

Rom. 14:19
So then let
us follow
after things
which make
for peace,
and things
whereby we
may edify
one another.



John 8:32
And
ye shall
know the
truth and
the truth
shall make
you free.

August 19
2018

ARE YOU A PERSON OF YOUR WORD?

Jim Stauffer

Matt. 5:33 *"Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD.' 34 'But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING. 36 'Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 'But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil.*

Something most people are very proud of is the integrity associated with their commitment. We like to believe we are the kind of folk who if we say we will do something others can rest assured it will be done. This is a marvelous trait in mankind and people often rely upon those who possess it to accomplish their goals.

It is becoming less prominent in the business and political world and has lost some of its charm simply because "everyone" now considers it old fashioned and impractical.

There are stories, myth, legend or made out of whole cloth that we have heard over the years that praise individuals for being a person of their word. I remember a story about President Lincoln as a young man walking several miles in a return trip to the store to give the storekeeper a few pennies he had incorrectly given him while making change.

You just do not hear of such things today or at least not very often. It is because society as a whole has communicated the idea that decisions like that are to be made with your own selfish interests in mind.

Can you see how being an unselfish person is indeed vital to being true to your word? My goal in this brief article is not to lead people to suffer great inconveniences to return a dime. However, a person who can keep such without a reasonable effort to make it right is by the very definition not a person of their word.

My goal is to help us see the value of Jesus' statement as we strive to walk in His footsteps. There

are serious endeavors we undertake that require integrity to be successful.

So, let us consider a few areas in the life of the every day Christian and allow ourselves to be introspective in applying the principles Jesus has set forth.

OUR MARRIAGE VOWS:

Are we willing to keep our commitment of love and loyalty to the one we have chosen? Have we put forth the effort to overcome the portion of our vows where we took them for better or for worse? Perfection in the life of either party was never realistic nor was it promised. A successful marriage requires active and continual effort to overcome obstacles. If you are trying and are unselfish, your love for each other will grow deeper as time goes on.

OUR EMPLOYMENT:

Have we maintained our honesty and integrity in dealing with both our employer, the other employees and customers of the company? I am sure there are many factors involved I am unaware of, but certainly every company expects a full commitment to a job well done. Laziness is a violation of our commitment to them. On the other hand some companies reward those who trample on other employees in search of self promotion or the dishonesty with customers in search of profit. The child of God abdicates honesty and integrity when he does such things.

OUR CITIZENSHIP:

What kind of citizen and neighbor are we when we view biblical instruction? Are we a part of those who refuse to render honor to whom it is due? Have we become so political we now reject the teaching of the apostles on our responsibilities of citizenship (**Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-17**)? Are we the neighbor who disregards the needs of those with whom he has contact? Have we become so entrenched in our own lives that service to others is an inconvenience instead of an opportunity (**Luke 10:25-37**)?

The totality of whom we become will be determined

by our ability to retain perspective by remaining in the moment of spouse, employer and citizen; all of which are roles played in life by the child of God.

Our ability to sustain our honesty and integrity will allow us to overcome the natural obstacles to these roles and endure as servants of the Lord. Our Lord and His brother have indicated the importance of this in their comments in Scripture. **Matt. 10:22** *You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.* **James 1:12** *Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.*

THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST

“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many” (1 Corinthians 12:12-14).

It is helpful for each person to know something about the state or condition of their health. Knowing whether or not you have high blood pressure is a good thing; if you have this condition, you can treat it a number of ways and hopefully reduce this health risk. Cholesterol levels, sugar levels, etc., are all good things to have some recognition of. In a similar manner, the Apostle Paul exhorts the Corinthians to start thinking seriously about the body of the Christ—the church—the spiritual body they were a part of. From even a casual reading of **1st Corinthians**, it is clear that these Christians had lost their focus on what was really important. Apparently, they had asked Paul a number of questions; his replies can be seen by simply reading the first few verses of each chapter in his letter. Beyond that, though, the Corinthians were asking in many immature ways. *“And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?” (1 Cor. 3: 1-3)* Specifically, their carnality manifested itself in seeking after and then displaying certain spiritual gifts—specially, they wanted the spiritual gift of speaking in tongues, believing this was the superior gift.

So, it is helpful for you and me to think about the church, the body of Christ, and our place in that body. Are we contributing to the health and welfare of the Lord's body, His church? Specifically, Paul says: Apply

these admonitions in the context of the church at Corinth (remember, this was a *local congregation*).

Let's start by remembering that we have confessed and continue to confess the SAME LORD. *“Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:3).* When Jesus truly is our Lord—when He rules our lives—when our supreme goal is to honor Him—then, we will work together as we should as the body of Christ. Division, dissension, and digression all combine to defeat our purpose in being Christ's church. Paul is telling us: Let Jesus be Lord of His spiritual body. Let Him be the Lord of each one of us, the members of that body.

Randy Harshbarger

The Challenges of the Cross

The Cross of Christ is more than merely the tool of his execution. What was accomplished on that device by the Son of God is a challenge to the entire worldly way of doing things. One of the hardest challenges issued by the Cross is to Love in a World of Hate. Maybe that is really too mild because, you see, hatred is so easily seen to be wrong by people of good will. No, the real challenge of the Cross is to care in a world of callous indifference. It is so easy to become hardened to the problems of hurting people because there are so many of them. “It didn't happen to me and that's too bad for you. I sure am sorry!”

Jesus taught us in the Parable of the Good Samaritan (**Luke 10**) that our neighbors are anyone who has a need that we know about and have the capacity to help. They are not limited to those who live next door. They can be those of whom we have every reason to be suspicious. They can be a different race, religion or even a different political party! The Samaritan was certainly all that to the man he found on the road to Jericho and yet he showed the caring nature of God to the unfortunate victim of violence.

How are we doing in answering this challenge of the cross? Take a look in the mirror and see how you stack up. You may as well be honest, God will be!

Cleveland Reddinger

"I'm At Peace With My God"

It is not uncommon -- while trying to rebuke or admonish someone concerning their spiritual condition -- to have them reply with this statement: "I'm at peace with my God." For instance, we got this reply from a fella who left the Lord's church and joined a

denomination. In another case a Christian, after admitting his homosexual lifestyle, used the same defense. Apparently these folks think that this feeling of "peace" is the absolute standard by which their conduct should be judged. They could not be more wrong!

In ancient Judah, the prophet Jeremiah bemoaned the unfaithfulness of God's people. One of the great problems was that they were oblivious to their lost condition. This was largely due to the fact that *"from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace."* (Jer. 6:13,14) Do you see it? They believed they were at peace with God. Their religious leaders even told them that there was peace with God. But in reality, there was no peace.

People today, like those in Jeremiah's day, are deceived into thinking that they are at peace with God even as they continue in their rebellion against Him. False teachers contribute to the problem with *"good words and fair speeches that deceive the hearts of the simple."* (Rom. 16:18)

The only true basis for peace with God is in humble obedience to His will. The apostle Paul urged: *"Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."* (Philippians 4:9) Faith and obedience produce true peace. Anything other than that is simply the deception of subjective feelings. Think!

by Greg Gwin

Diseases of the Soul

James E. Cooper

The scribes and Pharisees criticized Jesus for *"eating with tax collectors and sinners."* He responded, *"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance"* (Mark 2:17). Jesus was not merely concerned with man's physical, but especially with his spiritual health. He is the Great Physician and specializes with the maladies of the soul—sin of all forms.

Sin is a dreadful spiritual disease. It is universal in scope (Romans 3:9, 23). It affects vital organs—the heart of man is its seat (Matthew 15:19; 7:20; 12:34; Galatians 3:19). It is contagious—it corrupts others (1 Corinthians 15:33; 1 Corinthians 5:6). It is deceitful (Hebrews 3:13; Ephesians 4:22; 2 Corinthians 11:3; James 1:16). It is fatal—resulting in spiritual death (Romans 6:23; 1:17, 32; James 1:15).

Sin takes many forms. Some speak and write of the "seven deadly sins," as if they were the only "deadly" ones. Jesus lists seven that *"defile a man"* in Matthew 15: 17-20. Paul lists ten who *"will not inherit the kingdom of God"* in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, seventeen *"works of*

the flesh," saying *"those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God,"* in Galatians 5:19-21, and at least twenty-two that render not only those who practice them but also those who approve of those who practice them *"worthy of death"* in Romans 1:18-32. Other lists may be found in the Scriptures.

With a little "tongue in cheek" let me suggest some more symptoms of this dreaded spiritual malady. These may not be found in each individual, but they are often seen—and they all have the same fatal result.

Debility is characterized by a weak, run-down, nothing-really-wrong condition, but it makes one susceptible to other and worse situations.

Malaria literally means "bad air," and is descriptive of bad associates [evil companions] who *"corrupt morals"* (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Hydrophobia literally means "fear of water," and many appear to be afraid of the water of baptism (cf. Mark 16:16).

Myopia is "near-sightedness," and some [even church members] are "short-sighted, even to blindness" (cf. 1 Peter 1:5-11).

Mobri-sundiosis is peculiar in that it flares up on Sunday morning just before time for Bible Study and subsides in a couple of hours, allowing its victim to go to a ball game or other recreation in the afternoon.

Sleeping Sickness is seen in some who literally sleep in church, but also in others who are "asleep on the job" spiritually (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:30; Romans 13:11; Ephesians 5:4).

Mouth Rash is found in many people. Jesus says, *"Not that which goes into the mouth defiles a man, but that which comes out of the heart"* (Matthew 15:11). Filthy language, blasphemy, gossip—all defile a man.

Only the Great Physician can heal our spiritual diseases (cf. Acts 4:12), but we must hear the saving gospel (Romans 1:16), repent of our sins and be baptized (Acts 2:38), and *"observe all things that (He has) commanded"* (Matthew 28:19-20; Matthew 7:21-23).

Taken from the Market Street Messenger

Joy of a Servant

S. Fuhrman

I lighten a burden with love,
As part of my Master's design,
And know in that moment of care:
The joy of a servant is mine!
I serve in a small quiet way,
And glory, my Master, is Thine!
What more can I ask of this day?
The joy of a servant is mine!
To live in Thy service each day,
My strength and my will I resign.
Though I am a child of Thy house,
The joy of a servant is mine!

Psa. 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 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 the 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.*

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

Elders: Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

Deacons:

Bill Miller

Brandon Jimison

Casey Dent

Joe Hurd

OUR ADDRESS IS:

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-764-9170

Check out the following websites:

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

lenexachurchofchrist.org

NEWS AND NOTES:

PRAYER LIST:

PLEASE REMEMBER JAN PATRICK,
STEPHEN KIMKER, STEVE AND
SUZANNE WIMP AND ALMA
BAUMGARTNER'S MOTHER

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS -
FOLLOWING THE MESSIAH
RON PECK

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE
CLASS - THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS
GOVERNMENT
JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY SERMON: THE BASIS OF
GOD'S JUDGMENT



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10