



The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, FOUNDED EDITOR

“Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day”

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Playing by New “Separation” Rules

by Pastor Tod Brainard

There is nothing more annoying than to watch a baseball game and hear fans chide the umpires about not knowing the rules of baseball. For the most part, fans are ignorant of the detailed, unique rules of the game of baseball. They know pieces and parts of the rules of the game, but by and large most are ignorant. What they think they know about the game and what they actually know are not the same.

Think of what it would be like to change the rules of a baseball game in the middle of the fifth inning and start using fast pitch softball rules, or maybe to really spice things up, go to Tee Ball rules. There would be cries of unfair play from all concerned. Yet that is exactly what is happening in Fundamentalism. There is a spiritual war that is raging against the truth of Biblical separation and as a result men and ministries are changing the rules of “Separation” to fit their specific agendas. What is treacherous is that these men and their ministries are using the context of “evangelism” and “reaching the lost” as an

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THE GOOD CAUSE SYNDROME

by Pastor John Ashbrook

This is part of a continuing series on Biblical Separation from the booklet by Pastor Ashbrook entitled Axioms of Separation. We encourage you to purchase this booklet (\$2.) from his website, www.hereistand.org or from us at www.childrensbibleclub.com. I know of no other treatise of Biblical Separation that hammers home in a practical way the necessity of practicing Biblical Separation (Editor).

Continued from last issue: AXIOM #8: DO NOT AFFILIATE YOUR CHURCH WITH ANY CHURCH, MISSION, MOVEMENT OR EVANGELISTIC EFFORT WHICH DOES NOT PRACTICE BIBLICAL SEPARATION.

SILENT ON SEPARATION SEMINARS.

Seminars for God’s people are big these days. There are church growth seminars, counseling seminars, and things like The Institute of Basic Youth Conflicts. Most of these seminars multiply registrations by appealing to a broad clientele. They take no stand on separation from apostasy and compromise. As a result, the fundamentalist enticed to the seminar may have a Methodist on the right, a Catholic priest on the left and new evangelicals fore and aft. The seminars assemble the Billy Graham ecumenical crowd with fundamentalists added. Why does that crowd feel comfortable together? There is no note of reproving apostasy. It has been quietly agreed that, for the sake of the ministry, Ephesians 5:11 will not be practiced.

The Gideons are a good example of the problem. Putting Bibles in hotel rooms is a good cause. However, the Gideons usually want to be in the First Fundamental Church on Sunday evening after be-

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EDITOR'S DESK

by Pastor Tod Brainard

The Testing is Here!

The words “**against the law**” are disturbing to us. When does our obedience to the government become disobedience to God? This question has caused many Christians to react negatively against any governmental intrusion and other Christians to say that we should always obey the government no matter the decree. The authority for the Christian is the Bible. Let me give a few examples from the Scriptures of when Government and God's people crossed paths and a critical decision was made to disobey civil government:

- 1) Birth of Moses – When Moses was born, the government of Egypt had decreed all male children age two and under of the Hebrews were to be killed. The mother of Moses hid her baby, Moses, in a basket (Exodus 2). Her act of not turning her baby over to the authorities for death was a violation of the law. Yet her act spared her son, Moses, and he went on to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. Should Moses' mother have turned her son over to Egyptian authorities as prescribed by the law (Exodus 1:22)?
- 2) Obadiah – When Obadiah was in charge of the king's palace, he secretly fed 100 prophets who were hiding in a cave (I Kings 18:4) from Jezebel. In addition, Elijah was wanted by the government (King Ahab) for sedition and treason. Obadiah did not turn over the prophets to Jezebel, and Elijah did not turn himself in to Ahab. Because the prophets and Elijah were being sought by the recognized government of Israel, should they have immediately turned themselves in? Was Obadiah in error to aid and abet the prophets as they hid themselves from the civil government?
- 3) When Daniel was confronted with a new law compelling everyone to worship the leader of Babylon (Daniel 6:10), he went home and opened his windows and prayed to Jehovah God as he always did. Should Daniel have conformed to civil government's wishes? Was he wrong to violate the law?

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excuse to involve themselves in ecumenical activities while still declaring they are adhering to the Scriptures.

Some of the “New” Rules are as follows:

- 1) Never Practice Biblical Separation From A Compromising Well-Liked Man or Ministry if They are “Winning Souls.”
- 2) Never Practice Biblical Separation From A Compromising Well-Liked Man or Ministry if They are Considered “Too Big To Fail.”
- 3) Never Practice Biblical Separation From Any Compromising Bible College or University That May Give You An Honorary Doctorate Sometime in the Near Future.
- 4) Only Practice Biblical Separation if the Majority of Others in the Camp are Separating (Never Practice Biblical Separation Alone Because You are Probably Wrong Then).
- 5) Always Give Extra Consideration For Well-Known Men In the Movement Because They Probably Have A Good Reason For Their Compromise.
- 6) Never Practice Biblical Separation If It Means Losing Church Members.
- 7) Never Practice Biblical Separation When It Comes To Music. After All, You Have To Have A College Degree To Know What Music Is Good or Bad.

You may chuckle, but these “new” rules are followed on a regular basis. So much for the authority of the Word of God. The Biblical Truth of Separation is immensely practical and purposeful. When you come to a fork in the road, you cannot take both roads, you must practice separation. When you write your name, you must practice separation of the letters in order for your name to be legible and

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The PROJECTOR

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The Projector is a fundamentalist publication that seeks to “project the light of the Word of God on the issues of the day.” It desires to honor Christ by articulating a clear testimony for Biblical separation from error in these last days as God's answer to the deepening apostasy of the visible church.



FOCUS ON RELIGION

Standing Alone With the Power of God

by Curtis Sluss

Sinful man is unable to contribute anything spiritual to God's work; this is true even if a large number of Christians and a 'big name' man of influence join together in a common cause to do some great work for God.

A book I recently read mentions the benefit of enlisting men of 'influence' as an effective means of getting more people to do God's work. Also, the author of this book feels ecclesiastical separation could be a detriment to the work of God since it limits the support base to a smaller number of people¹.

This common view (i.e. use men of influence and don't go overboard on separation) of how God's work is done on earth seems to be embraced by much of the Christian world including many who are self-described Fundamentalists. Perhaps, they have discovered that usually, the man who obeys Biblical purity and separation and does not resort to broad or questionable alliances has a small support base. The logical assumption is that less support means less results. Many seem to believe God is glorified more by joining with others to have a large dynamic ministry. Many believe we should build bridges of unity to as many as we can in the household of faith to carry on God's work.

Some obvious problems with this line of thinking are: **First**, unity comes from God through His keeping, our having Christ's glory, and Christ's being in us² as we are conformed more and more into His image. Unity does

not come from man through his tolerance; **Second**, in twenty-first century America, to enjoy a broad base of support usually requires that one abandons Biblical separation; and **Third**, God's work is not dependent on the influence or number of those supporting it, but rather on His power.

But why do many believe getting a broad base of support will enhance God's work? Because humanly speaking it sounds logical but primarily because it works! It works if you measure success by numbers; if you "... suppose that gain is godliness..."; if you believe a larger 'united' ministry glorifies God more than a small separated one. But it does not work if you measure success by God's standards of faithfulness, obedience and purity.

Many have found out by experience that they don't need the power of God to build a church or ministry. The Mormons, Roman Catholics, and other promoters of error demonstrate that; but no matter how big and impressive these ministries may be, those built in the power of the flesh are not the right kind. We need the power of God to build the right kinds of works!

We, as men, are all naturally equipped with the power of the flesh. We navigate through life quite successfully this way (humanly speaking). It should come as no surprise that we find it hard to stop relying on the power of the flesh when we should (i.e. seeking for questionable or

broader alliances to assist in doing God's work), and trust God's power instead.

Christ's work on earth is not dependent on increasing the number of supporters, but rather dependent on obedience, faithfulness and purity (separation, God's means of purity). He will do His work using yielded vessels of clay through Divine means: "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence" (I Corinthians 1:26).

My friends, which is better: being an Elijah standing alone with the power of God, or being a Jehoshaphat with a massive, impressive fleet of ships built with the help of Ahaziah³? Ω

1. *Thinking outside the Box*. First Bible Publishing, 2003, By Charles F. Keen. Page 46 & 32.
2. John 17:11, 22, 23.
3. II Chronicles 20:35-37.



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understandable by others. When it comes to right and wrong you must practice separation from the wrong and do that which is right, you cannot embrace both. Separation is practiced every day in practical ways and nobody thinks anything of it, except when it comes to spiritual matters, then everyone has a differing opinion.

Just about two years ago, *The Projector* named Rick Warren and John Piper in the same sentence as leading new-evangelicals. We received all kinds of mail blasting us for putting John Piper in the same category as Rick Warren. Now, we read that John Piper will have Rick Warren speak at his upcoming Desiring God Conference in October. The blogs are a-buzz with surprise at John Piper's actions and whether or not we should separate from him. It is interesting to read how many young fundamentalists are saying that we should give Piper more time. Dear reader, why are so many surprised at Piper's actions? Not only is he having Warren to speak, but he is defending his decision by saying that Warren is "**deeply theological.**"¹ Piper is compounding his error by using this deceptive description of Warren that amounts to treachery in defense of his decision. This is self-revealing.

It is easy to talk big about "separation" from the likes of Rick Warren. However, Piper has become the darling of

many who hold the title "Fundamentalist." His books may be found on Fundamental Christian College and University campus bookstores across the nation. John Piper enjoys great popularity among the young fundamentalists coming out of our schools and colleges. These young fundamentalists for the most part **do not** have a working knowledge of Biblical separation and abhor what is called "Secondary Separation", that is Separation from Disobedient Brethren which is clearly taught in the New Testament (Romans 16:17; II Thess. 3:6 - 15). Piper has gone public on having Warren in his pulpit; Piper's ecumenism (willing to work with just about anyone) is public, his rationale is public; therefore, it is clear that he is not changing his mind and, therefore, we should warn our people that Piper is in error and avoid him that he may be ashamed. Please follow this with me, you will notice very few who will practice Biblical separation from Piper because men and their ministries have a hard time saying, "**We were wrong.**" Image is more important than purity.

Changing the Rules to Reflect our Tastes

As I am writing I just received a phone call from one of our faithful missionaries. He operates a fundamental radio station and is currently under immense pressure to lower his station's music standards. This pressure is not coming from the new-evangelical crowd, it is not coming from the emergent church movement, it

is coming from "fundamental supporting churches" who want the radio station to reflect the new rules by which these supporting churches are now approving their own music. You would think that churches would be thrilled that there is a radio station with high standards beaming out quality programming, music, and preaching. However, that is not the case. This fundamental radio missionary is being told that the separation principles behind the station's music standards are arcane and counterproductive. In other words, he is being told that the rules have changed. "Touch not the unclean thing"; "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers"; "make a difference between the holy and the profane" are ancient concepts that have little bearing in our selection of music for worship and personal listening. A large segment of churches that are a part of what is known as Fundamentalism no longer use Separation principles from God's Word in making their musical choices for worship or personal listening. For "the greater cause of souls" and to increase listeners, they have come to a "new understanding" that music is neutral and that we must appeal to what listeners "like" and what fits their "tastes" in order to reach them.

The repercussions are radical. To push another Christian to lower his or her standards to fit your agenda is radicalism. It is unconscionable that a church, a preacher, or organization would impose their lower standards on someone with higher standards. The cost is

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Proverb Practicals

by Ludwig Opager

Proverbs 10:9, **He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known.**

As in many of God's proverbs, we find in this proverb a contrast. In this case, it is a contrast between that which is straight and that which is crooked. And the "straight" to which we are referring is a perpendicular.

When we build a wall, we insure that our studs are perpendicular. Columns are always perpendicular, for only the perpendicular can support the greatest load. Upright, vertical, and perpendicular positions are always stronger than any other position. All perpendiculars, that is verticals or uprights, on the earth, intersect at a common point, which is the center point of the earth.



Not trusting our eye, we use instruments called levels with which to find the perpendicular, which is at only one position. All other positions are crooked. Anyone can find a crooked position for they are legend, but there is only one perpendicular position.

God has so made us to walk upright, and that upright is best walked in the perpendicular. A drunken man cannot walk in this position and because of this he easily falls. We are designed to walk in the perpendicular, otherwise we, too, will fall. Every

step we take is a momentary leaving of the upright, but only so that we may come to a new upright position.

Our proverb tells us that when we walk uprightly we walk surely, and we should be reminded of this every time we walk. This proverb also tells us that he that perverteth his way shall be known. A man who is drunk perverteth his way for he can not stand uprightly. His frame, not being perpendicular, is crooked, and his ways are soon known as he staggers and falls down. It is easy to know whether or not a man is drunk, for his lack of uprightness will reveal him to all who observe.

God has given to us the perpendicular, for He is the **Great Perpendicular**. All things are measured against Him. Jesus Christ said: **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.** Jesus Christ, who is God, is the perpendicular against whom you are to be measured. He is the One by whom you can walk uprightly and if you walk in Jesus Christ, you will walk surely. He that walks uprightly walks surely, because he regulates his walk by Jesus Christ, who is the Word of God. His level for uprightness is Jesus Christ. He constantly measures his walk by the level of the Word of God.

This is what Paul told Timothy in

II Timothy 2:15 when he said, **Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.** Study is to stand next to the level of the Word of God and see where you do not measure up. Then by the light of the Word of God, you, in conjunction with God's Holy Spirit, make adjustments, you grow toward the level. You study some more, that is you check your level, and then make further adjustments.

This is what a workmen does who does not want his work to be out of level, a workman who does not want to be ashamed. This workman walks in integrity, which is another word for uprightness. What you see in the outward reflects what is in the inward. He is without dissimulation, without pretense. In other words, he does not live a simulated life, a make-believe life, a life of image, but speaks as he thinks, acts as he speaks, and constantly sees Christ as his pattern, his perpendicular, for life. The workman who walks in integrity is on the level!

He is not like many who compare themselves with others and find themselves not wanting for in this process for some reason or other, he finds himself to compare quite favorably. Often you hear this

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the purity of God's work. The cost is influencing a whole generation of young people by putting a stamp of approval upon music that fits the culture rather than befitting the Savior. Those who cry for lower standards argue that it is wrong for someone with higher standards to impose their higher standards on someone with lower standards. Yet when Paul addressed this very issue of low standards in the church of Corinth in I Corinthians 5, he implored the Corinthian leaders to *"Purge out (separate from) therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the **unleavened bread of sincerity and truth**"* (vs. 7-8). Paul said to throw out the lower standards and put in place God's high standards in Corinth. We have it backwards, we are seeking to throw out the higher standards and go with lower standards. We are changing the rules to fit our agendas.

Changing the Rules to Inflate the Numbers

In the United States, quantity is very impressive. We measure the success of sporting events, concerts, races, and seminars by how many people attended. The church has adopted the culture's thirst for numbers by gaging success by how many people are present or on the membership roll. In essence, if you do not have the numbers, you are not a success. This is an

unbiblical concept that is very prevalent in our churches.

It is interesting to me that in Luke 8:4, when the large crowds began to follow Jesus Christ, He began to speak in parables which brought about a separation. This is significant because parables were only understood by those who genuinely desired to listen, believe and follow Christ. Those gathered for entertainment or to be seen at these venues went away not knowing what Jesus was talking about. After the shock value and tangible benefits of His miracles (feeding of the five and four thousand) wore off, they stopped following Christ. Christ was practicing separation in His ministry. Move along the spectators and draw in the true folks interested in following Him. This was Christ's method.

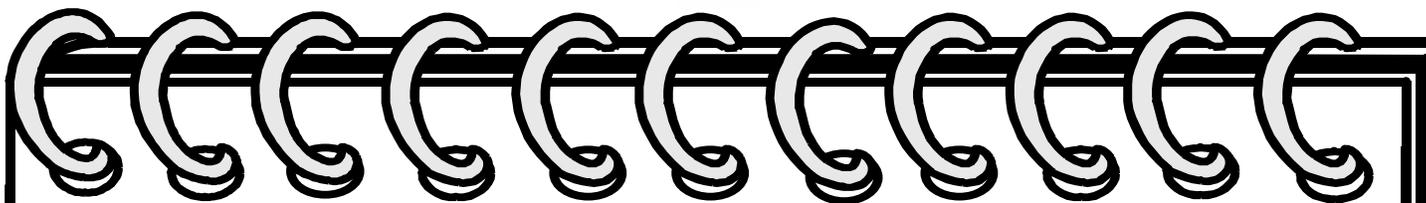
When people come to church these days, the "leadership teams" make every effort to produce "accessibility", "c o m f o r t", and "understandability." As one writer put it, "instead of 'Rock of Ages cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee' it is now, 'Pillow of Ages, Fluffed for Me, Let me repose myself in thee.'" In other words, we are playing the culture's tune instead of following the authoritative Word of God. We are changing the Biblical rules of Separation to fit the popular culture. Churches are not using Jesus Christ's method of teaching up (through parables) and eliminating people who have no intention of following Him. Rather, we are dumbing down in order to appease the masses. It is all about ACCESS to the church, but do not be fooled, this does

not necessarily translate to ACCESS to CHRIST as assumed by many.

Changing the rules is not new. The New Evangelicals did that in the late 1940's and early 1950's to dialogue with liberals and modernists while at the same time clinging to the "old time religion." As a result, today we live with the consequences of those changes. American Christians, churches and Christian schools and colleges have failed to submit to the **sole authority** of the Scripture. We have become good mixers of truth and popular philosophy. Therefore, we do not know what we believe, why we believe what we believe, and therefore proclaim a confused, mish-mash message that has no basis for belief. Fundamentalism has recoiled from its grasp of Biblical truth because it has lost its **AUTHORITY**. Christian Fundamentalism is fading away on its own volition. Ω

¹www.desiringgod.org/Events/National_Conference/Archives/2010

Other speakers include R. Albert Mohler, Jr., R.C. Sproul, Thabiti Anyabwile, Francis Chan, Rick Warren and John Piper.



Teaching Tips

by Doris Peppard

MULTI-TASKING BEGINS IN KINDERGARTEN

Every person should develop that mystical skill of multi-tasking – you know, doing and keeping track of several things at the same time and doing first things first. Because we are faced with multiple tasks that must be accomplished every day, teaching this skill is vitally important. How many times are we interrupted from our duties by a phone call, a knock at the door, the television, or a child's call? Even though interruptions come, we have learned to tend to one thing at a time, stay focused on it, and check it off our "To Do" list. Learning to prioritize and organize work is a very important task that must begin in kindergarten.

A good method to teach children to learn multi-tasking is to set up a section of the chalkboard or whiteboard with the class' schedule for the day. At the beginning of the school year until Kindergarten children learn to read, the teacher might use pictures of duties listed in the desired order. Later, pictures could be changed to simple, bold-lettered words. For very young children, times are optional, but order of events is vital.

As students progress to the elementary grades, your organization section of the board might look something like this:

Classwork

- 1) Math - p. 108.
- 2) Language - p. 100 - 101.
- 3) Penmanship - Write your Bible verse.
- 4) Spelling - Alphabetize words.
- 5) History - Label Map.
- 6) Science - Fill-in-the-blank Sheet.

Of course, children will be interrupted at times (reading groups, a secretary's call over the intercom, someone's sneeze, etc.), but they need to learn to focus and get their work done in spite of such interruptions. When they understand the order of their seatwork, they are more apt to focus, get down to business, and finish the job. This flow chart, as above, helps children "see" whether or not they are on target in completing their work.

When students begin the middle school grades, they need to learn the importance of using a day planner. Most day planners are printed by the month, so at a glance, students can make notations on due dates, projects, and homework assignments on the particular day they need to have them ready. This planner will later become a record of the student's school year and also give parents and teachers a place to write appropriate notes. A good day planner can also build students' multi-tasking skills as they begin to have more than one teacher to whom to be responsible.

Realizing that many children have been coddled and have no experience in being responsible for themselves, teachers must do all they can to help students develop these multi-tasking skills. We must hold them responsible for getting and staying organized. One recommendation is to be as specific as possible about what you expect and practice it many times during the first month of school. Teach them how to be organized by showing them examples of how you organize your own day and work. Show them the type of structure you expect from them. You may even get a set of school supplies for yourself the first day of school and demonstrate how you want their notebooks set up, desks and lockers organized, etc. As teachers, we cannot assume that a student knows or understands how to do this. We should always be very specific about our expectations and requirements.

Today, most adults utilize some sort of organizational tool. Many would be lost without their "blackberry" technology to keep their lives and/or business organized. Realizing the importance of this skill, we must begin with our students when they are young, even as early as kindergarten, to learn the need and skills of multi-tasking. Being organized and learning to prioritize work is biblical and, therefore, vitally important for Christian School teachers to instill in their students. "Let all things be done decently and in order" (I Cor. 14:40). Ω



(Continued from page 5 - Proverbs Practicals)

said, "Well, I'm not as bad as most people!" But is this the standard to which you should strive?

Paul cautioned of this faulty reasoning in II Cor. 10:12 where he wrote, **For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.**

Why are they not wise? Because they are comparing the crooked with the crooked. They are the workmen whose level has fallen to the floor too many times and the misplaced bubble shows

them to be on the level. Their standard is of their own making. But the workman who desires to truly walk uprightly and surely, depends on God's Word, the true level, the true perpendicular, to go before him, that he not stumble, for God's Word, as we are told in Psalm 119:105, **is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.** Ω



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4) During three jail breaks (Acts 5, 12, 16); neither Peter, Paul, nor Silas returned to jail. Their jail sentences had not been commuted. Should they have respected the authorities and given themselves up to return to jail?

The overriding principle is that we ought to obey God rather than men when civil government overreaches its authority in violation of the Word of God.

Dear reader, the testing of Christians in regard to the law is here and now and is continuing to escalate. We must ask God for discernment and wisdom in regard to these tests. Civil Government is not "all in all", Christ is! We respect civil government and follow the laws of the land until they go cross-grain to God's standards. In addition, we should expect consequences when we obey God rather than men. John the Baptist, Peter, and Paul were executed for crimes against the government. All **evangelized without permission** from the government understanding rather their spiritual authority and responsibilities to God. God help us to be on His side when the tests come our way. Ω

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ing in the First Modernistic Church on Sunday morning. (It has to be in that order, for the modernistic church does not have an evening service.) Allowing them to bridge the gulf of separation says to the whole community, "Fundamental churches and modernistic churches are about the same . . . they support the same things."

A few years ago the Moral Majority was the rage. The expressed goals of the group appealed to fundamentalists who were against pornography, homosexuality and abortion and were for restoring morality, strengthening defense and opposing communism. Why not join it? Answer: It would not practice Biblical

separation. Any fundamentalist knows that we are a minority. You cannot practice Biblical separation and build a majority because we are a minority. The world's way is always to win with a majority. Stop to think for a moment. Can you name any time in Scripture where God followed that policy? Charles Spurgeon said: "Long ago I ceased to count heads. Truth is usually in the minority in this evil world." The battles of Scripture were always won by an obedient minority, not a diverse majority. Do not affiliate your church with any church, mission, movement or evangelistic effort which does not practice Biblical separation. Ω



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WHY CHRISTIAN STANDARDS FALL

by Rev. Ivan Foster

Retired Pastor Kilskeery, Free Presbyterian Church, Northern Ireland

From last issue: The believer's standard is the Word of God. If we are talking about falling standards we are talking about a departure from the Word of God. Falling standards are a challenge for this generation especially since none other has been nearer to the end-time age.

Let us now come to our subject.

I. WHY DO THE STANDARDS OF BELIEVERS FALL?

There are a number of reasons. **1. Because of the existence of a fallen nature within us.** Our old nature desires the slackening of God's standards. When King David acknowledged his fall into backsliding he explains why by pointing to his sinful nature. *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me* (Psalm 51:5). The fallen heart pours forth depraved desires. If we give in to them we immediately will fall. It is for this reason that we must battle against the flesh and see it crucified daily.

2. Because of the environment of a corrupt and evil world. This world is corrupt and steadily growing worse, Phil. 2:15, II Tim. 3:1-5, Psalm 2. Should we yield to its influence, then we will fall. We must ever resist conformity to it. *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God* (Romans 12:2). *Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world* (James 1:27). It is the Christian's constant task to keep himself unsullied and free from sin. Where this does not happen then the world's views and standards are adopted and Christian standards fall.

3. Because of a subtle and persuasive enemy. The devil is a deceiver. *And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season* (Revelation 20:2-3). Eve was persuaded to abandon God's standards for her own by the devil. He argued that she would be better off rejecting the constrictions of God's law. Freedom, liberty -- all awaited her outside God's law. She believed the devil and the rest is history. He still works this trick on God's people today. He still manages to persuade Christians that there is a better life outside obedience to the law of God. He is believed and Christian standards fall. A combination of these three factors accounts for the decline in standards whenever there has been such a fall. For this reason, you will find that God's servants in every age consistently call God's people to obedience to His law. The medicine is the same because the disease is the same.

II. FURTHERMORE, STANDARDS WILL FALL WHEN THE INSTITUTIONS WHICH GOD ORDAINED TO PRESERVE HIS STANDARDS FAIL IN THEIR DUTY.

There are basically three such institutions.

1. Parents. Deut. 6:3-9, Eph. 6:1-4. Mankind is to be instructed in the standards of God from its earliest days. God's ways are to be taught from the cradle. *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it* (Proverbs 22:6). There is a tremendous attack upon this institution of God today. Parents' rights to discipline their family according

to the Bible are almost gone. A Christian parent who uses a rod to discipline his child will almost certainly be accused of child abuse by the watch dogs of the Social Services. The plethora of views and notions that emanate from the lobby of child 'experts' on television, radio, in magazines and newspaper columns, is completely anti-Bible and anti-God. Society today effectively forbids a parent to obey God in the matter of raising the child. Whatever remnant of biblical instruction is retained in the home comes under attack in the classroom of the state school system. It is even believed that it is essential for educationalists to persuade children to disregard their parents if their parents are instructing them in views that are objected to by the ecumenical educationalists of today. Dr. Ed Cairns, of The New University of Ulster, published a book called, "Caught in the Crossfire." In that book he says, "Paradoxically there is also the question of making Northern Irish children more rebellious not less. Northern Ireland is undoubtedly a conservative, some would say authoritarian society. Of course, in every society an attempt is made to transmit information, including attitudes and values from one generation to the next. In order to do this efficiently it has been suggested, the first step is that each child has to be moulded into an information acceptor. It has to be ready to believe what it is told." {Waddington, 1960, 28}. Unfortunately, adults in Northern Ireland, the evidence suggests, may have become all too expert at this process and therefore there is a need for children in Northern Ireland also to learn to question what they are told. Here there may also be an important if difficult role for the schools which ultimately could contribute to a Northern Ireland where two communities could live

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in peace rather than eternal conflict. None of this can, of course, happen overnight. It will be a long slow process. But the fact that instant results are not achieved must not allow those who advocate peacemaking activities, particularly those in power, to lose faith with this approach because in the last analysis it could be argued this is Northern Ireland's only real hope." {Page 165.} His views may be considered as too radical and may not have the support of the majority of educationalists but remember, today's majority was yesterday's minority!

2. Pulpit. The pulpit is to stand between the people and departure from God's Word. It must exercise a warning ministry and a rebuking ministry. God's man must, *Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins* (Isaiah 58:1). Look at the following texts and see that such a ministry is all part of the New Testament minister's duty as well: I Tim. 5:20, II Tim. 4:2, Matt. 8:26, 17:18. What a mighty influence for good is the ministry of a man who preaches in the power of the Holy Ghost! Pray for your minister that he, and indeed all of God's servants, might have such power. Paul said this, *For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock* (Acts 20:29). There could be no attack until after Paul departed. The devil and his allies are greatly restricted by the powerful ministry of a man of God.

3. Parliament. The ruler has a God-given duty to perform in this matter. Romans 13:4 sets this out clearly. *For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.* When parliament fails to uphold the standards of

decency established by God's law then national values fall. Liberalising of the laws of this country has led to increased crime and the disintegration of the very fabric of society. The Prime Minister's "Back to Basic" campaign will not and cannot stop such a decline. Only a return to the basics of God's holy law can effect such a change. When these institutions fail then a fall is inevitable. Do we not see failure in all three institutions today? Then, there you have part of the answer to your question.

III. STANDARDS WILL FALL IF BELIEVERS DO NOT KEEP THEIR HEARTS AND SOULS.

We are commanded to keep our hearts and lives under the rule of God's Word.

1. We need to maintain a watch over our hearts. *Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons* (Deuteronomy 4:9). *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life* (Proverbs 4:23).

2. We need to maintain a readiness to bear reproach for Christ. What made Peter fail and fall? He was ashamed of Christ. Whenever we grow ashamed of Christ or any aspect of His Gospel then there follows a falling away (Matt. 26:33-34). Heed the call of Hebrews 13:12-13, for it is still relevant today. *Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.* The standards never change for a people who follow Jesus outside the camp. Standards only become an issue whenever God's separated people begin to drift back within the camp.

3. We need to be ever waiting for the Lord's return. Matt. 24:42-25:5, Luke 12:35-40, I John 3:2-3. *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless* (II Peter 3:10-14). A classroom will remain perfectly peaceful in the absence of the teacher as long as the pupils are mindful of that teacher's return. Once that fact slips from the children's minds, then bedlam breaks loose. Let God's people cultivate an awareness of the return of Christ and what that return will initiate, then they will stay loyal and stay diligent awaiting His return and His rewards. Read carefully the words of the parable told by the Saviour in Matthew 24:42-51, and note especially the words of the wicked servant in verse 48. Here is the thinking that will give rise to a departure from God's holy standards. Let us once lose sight of the return of Christ and we encourage carelessness and decline. In the parable of the wise and foolish virgins it was the cry, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh", that aroused the sleepers. Dear Christian young person, stay awake and obedient by ever contemplating the return of the One Who died at Calvary for your sins. Such meditations can only stimulate desires to remain faithful and true to your Redeemer.

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Stars of the Morning

SHOES DON'T RUN

by "Aunt Carolyn"



Stevie sat glumly on the back steps of his home. He saw the beautiful sunset, but he could not think about it for being so discouraged! Stevie was the quickest, fastest runner in his class, but how could he be on the school's relay team without any shoes? Some of the boys had good athletic shoes, some even had real track shoes, but Steve's shoes were hardly fit to wear to school, let alone to run a big race on a cinder track! His shoes were held together by pieces and patches. One day he put heavy rubber bands around his shoes to hold the soles to the tops, but when the kids pointed and laughed at them, he slipped the bands off and just tried to walk carefully so the floppy soles wouldn't be so conspicuous. Glue worked a little while but not long. He knew Mom would get him some shoes when she could, but they barely had enough to eat at home. There was no money for shoes. In fact, if the owner of the bakery where Mom worked had not allowed her to take home some of the unsold week-old bread, they really would have been hungry. Steve kicked at the ground. All he could think of was "shoes" and "supper."

When Mom came home, she leaned out the back door with her usual perky greeting and caring questions about Stevie's day at school. Then she said, "Come on in, Son. We have some good bread and milk for supper. And believe it or not, the bakery had some peanut butter cookies to spare tonight, so you'll have dessert, too! Isn't the Lord good?"

"Yes'm, He surely is," Stevie replied, but his voice sounded

downcast, which told his knowing Mom that something was wrong. She sat down on the step beside him.

"Okay, my boy, what's wrong? Can you tell me about it?"

"Well, yes'm, but I don't want to worry you. I just – I just..."

"You just what, Son? I can't help you if you don't talk. I can't help you if you don't tell me."

"Well, you know the track meet that's coming up at school? Well, they want me to run on the relay race team, but – well, my shoes won't run!"

"No, no! Shoes don't run, Stevie. Boys run. You have to run!" Mom nudged.

"Yes'm, but that's what I mean. I can't run in my shoes. They are worn out! The soles are peeling loose from the tops. They slow me down and might even trip me and make me fall!

"Perish the thought on that cinder track!" Mom shuddered.

"Yeah, what a thought!" Steve groaned. "I'm sorry, Mom, but I just need some running shoes!"

"Indeed, you do, young man! I've been noticing your shoes and have been praying about them. The Lord always supplies our needs, but He tells us to 'ask,' you know. Jesus said, 'Ask, and ye shall receive.' Suppose we ask again right now before we go in for supper." As they bowed their heads, the back

steps became a sacred place of earnest prayer.

Stevie enjoyed his bread and milk supper, and his burden for the shoes seemed to ease, but he was still troubled. How in the world could the Lord supply a pair of shoes? And how could He send them quickly? Steve needed them soon! The evening passed, and at bedtime prayers they again called on the Lord in their need.

Just days before the track meet, Stevie continued practicing in his old, floppy, threadbare shoes, but everyone knew he could run faster. The coach pulled for Stevie, but unless he could get better speed he would not make the relay team. "Oh," thought Stevie, "This is awful."

That evening as Steve again waited on the back steps for Mom to come home, he prayed, "Oh, Lord, You said 'Ask', and now I'm asking again to please somehow help me to get some good shoes and let me run in the track meet, but may Your will be done. And help me to be thankful for whatever Your answer is."

When Mom came home from work that evening, she was carrying a big bread sack. Steve was glad for that, because bread and whatever they could add to it would make a good supper. But this time Mom held the bag high motioning to Steve. "Come, Stevie! Come and see!"

What Steve saw when he opened the big bag almost took his breath away! The bag held no bread; it

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 * (Continued from page 11 - Shoes Don't Run)
 * held -- shoes! Beautiful (if running
 * shoes can be called beautiful)
 * running shoes! "Oh, wow, Mom!
 * Where'd they come from? How did
 * you get them? Are they my size?"
 * Steve was too excited to wait for
 * answers. He jerked off his old
 * shoes and tried on the new ones!
 * Wonder of wonders! They fit! They
 * really fit!
 *
 * "You shouldn't be so surprised,
 * Stevie. Don't you think the Lord
 * knows your shoe size? If He knows
 * how many hairs are in your head,
 * He surely knows how big your feet
 * are!" Mom smiled! "Mr. Fredricks,
 * the bakery owner, noticed your
 * shoes the other day. Today he
 * brought this sack and asked if you
 * might wear these shoes. They
 * were his son's, but his boy has
 * several pairs of shoes. He said you
 * are welcome to these if they fit."
 *
 * "Oh, they fit, all right!" squealed
 *
 * Stevie, and he fairly danced for joy
 * up and down the back steps. Then
 * suddenly he stopped and sat down
 * on the top step. "Oh, Mom, let's
 * thank the Lord right now! Thank
 * Him for the shoes! Thank Him that I
 * can be in the race! Thank Him for
 * looking out for us like this!" And
 * right then, they prayed and thanked
 * the Lord!
 *
 * After the "Amen," Mom added,
 * "Now there's one thing more, my
 * boy. Mr. Fredricks also said you
 * could come work an hour after
 * school each day. He will pay you to
 * sweep, clean, and run errands at
 * the bakery, so you can earn money
 * for some of the things you need."
 *
 * Well, Track Meet Day was exciting
 * and triumphant. Stevie's team won
 * the Relay Race, and Stevie was the
 * fastest runner of all! His whole
 * school cheered and shouted for
 * their team and for Stevie. They
 * were proud of their team; they were
 * proud of Stevie; and everyone was
 * proud of his new shoes! No one
 * ever made cracks about Stevie's
 * "rubber band shoes" again!
 *
 * Stevie greatly thanked Mr. Fredricks
 * for the shoes and for his new job.
 * And he could hardly thank the Lord
 * enough for saving him from sin, for
 * answering his prayers, and for
 * providing his needs -- from
 * salvation, to food, to running shoes!
 * He kept thinking of the Bible
 * promise he had learned in Sunday
 * School, "*My God shall supply all
 * your need...*" (Phil. 4:19). Deep in
 * his heart, Stevie promised God that
 * he would live for Christ and run the
 * race of life for Him.
 *
 * Let us also "*lay aside every weight,
 * and the sin which doth so easily
 * beset us, and...run with patience
 * the race that is set before us,
 * Looking unto Jesus the author and
 * finisher of our faith*" (Heb. 12:1,2).
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