

Purity

- Isn't it sad when moral politicians speak their minds concerning purity and their counterparts lambaste them to the point where no one knows the difference between right and wrong? In such a case the governor of Pennsylvania, **Tom Corbett**, made a comment concerning a new law in which women who wish to "*terminate their pregnancies*" are to have ultrasounds saying those who didn't want to see the fetal images could (*quote*) "just...close your eyes". He was being considered anti-women's health but no one was calling the abortion doctors "anti-human being". Hmm.

In another case a computer specialist from NASA (*quote*) "was wrongfully terminated because of his belief in intelligent design". (*Intelligent design is the belief that a higher power must have had a hand in creation because life is too complex to have developed through evolution alone.*)

In still another case a conservative commentator is continually hammered over making a derogatory comment about a woman who exposed herself to such public ridicule and even after apologizing the network (*ABC*) that continues their rhetoric, sponsors, **during prime time**, a show that is so sacrilegious one wonders "how long, O Lord, holy and true?" (*Rev 6:10*)

Heb 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner (*Gk.2924- decisive ["critical"], that is, discriminative*) (*it "critiques"*) of the thoughts (*Gk.1761- deliberation*) and intents (*Gk.1771- moral understanding*) of the heart (*Gk.2588- [mind]*).

----- In the Lord's body, the church.

Eph 4:14 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But **speaking the truth in love**, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ: 16 From Whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

- Every member of the church (*Christ's body*) has a responsibility to grow the church in number so that her spiritual presence remains established in the community and love continues within.

1Pe 4:11 If any man speak, *let him speak as the oracles (Gk.3051- an utterance) of God*; if any man minister, *let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ*, to Whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Act 20:26 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I *am* pure from the blood of all *men.* 27 For I have **not shunned to declare** unto you **all the counsel of God**.

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1Co 5:1 It is reported commonly *that there is* fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. 2 And ye are puffed up, and **have not rather mourned**, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

- Where was the father in all of this? Even when members of our own families are involved in any sin we are to stand on the side of truth.

Mat 12:46 While He yet talked to the people, behold, *His* mother and His brethren stood without, desiring to speak with Him. 47 Then one said unto Him, Behold, Thy mother and Thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with Thee. 48 But He answered and said unto him that told Him, **Who is My mother? and who are My brethren?** 49 And He stretched forth His hand toward His disciples, and said, **Behold My mother and My brethren!** 50 For whosoever shall do the will of My Father which is in heaven, the same is My brother, and sister, and mother.

Mat 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36 And a man's foes *shall be* they of his own household. 37 He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after Me, is not worthy of Me. 39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for My sake shall find it.

- I know what it's like having a son cuss at me and a daughter disown me for the sake of Christ so I know firsthand, as do others because I'm not alone in this, how that feels and it's not pleasant! But they would have no respect for me anyway if I were to have given up on the faith and **not** stood on the higher ground. Even though they might not admit it, they do respect you more when you stand firm in your faith.

1Co 5:6 Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that **a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?**

- When all in the local congregation are Christ-like and pure and only one is defiled, that one will end up defiling the rest of the body if the body does nothing.

1Co 5:11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is **called a brother be a fornicator**, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat (*Gk.4906- to take food in company with*). 12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? 13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

2Th 3:14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and **have no company** (*Gk.4874- to mix together, that is, associate with*) **with him, that he may be ashamed** (*Gk.1788- to invert*). 15 Yet **count him not** as an enemy, but **admonish** (*Gk.3560- to put in mind, that is, [by implication] to caution or reprove gently*) **him as a brother.**

- Are we to practice “shunning”? Shunning is a practice in certain cult religions where an enforced policy is required in which all members are to avoid even to look upon anyone who leaves or is expelled from that religion. This is not what Paul meant in this passage. And when a member is withdrawn from and their spouse is not, the faithful spouse is still to perform the vows they took when first married. (*Eph 5; Col 3; 1 Pet 3*)

1Co 7:3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

And there is precedent for other family members such as **widows**.

1Ti 5:8 But if any provide not for his own (*widow*), and especially for those **of his own house** (*Gk.3609 from [Gk.3624- family]- domestic, that is, a relative, adherent*), he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

 1Th 5:21 Prove all things; **hold fast that which is good.** 22 **Abstain from all appearance** (*Gk.1491- a view, that is, form*) (*If it looks like a duck...*) **of evil.** 23 And the very God of peace sanctify (*Gk.37- to make holy, that is, purify*) you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul **and body be preserved blameless** unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Living above a bar gives the appearance of patronizing it.*)

Heb 13:4 Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled (*Gk.283- unsoiled, that is, pure*): but whoremongers (*Gk.4205- a male prostitute*) and adulterers (*Gk.3432- a [male] prostitute; figuratively apostate*) God will judge.

Rom 14:21 *It is* good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, **nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.**

Tit 1:15 Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind (*Gk.3563- intellect*) and conscience (*Gk.4893- co-perception, that is, moral consciousness*) is defiled. 16 They profess that they know God; **but in works they deny Him**, being abominable (*Gk.947- detestable, that is, [specifically] idolatrous*), and disobedient (*Gk.545- un-persuadable*), and unto every good work reprobate (*Gk.96- unapproved, that is, rejected; worthless*).

1Co 7:1 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: *It is* good for a man not to touch a woman. 2 Nevertheless, *to avoid* fornication, let every (*Gk.1538- each or every*) man have his own wife, and let every (*each*) woman have her own husband.

- Paul was not discounting what Jesus said earlier concerning marriage divorce and re-marriage because not everyone **can** marry.

Mat 5:31 *It hath been said*, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: 32 *But I say unto you*, That whosoever shall put away his wife, **saving for the cause of fornication**, causes her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

1Co 7:8 I say therefore to the **unmarried** and widows, *It is* good for them if they abide even as I. 9 **But if they cannot contain** (*Gk.1467- to exercise self-restraint [in diet and chastity]*), **let them marry**: for it is better to marry than to burn (*Gk.4448- to be inflamed [with anger, grief, lust]*).

- Webster: Chastity- 1. abstention from unlawful sexual activity 2. celibacy or virginity 3. decency; modesty

1Co 6:9 Know ye not that the **unrighteous** shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither **fornicators**, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate (*Webster: showing qualities attributed to women*), nor abusers of themselves with mankind (*Gk.733- a sodomite*), 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

1Co 6:15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make *them* the members of an harlot? God forbid (*Gk.1096 and 3361- let it never be*). 16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith He, shall be one flesh (*Gen 2:24; Eph 5:31-32*). (*not that one marries every time one has sex, but that sex is to be between husband and wife only*) 17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. 18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but **he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body**. 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For **ye are bought with a price**: therefore **glorify God in your body**, and in your spirit, **which are** (*belong to*) **God's**.

1Pe 4:3 For the time past of *our* life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: 4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with *them* to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of *you* (*calling you "holier than thou"*): 5 Who shall give account to Him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

1Co 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications (*Gk.3657- companionship*) corrupt good manners. 34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak *this* to your shame.

2Th 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved**. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

- Sadly, there are many "old time" denominational preachers who will stand animated behind a pulpit and make statements like "*I'm speaking directly from the Bible so you know it's the truth*" but in their analyzing each passage they add to or take away from the meaning intended. I visited an old acquaintance that I knew almost three decades ago. He hasn't changed from his braggadocios ways and continued to preach hate and condemnation from his bed of affliction. Even though he said he was doing it out of love he was ninety-five years old at the time and was set in his unscriptural, denominational ways and thus deluded by his lack of desire for truth.

Eph 4:15 But **speaking the truth in love**, ...

Col 1:21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled 22 In the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable (*Gk.299- unblemished, faultless*) and unproveable (*Gk.410- un-accused, that is, irreproachable*) in His sight: 23 **If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled**,

and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; ...

Col 1:27 ... Christ in you, the hope of glory: 28 Whom we preach, **warning every man**, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect (*Gk.5046-complete [in various applications of ...moral character, etc.]*) in Christ Jesus:

Jud 25 To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

- It seems we all struggle, or have struggled, with understanding the purity that God expects from the body of His dear Son. We are that body! And just as Christ **is** pure, so are we to be, because God is not the only one watching us. If the world outside the church perceives a lack of discipline how can we, the body as a whole, be in any position to lead them to Christ. The church must continue to strive to remain pure.
- If there are any visiting this site today I hope you can understand how we, as the body of Christ, take the word of God very seriously. That being said, we also strive to remain faithful to the Biblical teaching concerning what a person **must** do to be saved.

Hear: Romans 10:17 ... "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Believe: Heb 11:6 ... "for he that commeth to God must believe that He is" ...

Repent: Lk 13:3 ... "except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Confess: Mat 10:32 "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess before My Father which is in Heaven."

Be baptized: Acts 22:16 "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

Remain faithful: Rom 6:4 ... "even so we also should walk in newness of life."

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