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Is The Moral Standard Taught In The Church Of Christ Too High?

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Is the Moral Standard Taught in the Church of Christ Too High?

I. It's the part of a speaker to present his argument.
   A. Text is the question.
   B. I answer "No."
      1. Can I go home now?
   C. But isn't it strange when you know what's going to be said you still want more said?

II. First let me say there is no standard super imposed by church of Christ other than by Christ.
   A. The church in its membership is human therefore subject to error.
      1. I doubt not that we make mistakes. I think we are not pious enough.
      2. I think you resent not the stressing of piety but the imbalance of the stress.
      3. We condemn dancing without ball room dancing being used in Bible and we giggle and excuse ourselves about worry.
      4. We make the dancer a 4th rate Christian but we make the worry wort an elder.
      5. One's evil though does not neutralize or excuse either.
   B. The church is not a legislative body.
      1. Attorney on sex laws.

III. Approach to piety is predicated on two things.
   A. For you what is life's dominant bias?
   Ps. 119:36 "Incline my heart unto thy testin
Ps. 141:4 "Incline not my heart to any evil thing"

1. Will this not determine how life will move?
   a. Dip of ground determine way water flows

2. Lot pitched tent toward Sodom.
   a. He was more Sodom like.
   b. His kids more than he!
   c. We must avoid the ugly today.
      (1) Nichols clip.
      (2) Baxter letter
      (3) Meadowbrook
      (4) Let America see.

3. Daniel had his window open toward Jerusalem.
   a. Lived pure in a cesspool.
   b. "Tis the set of the soul that decides the goal,
      And not the calm or the strife."

4. We see what we look for as a rule.
   a. Are we "looking unto Jesus"?
      (1) Illustration on tiger.
   b. Dancing usually is in weak members and is always with night clubs.

B. How strong is your spiritual gravitation?
   Acts 4:23 "And being let go, they went

1. Each man has his company he seeks.
   a. A church had a picnic.
      A sports club a prize fight.
      (1) You went to each by boat.
      (2) One got wrong boat and was on church picnic.
      (3) Like fish out of water--please let me
   a. It's disclosure of himself to self and others.
   (1) Like gold watch case that seemed to be brass.

West End - 10/20/63
The article below was written by brother Joe McKissick and deals with the Girls' drill squads in some of the High Schools.

WHY WE OPPOSE THE "DRILL SQUADS"

1. The pattern for our local Squads are set by the College Squads, and one only has to give a brief glance at half-time activities on T.V. to see the Burlesque or Nightclub approach of this recent innovation.

2. The dress is immodest and the movements seductive or lascivious in nature.

3. How can we as adults allow our future mothers to be paraded before the lustful gaze of every Tom, Dick and Harry? Have we become a nation of Body worshippers? Shall we sit on the sidelines with swelling pride concerning our beautiful daughters while we know that other eyes, lustful in nature, possibly enhanced by drink, are roving from head to foot, their lascivious thoughts growing with every seductive step?

4. When will we learn the lesson of Solomon, "Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." (Prov. 31:30)

5. Are we building a more spiritually consecrated Motherhood in this way?

6. Why not have a Drill Squad of boys in Shorts instead of Girls?

7. God is HOLY — He is our Father.

8. Christians are to sanctify, that is, separate themselves from that which is unholy or impure. (II Cor. 6:17 ; 7:1)

9. Paul further admonished, "...present your bodies a living sacrifice HOLY, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Romans 12:1)

10. This comes under the works of the flesh and not a fruit of the spirit. (Gal. 5:19-23)

Shall we allow the modern Jezebels, such as Elizabeth Taylor, to set our patterns and arrange our standards of morality, or shall we return while yet we have time to the Eternal Standard of Jesus Christ in order that we may lift up Holy hands and pure hearts to Jehovah, the God of Holiness?

AREA-WIDE TEACHER TRAINING SCHOOL: at the Riverside building, Oct.7-10, 7:30-9:00 P.M. (Mon. - Thurs) Kay McGlothlin, Abilene-2's and 3's; Mildred Nall, Dewoka, Okla. 4's and 5's; Fred Allen, Corpus Christi, Primaries; Brad Brunley, Freed-Hardeman College for Juniors; B. R. Stevens, Irving, Youth Teachers; Robert Oglesby, Richardson, Adult Teachers; H. Rideout, ACC; elders, Sister T.B. Thompson; Teen girls; Jim Wilburn, Wichita Falls, Teen-age boys.
NEW CLASS TO BEGIN THIS SUNDAY AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE MAIN AUDITORIUM WITH BROTHER ABE LINCOLN TEACHING. All the 6 - 7 - and 8th grade boys meet in the auditorium with brother Abe. Jr. girls and the 9th grade boys will continue to go to their regular class at 5:00 p.m.

A special Thanks from the Ladies' Class to sister Lois Terry for her wonderful and inspiring lessons during brother Abe's absence.

Thanks so very much for the lovely flowers sent to me during my stay in the hospital. Words cannot express my appreciation for the many cards and visits.

-Peggy Hostetter

To the church at Meadowbrook: Dear Friends, I want to thank all the visitors and for the many cards and for the flowers I received in this last stay in Harris Hospital. These all are an encouragement and I do appreciate each of them. Thanks again.

- C. L. Beaty

Dear Christian Friends: For your prayers, beautiful flowers, cards, visits and other acts of kindness, I am deeply appreciative and thank you.

-Wm. A. Pearson

Thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending the great supply of pies, kleenex, sheeting, juices, groceries and toilet tissue. You have helped us to be more comfortable, happy and secure. May God bless you.

-The Home For Aged, Gunter, Texas

Thank you for your many kind deeds shown us during the illness and death of my sister.

-Sister Evert Nichols

Just after a white haired visitor had left their home, a young girl said to her mother, "If I could be such an old lady as that, so beautiful, sweet, serene, and loveable, I would not mind growing old;"

The discerning and keen-witted mother replied: "Well, if you want to be that kind of an old lady, you'd better begin now. She does not impress me as a piece of work that was done in a hurry."

-Anon.

$718.81 was given the Ft. Worth Christian College by individuals here at Meadowbrook last Wednesday night.
Dear Nashville church-leader,

Some seven or eight years ago, while Brother J. P. Sanders was preaching for the Harding Place congregation, the elders of that congregation invited me to conduct a meeting for them and it was scheduled for October, 1963. The meeting has now been set to begin on Sunday, October 20, and continue through Sunday, October 27.

In the past few years the "image" of the Harding Place church has suffered. Many of us have been given the impression that dancing, social drinking, and worldliness have been tolerated, or even endorsed by the Harding Place leadership. In discussing the long-promised meeting mentioned above, the elders of the Harding Place church have assured me that they want me to preach firmly and clearly against worldliness of every kind. Their declarations against dancing and social drinking are forthright and unequivical. As evidence of their desires, they have employed Brother J. Roy Vaughan, whose soundness and whose stand against worldliness has never been questioned, to serve as their regular, local minister, beginning November 1.

In view of these forthright declarations of conviction on the part of the leaders of the Harding Place church, I am most happy to work in this meeting. This letter is being written to ask your help. It would mean a great deal in reestablishing the "image" of the Harding Place church to have you visit the services of the meeting and thereby lend your encouragement to the above declaration of intentions. A successful meeting will do much to help start Brother Vaughan's work in a fine way. Your presence and your announcement of this meeting will be greatly appreciated.

Cordially,

Batsell Barrett Baxter
Let me invite you to our gospel meeting October 27 - November 3! You'll be inspired by the worship and the splendid sermons. Brother Paul Southern will be our featured speaker!

LEAD YOUR NEIGHBOR TO CHRIST!

Start where you are: you don't have to go away from home to do this work for the Lord. Show that you love your neighbor by being interested in his interests. Stay on friendly basis with him, and remember never to give up in your struggle to win him to Christ.

Influence those around you by your good deeds. Attend every service of the church. If you truly love God, and the spiritual fellowship with Him, you will give up anything to be at the services.

Dedicate your home to Christian hospitality. You have a responsibility to train more Christians in spiritual matters, and the home is a good place for this. Start having a Bible Study group in your home, and invite your friends.

Pray for the lost. You can't pray earnestly for long until you will start to do something about the lost!

Give tracts and pamphlets. You may do this by using the mail, leave them on buses in depots, hospitals, barber and beauty shops, or you can leave them lying around in your own business.

Invite your friends, neighbors, 

See NEIGHBORS, page 3
JEZEBEL PLAYS CLEOPATRA

Some of the reviews of the movie, CLEOPATRA, have said that this is Elizabeth Taylor's best movie ... that she is acting at her best. WHO IS ACTING? This 20th century Jezebel doesn't need to act to play the role of Cleopatra!!!

Cleopatra was a vile queen who made mockery of principles of decency. She was guilty of incest, adultery, murder, and finally died a victim of suicide. Elizabeth Taylor, queen of the movie industry, fits the role perfectly! She should play the part well... she has been "in training" for it for years, living in adultery and making mockery of our moral standards.

Oh, yes, we have heard that Elizabeth is just a "victim of circumstances," that she is only "searching for happiness," and that underneath all the make-up she is really a very "sensitive" person. Sensitive, indeed! Since when does sensitivity lead one to openly flout principles of integrity and parade their barnyard morals unashamedly before the world???

I have not seen the movie, CLEOPATRA, and I do not intend to!! I urge other Christians to refrain from attending this performance, also. Times are pretty sad when we allow an adultress to become a public image. If we don't want our children idolizing such a brazenly immoral person, we had better make our stand against it... NOW!!!

Joe R. Barnett, via the Sheridan Sower
GUS NICHOLS ON DANCING

"When some of our members and their children engage in the public dances, I fear that their lights have gone out (Matt. 5:14-16). Such members do not realize that they are a liability and not an asset to the church. I heard J. D. Tant say that 'dancing feet and praying knees do not belong to the same person. For half a century now, I have observed that dancing members of the church do not attend all the services of the church (Heb. 10:25). This is one reason why they are dancing members. Not a one of them would be willing for the preacher to attend the public dance with them, neither would they want it mentioned at their funerals that they were proficient in dancing. Dancing is evidently a work of the flesh, and comes under the heading of 'revelling and suchlike,' and Paul says that they which do such things 'shall not inherit the kingdom of God.' (Gal. 5:19-21)."


KEEPING UP

Since the first of 1963 there have been twenty-four (24) baptisms, twenty-seven (26) to place membership, eighteen (18) restorations and nine (9) membership-restorations. With a congregation of nearly 450 members this (though we are happy that God has given the increase) is a very serious reflection. Brethren, are we truly interested in souls? What person have you and are you now leading to Christ? "Will your sheaves be many, will you garner any from the gathering at the harvest home.

NEIGHBORS, from page 1.

and even strangers to all worship services, and be there to greet them!

We could win more to Christ than we do! One of our greatest powers in saving the lost is the faithful member who is interested in souls. An English writer tells of a blind man who always carried a lantern. When he was asked why he carried it he replied, "I do not carry it so that I may see, but so that others may not stumble over me." We could well remember the wisdom of this. Others need our light. It helps us to grow, too, as we work.

Christianity is somewhat like riding a bicycle: the surest way to keep from falling is to keep moving forward. Using your abilities and see them develop in the Cause of Christ.

--From North Street Newsletter, Fayetteville.

A Note of Thanks

My heartfelt thanks to all the kind folks from 29th and Yale for your prayers, visits and words of encouragement, and the beautiful flowers, during my recent confinement at Hillcrest Medical Center. God bless all of you.

Ethel L. Bevins
Clarence R. Bevins
A WORD TO THE SUFFICIENT IS WISE

The 29th and Yale congregation we believe to be exceptional in many ways. The Christians here are known usually for their liberality, friendliness, aggressiveness and devotion. We wouldn't want that to change for anything—except to see it improve.

The church from its inception has been mission minded. This is as it should be. If boasting is in order I believe she outranks any church of her size in the amount of mission work supported. We thank God for the material prosperity that allows such a fine program. To Him we are grateful that our hearts have been and are still being touched by "Macedonian calls". Our spiritual temperature will continue to be partly gauged by our interest in spreading the gospel of Christ.

For the last month our revised budget has been $1476 per week. This increase in our "must" contributions was necessitated by this decision: the work in Red Deer, Canada had to be started immediately; we could not bypass that open door. On the basis that the church here would increase their contributions our elders agreed to put brother Buford Pittman in the field fulltime.

With such a substantial increase some feel it is too much to expect that we will see the increase within one month's time. It may be asking too much but on the other hand it may not. You be the judge! Can you possibly raise your contribution as much as $1 or $2 a week? With so many of us this would be such an easy matter. Here is a record of our September giving: $1260, $1385, $1339, $1343, and $1384.

The average exceeds our old budget figure by $16 a Sunday. WE ARE CLIMBING! We urge and encourage you to pray for our work and to support it with your influence, time, and money.

It is still:
1. More blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).
2. Scriptural to lay by in store upon the first day of the week.
3. A command of the Lord that we give as we have been prospered (I Cor. 16:2).
4. A privilege to support the truth.
5. Proper to purpose (II Cor. 9:7).
6. True that God loves a cheerful giver (II Cor. 9:7).
7. So that God is able to make all grace abound unto you; that ye, having always all sufficiency in everything, may abound unto every good work (II Cor. 9:8).

Let our prayer begin, "God, make this a more sacrificial church—beginning with me. In the name of Christ. Amen."
Let America See It

NOT LONG ago a popular expression used by persons who didn't wish to perform a certain task was, “Let George do it.” Shrewd promoters today are creating a new phrase. They seem to be reviewing films and literature considered objectionable and obscene by other nations, and saying, “Let America see it.”

Recently a film was banned in Italy on grounds of blasphemy. A four-part feature, the film was removed from commercial exhibition after a four-day run. The man who directed and wrote the episode was arrested on charges of blasphemy—an offense under Italian law. He was convicted and received a four-month suspended sentence. The film, banned in Italy, was then scheduled for showing at the New York Film Festival.

A large amount of capital is made in some of the larger American cities on films shown which can boast of being “banned in France.” Latin American nations have expressed disgust at the filth and vulgarity contained in the plays of one currently popular American writer. Nikita Khrushchev has expressed joy more than once over “the evident Western decadence—which will help to bury capitalism.”

Why does this uncomplimentary picture of American morals continue to get worse? Why can concentrated filth be purchased in countless bookstores and newsstands and be seen in so many theaters? Simply because too many Christians are still saying, “Let George do it!”

As long as we remain silent, as long as we are unprotesting, as long as we fail to let those in authority know where we stand, as long as we continue to say, “Let George do it,” shrewd promoters and unscrupulous men will continue to say, “Let America see it.”

—C. W. W.
N.Y. Attorney Cites Sex Law Inadequacies

By FRANK SUTHERLAND

The amount of "illegal" sexual activities in America today is making a mockery of our sex laws, a New York attorney told Vanderbilt University law and medical students last night.

"There is enough truth in the Kinsey Report to compel us to take a new look at our sex laws," said Morris Ploscove, 1963 winner of the Isaac Ray Award of the American Psychiatric Association, for contributions to the improvement of relations between psychiatry and law.

"Our laws are being violated over and over again. The behavior shown in the Kinsey Report makes a mockery of the legal requirements," he said.

The Kinsey Report was prepared by the late Alfred Charles Kinsey and was a survey of human sex behavior.

Ploscove, speaking at Underwood Auditorium in a series of lectures entitled "Sex and the Law," cited some of the sex acts covered by laws, how they are defined and enforced. He noted especially the enforcement of sex laws regarding premarital relations.

"Premarital chastity is pretty much of a myth today. And the age at which it becomes a myth is going steadily down. The car has become a mobile bedroom," he said.

Ploscove also cited the prominence of sex in advertising. "How can advertising exist without sex? Someone told me that the first rule of advertising was to get some sex into it," he said.

Dam Named

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Memphis lock and dam on the Tombigbee River will now be known as the Aliceville (Ala.) lock and dam under a bill signed yesterday by President Kennedy.

Sex also greatly influences television, movies, theaters, night clubs and burlesque. Sex is more and more the main selling point of bookstores and newsstands with nude magazines and paperbacks, he said.

Sex under these circumstances cannot remain as in the Judaism-Christian moral concepts and sex laws, he said.

"The underlying basis for sex laws in America is the same as Judaic-Christian ethics. Moral codes and sex codes, I am afraid, are based on a purity beyond the demands on the ordinary," he said.

"The Jewish and Christian attitude is based on a principle of propagation—not the release of tension or experience of pleasures," he said.

Ploscove will continue his lectures on "Sex and the Law" tonight at Underwood Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Bustamente Visit Out

OTTAWA, Ont. (CP) — Sir Alexander Bustamente, Jamaica's prime minister, has cancelled a scheduled mid-October visit to Canada because of ill health, Canadian officials announced.

Bustamente Visit Out