4** *Come to Beth-el, and transgress; to Gilgal, and multiply transgression; and bring your sacrifices every morning, and your tithes every three days; 5 and offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving of that which is leavened, and proclaim freewill-offerings and publish them: for this pleaseth you, O ye children of Israel, saith the Lord Jehovah. 6 And I also have given you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and want*

*of bread in all your places; yet have ye not returned unto me, saith Jehovah.*

When men presume to please God with much worship rather than sincere worship that is in obedience to His commands, it generally ends with ornate buildings, elaborate undertakings that show a great pretense of piety and devotion. The problem with this is the lack of compliance with God's word. Most or all of the elegant trappings or pious ceremonies are filled with worship God has not authorized. Hosea describes it this way, **Hos. 6:6** *For I desire goodness, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt-offerings.*

It is easy for man to take the simple command to worship in song and turn it into a performance at which all men would marvel. The problem is God commanded men to sing and make melody in their hearts to the Lord. **(Eph. 5:19)** No part of the command to worship in song authorizes instrumental music or professional training. These things do not enhance the worship, they bring disobedience to his command.

"God is a Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth." (John 4:24) It is failure on our part when we try to embellish the spirit aspect at the expense of the truth.

At each and every discussion of God's word men will profess to being led by it only to immediately defend religious practices that are not authorized by God.

The denominational pastoral system of oversight by one man is directly opposed to Biblical authority. It is clear from every reference in Scripture that pastors, elders or bishops must be a plurality in a local congregation. (1 Tim. 3 & Titus 1) If God's authority is to be obeyed why is this not changed to comply?

The New Testament church observed the Lord's Supper and contributed of their means on the first day of every week. (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1,2) If God's authority is to be obeyed why is this not changed to comply?

God has always denied man the right to change or alter His word either by addition or subtraction. (Deut. 4:1,2; 2 John 9)

Will you pattern your life of obedience after these words by the Apostle Paul? If not, why not? Gal. 1:10 *For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? or am I striving to please men? if I were still pleasing men, I should not be a servant of Christ.*

## Dead Flies And Folly

Character is the attribute or feature that makes up and distinguishes an individual. The character of a man is found in who he is and how he is perceived by others and by God. Noah was a man of upright character when the Lord said of him, "Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations." (Genesis 6:9) The reason for Noah's character was that he walked with God. Joseph had a sterling character even though he was taken captive into a foreign land, he still sought to serve God. "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9)

Paul commended Timothy to the church at Philippi when he said concerning Timothy: "For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their

own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel." (Philippians 2:20-22) Dorcas was a woman of great character as in her death, her life spoke of the wonderful deeds she did for others. (Acts 9:39)

Solomon wrote about character in his study of life as found in the book of Ecclesiastes. Wisdom is shown to be of greater value than foolishness and strength of armies.

*"There was a little city with few men in it; and a great king came against it, besieged it, and built great snares around it. Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that same poor man. Then I said: Wisdom is better than strength. Nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard. Words of the wise, spoken quietly, should be heard rather than the shout of a ruler of fools. Wisdom is better than weapons of war; but one sinner destroys much good."* (9:14-18)

The word "wisdom" is found more than 75 times in the Proverbs and the book of Ecclesiastes.

The wisdom literature is replete with admonitions to seek after wisdom from God.

*"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."* (Proverbs 1:7)

Folly can destroy wisdom. Folly is foolishness and will destroy all the good accomplished by wisdom. "Understanding is a wellspring of life to him who has it. But the correction of fools is folly." (Proverbs 16:22) Solomon follows up his observation of wisdom in Ecclesiastes 9 with the result of wisdom tempered by folly. "Dead flies putrefy the perfumer's ointment, and cause it to give off a foul odor; so does a little folly to one respected for wisdom and honor." (10:1) The swarms of flies prevalent in the land would very soon destroy the worthiness of anything left uncovered. Such is folly to wisdom.

The character of a man must endure the temptations that attack it each day. While it takes a lifetime to establish a good name, a moment's reckless folly will destroy it in a single blow. The worth of costly perfume can be ruined in a moment and the greatest feast can be destroyed if the flies of folly are allowed to

swarm over the good character of the child of God. Jesus said, *"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."* (Matthew 5:13-16)

Our character should not be overwhelmed with flies. Live in such a way that you present yourself a sweet-smelling aroma. (2 Corinthians 2:15)

**By Kent E. Heaton Sr.**

### **Detraction**

A great man hath said, "There is no readier way for a man to bring his own worth into question than by endeavoring to detract from the worth of other men." No truer statement was ever made than that. And yet, some men in the church, when they have developed a dislike for another, spend their time in no other way than going about seeking to detract from his worth in the minds of the brethren. Such detraction only proves the weakness as well as the meanness of the one who employs it, and no one will long be fooled as to his motives.

Sometimes men will even sacrifice the church itself in their efforts to discredit another. They are so blinded by their feelings that success becomes failure, and that which is straight looks crooked to them; they literally forget even the truth in their effort to put themselves forward, and in their efforts would destroy that for which they profess their greatest devotion.

Such men are pitiable because, in the providence of God, they are doomed to failure before they start and, in their folly, they destroy themselves instead of establishing themselves as they had hoped to do. Surely to be constantly carping at another, seeking for and exaggerating petty blemishes in his character, real or imaginative, putting an unfavorable

construction on his language, or "damning with faint praise" his deeds, betrays on the part of the detractor a conscious inability to accomplish his ends legitimately and a willingness to stoop too low for a Christian. No man not under a delusion as to his own importance or laboring under the influence of an evil passion will spend his time in this manner. There are too many more worthy tasks to which he can and will apply himself.

**A. Hugh Clark**

### **Sunrise**

(This material was composed high above the earth on a jetliner. It was in early September 1963, I was returning to Oklahoma City after having buried my father in Redondo Beach, California. (jwal)

He who has sat in lonely vigil through the long, cold dark hours of the night at the bedside of a loved one, upon whose brow the shadow of death lay heavily, knows, as no other person can, the warmth, beauty, and hope of the breaking day. Sunrise, as it were, subconsciously animates within us the fervent hope that the flickering flame of life within the suffering body will, like the sun, arise to greet the new born day, and rescue from the brink of hadean darkness the one who is the object of our love. So it is that the rising of the "Sun of Righteousness" from the cold and barren darkness of a borrowed tomb became, as someone has eloquently and beautifully said, "a burst of sunrise to a world cold and dark with the shadow of death."

Atheism, agnosticism, infidelity, rationalism, and materialism, like ugly black clouds, lie heavily upon the eastern horizons of our minds to shut out, if possible, from the eyes of love and hope, the glorious light of the risen Son of God. Therefore, let no person be deceived relative to the indispensable necessity of a deep and abiding faith, on the part of the Christian, in the literal bodily resurrection of the blessed Son of Mary from the sleeping tomb of Joseph of Arimathea!

**James Wallace Adams**

"A second chance doesn't mean anything if you haven't learned from your first mistake."

**Eph. 2:19** So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, **20** being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; **21** in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord;

**1 Pet. 2:9** But ye are an elect race, royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

**Psalms 1: 1** Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scoffers; **2** But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. **3** And he shall be like a tree planted by streams of water, that bringeth forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also doth not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. **4** The wicked are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. **5** Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. **6** For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the wicked shall perish.

**News and Notes:** Let us remember the instruction of our Lord by visiting in whatever way we can, **Jan Patrick, Mary Czirr, Terry Czirr, Candiss Cason and Grant Clothier.**

**Matt. 25:40** *And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me.*

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We recommend to you the following websites:

**[facebook.com/lenexachurchofchrist/](https://facebook.com/lenexachurchofchrist/)  
[thelenexaedifier.com](http://thelenexaedifier.com)  
[lenexachurchofchrist.org](http://lenexachurchofchrist.org)**

Our Meeting times are:

Sunday Bible Classes: 9:30 AM  
Worship Services 10:20 AM&5:00 PM  
Wednesday Bible Classes 7:00 PM

The Church at Lenexa is a congregation of brethren who have been "justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." (**Romans 3:24**)

As a result of this justification we have been "delivered out of darkness and translated into the kingdom of the Son of his love, in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (**Colossians 1:13,14**)

We therefore respect the inspired word of God that will completely furnish us unto every good work by speaking only as the oracles of God. (**2 Timothy 3:16,17; 1 Peter 4:11**)

**What must one do to be saved?**

**Hear** the gospel -

Romans 10:17

**Believe** in Christ -

Heb. 11:6

**Repent** of sin - Acts 17:30

**Confess** Christ as Lord -

Romans 10:9,10

**Be baptized** for the remission of sins - Acts 2:38