

Have One Mind (in Christ) - Philippians 2:5

A Monthly Magazine

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Keep Yourselves from Idols

Jerry O'Donnell

This title comes from 1 John 5:21, which says, "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen." And keep in mind that this has eternal consequences, for Revelation 21:8 says that those who do not keep themselves from idols are part of the list of those who end up suffering the "second death": "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Likewise, Revelation 22:14-15 repeats the group, saying that such people are outside of the holy city and not allowed to enter, which basically is the inability to enter into Heaven: "Blessed [are] they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without [are] dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie."

If one were to study the Old Testament on this subject, they would

quickly see that there was always a religious reason, a godly reason, why they disobeyed God and even turned to idolatry. Take for instance the serpent on the pole that Moses erected back when He was commanded of God to make it in the first place during the plague of serpents. "And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived" (Numbers 21:8-9). Many years later, that same pole with the serpent was discovered and people began to worship it but it served no godly purpose for those who discovered it. So, to break the worship of an idol, "Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign" (2 Kings 18:1) "and he did [that which was] right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did. He removed the high places, and brake the im-

ages, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan" (2 Kings 18:3-4). So, an object ordained by God to be looked upon for healing if one were bitten by a serpent had to be destroyed later because it was being used as an idol, for giving it any use at this point was considered purely idol worship.

There are many more examples found in the scriptures along with the examples of coercion to comply, like under King Ahab and Jezebel.

Fast forward in time, we have the church, shortly after the apostles died off, trying to win the pagans to Christianity. Constantine changed all of the pagan statues' names to Christian names and have passed them down to our day in which many Christians use statues to pray to, through, about, etc. Technically, we are told, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness [of any thing] that [is] in heaven

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above, or that [is] in the earth beneath, or that [is] in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God [am] a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth [generation] of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments” (Exodus 20:4-6). That makes the use of such objects a type of idol worship for a godly reason.

Many do not do such things but may be guilty of a different type of idol worship such as the use of jewelry. Many Christians wear crosses as jewelry. They put them on bracelets, use them as earrings, and as part of a necklace. The world does not need to see these objects to tell if we are a Christian or not. The world can tell we are Christians if we live as Christians. Therefore, the use of such jewelry to prove our Christianity is technically a form of idol usage. That includes all other material objects that go along with such thoughts like the use of bumper stickers, Jesus plates, etc.

But, then again, many Christians do not participate in such shows of

display. So, we narrow the field, literally the field, down to include sports. Rooting for sports teams and figures is a form of idol worship especially if bragging is involved, financial support by buying their souvenirs, paraphernalia, or other such support. Sports are not shown in the Bible in a positive manner. Paul’s race comparison was not to encourage participation in any form to support the Olympics. He criticized them by saying, “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize?” (1 Corinthians 9:24) and further stated, “And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they [do it] to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible” (1 Corinthians 9:25). In other words, it is all worthless. Only one team wins the Super Bowl, World Series, Stanley Cup, etc. But even in less than a year, it fades because they are all at it again to be the champion for this year as opposed to the history of a year ago or more. People even choose between sports on television or going to church. Some will watch the game while in church, seeing how portable such reception is these days. All of it is a form of idol worship.

Which leads us to the next level of celebrities, be it in the music, television, or movies. Following a certain artist, especially worldly singers, by downloading or buying their music, dressing like them, or whatever other actions, all show support and are forms of idol worship. Some go as far as justifying that certain actors and actresses are Christian, yet, when they are on set, they are not wholly Christ’s servant. In the movies, such supposed Christian actresses and actors have used foul words, punched people even though it is fake, smoked, have shown a bit of skin, have drunk alcohol, etc. To justify any entertainment, especially of a worldly sense, is nothing short of idol worship.

Then we move to what many are guilty of – idolizing their denomination. With the headlines these days where certain denominations allow homosexual preachers, political sermonizing on a constant basis, pushing government mandates upon their parishioners against the Bible position, etc., all being wrong, people will continue to support their denomination anyways. We are to test our denominational stances on all matters for we are to “Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21). And just what are we to use to prove all preaching and prophesying? “The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets” (1 Corinthians 14:32). In other words, when a person provides a message, test it according to what the prophets have penned. Those

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 1. *What Does It Mean for the World to Have One Mind?*
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The mission of *Have One Mind (in Christ)* is to encourage the desire of “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” (2 Peter 3:12), “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15), and to “abideth in the doctrine of Christ” (2 John 1:9) by following the words of Jesus, “If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him” (John 14:23).

Editor and Founder

Jerry O'Donnell

About Have One Mind (in Christ) Ministry

This ministry is founded upon the necessity of raising the standard higher and higher. It is a non-profit, volunteer group of Christians who love God's Word and love people so much so that we do not want to see a single person lost.

Subscription and Donations

Although we are volunteers, the cost of this publication is challenging to provide to everyone for free. So, we are asking for a subscription of \$19 annually for 12 issues, and if the Lord impresses you with the means to be able to provide a donation, we definitely would welcome such and put it to proper use, including helping to pay for subscriptions of those who cannot afford the cost. The publication is free online in PDF format.

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prophets are the writers of what we call the Bible today. Directly speaking now, the Bible is the standard, and if it is not, and one goes along with whatever rules a denomination makes through their human counsels, they then have crossed the line replacing the Bible with an idol – their denomination. And using the excuse that no denomination is perfect or meets the Bible standard, one ought to rethink that position for we found out that it is a matter of effort to find out what the Bible teaches and what the thousands of denominations teach. Many denominations are far off the mark while several others are clos-

er to the mark. It is a lie of Satan to keep one satisfied in receiving error in each church service.

Speaking of which, many Christians idolize their pastors. A person may be shown what the Bible teaches and yet, they will run to their pastor to get the final word. And seeing that the pastor does not want to go against what their denomination teaches for fear of losing his position, which many have admitted in a one-on-one private session, they will use some twisted reason to make the person not see what the Bible teaches. One pastor used the excuse that too many verses were being used. In other words, after

showing over ninety passages on a matter that contradicted a teaching of their pastor, the pastor rejected all of those and said that the one or two they chose to use is sufficient and the other ninety should be dismissed. And the couple that was studying the Bible agreed with the pastor and rejected Bible truth.

So, let it not be said of us, "Ephraim [is] joined to idols: let him alone" (Hosea 4:17).



Who Is the Real Antichrist?



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Be In Health — 3 John 1:2

Fruit of the Spirit - Long Suffering or Patience

Being long suffering or patient reduces the likelihood of having a stroke, heart attack, or as they say, popping a blood vessel.

People who easily get upset raise their blood pressure and increase the risk of having one of those health ailments or other ailments. It even leads to having muscle aches in the neck, shoulder, lower back, maybe even in the gut. It can affect digestion, sleep, and other bodily functions.

Being impatient happens both knowingly and unknowingly. While waiting in line, it is obvious when a person has become impatient. They will frequently watch the time; make gestures that imply the phrase, "Come on, what's taking so long?"; will start to agitate; and may even make rude huffing noises, just to name a few expressions of frustration.

The not-so-obvious ways impatience is expressed include increased risk taking, like increasing the speed of the vehicle beyond what one normally drives; starting to make gestures trying to calm oneself down like stroking the hair or rubbing the arms; and of course the development of sweat.

All of these symptoms and others are signs of needing to develop patience, learning to be more accepting of things not going according to plans, and becoming more tolerant of the situation.

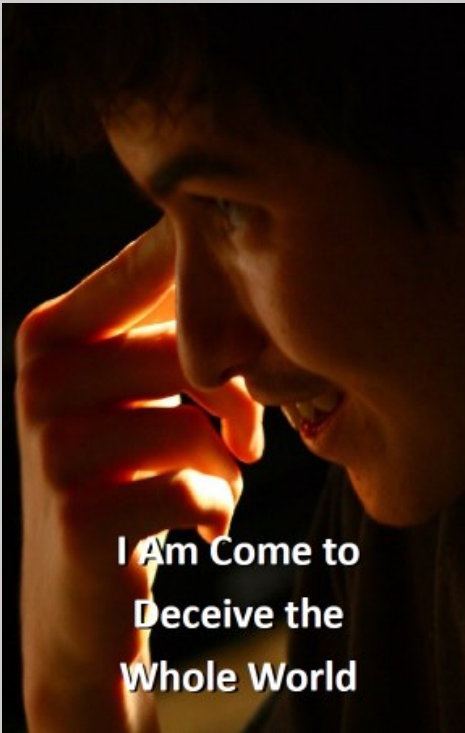
So, when the feeling of impatience begins to develop, begin to look for ways to keep from getting frustrated. Start with conversing with God in the mind in a form of prayer. One does not have to close their eyes or get on their knees. Start thinking of scripture verses and examples of patience like, "Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12).

Then there are the physical methods that can be performed while praying. Take a few deep breaths in a slow manner. Relax any tense muscles, like opening the hands from a fist to palms out, drop the shoulders, and stop pacing. Next,

look for a distraction. Even in the hour of temptation, God says He will, "with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it]" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Overall, it is not worth flying off the handle and allowing Satan to laugh at you. Further, impatience shows a lack of trust that God has your schedule and knows best as opposed to us expecting every day to go smoothly.

So, do you really mean it when you say that God watches out for you? Then trust that He has your schedule.



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***How Satan, from his
perspective, is
distracting so many
Christians while his
agenda marches on.***

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Healthy and Delicious Recipes

Chick Pea Burgers

Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons tahini, divided
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 ¼ teaspoons onion powder, divided
- 1 ¼ teaspoons garlic powder, divided
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh chives plus 2 tablespoons, divided
- 1 (15 ounce) can no-salt-added chickpeas, rinsed
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ cup fresh parsley leaves
- ½ cup shredded zucchini

- ⅓ cup old-fashioned rolled oats
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

Directions

Combine 2 tablespoons tahini, lemon juice, 1/2 teaspoon onion powder, 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder in a small bowl. Gradually whisk in water until the mixture is smooth. Stir in 1 teaspoon chives. Set aside.

Place chickpeas, cumin, salt and the remaining 2 tablespoons tahini, 1 teaspoon garlic powder and 3/4 teaspoon onion powder in a food processor. Pulse, stopping once or twice to scrape down the sides, until a coarse mixture forms

that holds together when pressed. Add parsley and the remaining 2 tablespoons chives; pulse until the herbs are finely chopped and incorporated into the mixture. Transfer to a bowl.

Squeeze zucchini in a clean kitchen towel to remove extra moisture. Add the zucchini and oats to the chickpea mixture; use your hands to combine, pressing to mash together. Form into 4 patties.

Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add the patties and cook until golden and beginning to crisp, 4 to 5 minutes. Carefully flip and cook until golden brown, 2 to 4 minutes more.



Natural Vitamins

The Health Benefits of Eating Bananas

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3. Slow down the emptying of the stomach, reducing the number of times a person experiences hunger.
4. Support digestive health because of the fiber which helps to prevent constipation and promotes softer stools.
5. May assist in weight loss and reduce appetite since they are low in calories and high in fiber.
6. Good for the heart because of the potassium and magnesium content.
7. Contain antioxidants which help prevent the damage caused by free radicals.
8. Contain significant amounts of protein.
9. May improve insulin when eaten in the unripe stage.
10. Good for the kidneys because of the potassium.
11. Good source of electrolytes, so they aid in recovery from exercising the body by preventing cramps and restoring electrolytes that were lost during exercise



Be Ye Holy — 1 Peter 1:15

Ephesians 6:18 states, “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.” What are we to be watchful of and for all saints if it were not expected of us to live a holy and sanctified life? Jesus even specifies the expectation by stating, “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak” (Matthew 26:41). Christians are the only ones tempted in a biblical sense for temptation is that of “sin” (Hebrews 4:15). And “sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4). And if there were no eternal consequence to giving in to sinning, then it would not be temptation. So, it is expected of a Christian to “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). Now, are you watching out for temptation with all effort in perseverance and supplication?

Luke 14:34-35 reveals that by the lifestyle of many Christians, living worldly lives, they do not have the ears to hear this parable: “Salt [is] good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; [but] men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.” Salt is a preserver and influencer. If it cannot do those things, it is cast away, just like many who claim to be Christian shall be cast away to hell. Instead of those Christians influencing others to live godly lives,

they are being influenced by the world to use foul language, drink alcohol, smoke, view and listen to content that contains things condemned by the Bible, chasing after worldly gains even in simple means, caught up in the political fighting, swept in to support their favorite sports team, etc. So, are you the salt that still has purpose, or will you be cast away instead?

Romans 12:21 states plainly, “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” We are not supposed to let the evil, the sins of the world to take us. We are not to participate in any evil, any sinning. And to fight against it, switch the action, switch the mind to that which is good and righteous, hence why the Holy Spirit “will reprove the world of sin,” causing us to stop sinning, “and of righteousness”, drawing us to that which is good, “and of judgment”, knowing that our record of actions will speak in the judgment. (John 16:8). So, are you living the holy and sanctified life by overcoming all evil?

John 15:5 is for the spiritually discerning Christian: “I am the vine, ye [are] the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” Those who are simply going through the form of Christianity will not understand this. We are expected to abide in Christ, which is done through how we live, which includes obedience. When we sin, we abide in Satan. Now, as

Christ abides in us in return, we then will bring forth much fruit. Do not think that this is all about sharing the gospel. This is about having the fruit of the Spirit, for “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23), all of which are the expectations of a Christian to live by. Anything short of that is a lost soul, however, this is not a checklist to earn Heaven, for that cannot be done, but rather it is a natural response to true abiding in Christ. Those who say that it is impossible to stop sinning are not abiding in Christ by daily time with God in real study of His Word, real heart-felt prayer, real determination to live the godly life as Jesus told us, “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak” (Matthew 26:41). Does that describe your daily abiding, or is yours just about having warm fuzzy feelings at the mention of the name Jesus?

Romans 12:21 states, “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” In Revelation 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:26, 3:5, 3:12, and 3:21, they state only the overcomer will be saved. Therefore, if we do not overcome evil in our lives, we shall be lost. Overcoming is the holy and sanctified life. So, are you overcoming your sins, the evil?

Two quick parables both state these words: “I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven

over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth" (Luke 15:7, 10). The result of being saved is for the sinner to repent. To repent is to be sorry for sinning, not wanting to do those sins, and by the grace of God, stop doing them. Today's average Christian merely utters the words, "I believe" and goes on unrepentant of their sins as they continue to indulge in many of them. So, are you a repentant Christian who will truly be saved, or an unrepentant one who has a false hope of being saved?

John 15:6 says, "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast [them] into the fire, and they are burned." That fire is hell in the literal sense. Therefore, those who do not abide go to hell, and there are no exceptions. It does not say, "Except if you believe" or "Except if you are saved". A synonym to the word "abide" is to "obey". We are expected to obey the commandments (John 14:15) and His Word (John 14:23). How so many Christians live worldly and think they are saved is beyond comprehension. Those who abide are living the holy and sanctified life, not in their own strength but by the grace of God (2 Peter 1:3). So, are you an abiding Christian or not?

John 15:8 states, "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." That means if we do not bear fruit, be it sharing the gospel and exer-

cising the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), we are not Jesus' disciples and will be lost. So, are you bearing the good fruit as part of living the holy and sanctified life, or are you indifferent?

Romans 13:2 states, "Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation." Thinking one is "saved" or not, Christian or not, to resist higher powers in accordance to God's Word has eternal consequences – "damnation", hell, lost for eternity. To submit to higher powers is the holy and sanctified life. So, how do you react to higher powers?

Matthew 16:24 reveals the holy and sanctified life through denial and resistance towards temptation: "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." In plain language, if anyone wants to be a Christian, all that the Word of God condemns in one's life is to be denied because we were ignorant of the ways of God and it even became who we were, hence the reason we have to be "born again". Then, when the "old man" (Romans 6:6), "the flesh" (Romans 8:4) rises up to have us return to the old way of life, we are expected to face the cross, which is to resist the temptation of going back (James 4:7). As we do this throughout our life, we are following Jesus. If we are not, we are following our own inclinations, desires, wants. So, are you denying yourself of the pleasures this world has to offer and resisting the temptations to participate in

them every moment of the day, and every day following the teachings as set forth in God's Word?

Luke 16:16-17 are a couple of tricky verses. "The law and the prophets [were] until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it. And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail." Many Christians are taught that Jesus, the representative of the kingdom of God, preceded by John the Baptist who pointed to Jesus, caused the cessation of the Ten Commandments. If that were so, then why did Jesus encourage on a number of times that people were to keep the commandments (Matthew 5:19, Matthew 15:9, Matthew 19:17, Matthew 22:40, and that's just in Matthew with Mark, Luke, and John left)? The second verse for today tells us that not a tittle of the law would cease and is still expected to be kept now and throughout eternity for there will be no murders or murderers in Heaven! Now, the law and the prophets pointed forward to needing a Savior. Today, the law and the prophets point back to the need of the Savior. John the Baptist is the pivotal point that makes the transmission in direction regarding the law for "Blessed [are] they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" (Revelation 22:14). So, are you keeping God's commandments, or do you believe the lie that grace ushered in at the preaching of John the Baptist doing away with law and the Old Testament?

John 15:9-10 defines how to love God. "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." Keeping the commandments is the holy and sanctified life. This also shows that Heaven is not for the willful or careless Christian who lives selfishly in sin, no matter how insignificant one may think it is. So, are you keeping the commandments, or have you been tricked into believing that the commandments are not important?

Romans 13:8-10 reveals even what Jesus meant by "love thy neighbor", and it is not what many Christians think it is. "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if [there be] any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love wor-

thyself, and thou shalt love thy neighbour: there is no ill to his neighbour: therefore love [is] the fulfilling of the law." If a person says they love their neighbor while breaking any of the last six commandments, they are a liar. Commandment keeping, in this case the last six but it applies to all, is expected of a true Christian. To do so is the holy and sanctified life. So, just how much do you love your neighbor?

Matthew 16:27 tells us that reaching Heaven is not determined upon simple belief but upon living the holy and sanctified life. "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." What actions we perform determines if we are true believers or not. Personally, I not only believe in Jesus and what He did at the cross, but I also believe that He can take away all my sins out of my life, that I can be kept from falling into sin (Jude 1:24). Therefore, my works are the fruit of my belief and not a means to achieve salvation. So, how much do you believe in Jesus?

Romans 13:12 tells us, "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." Casting off the works of darkness, like sin, is the holy and sanctified life that is expected to be lived by a Christian who believes in Jesus Christ, as we are to believe that He gives us power to actually live a godly life (2 Peter 1:3). So, have you cast off the works of darkness, especially that which is called sin?

Matthew 18:3 states that conversion is a required part of salvation: "And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." To be converted means that we stop doing that which the Bible condemns, know what the Bible approves, and live by those things. To do so is living the holy and sanctified life. So, are you converted or do you just have the name Christian as a title?



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Study to Shew Thyself Approved Unto God—(2 Timothy 2:15)

What is righteousness?

1. Where do we find instruction for righteousness? **2 Timothy 3:16**
2. What is associated with righteousness? **End of 2 Peter 2:21**
3. What are we to be dead to in order to live the righteous life? **1 Peter 2:24, 1 Corinthians 15:34, Romans 6:18**
4. What are we to avoid while living a righteous life? **1 John 3:7**
5. In fact, if we do not do righteousness, what are we considered? **1 John 3:10**
6. If we do righteousness, what are we considered? **1 John 2:29**
7. With all this righteousness being encouraged, let us remember that our righteous acts do not save us, but what does save us? **Titus 3:5** [Keep in mind that just because righteous living does not save us that does not mean we can live in an unrighteous manner.]
8. What do we have if we are living a righteous life along with goodness and truth? **Ephesians 5:9**
9. What leads to a righteous lifestyle? **Romans 10:10**
10. What must we walk after to live the righteous life? **Romans 8:4**
1. How does the Bible define sin? **1 John 3:4 “sin is the transgression of the law”**
2. Who knows all of our sins besides ourselves? **Psalms 69:5 “God”**
3. When we sin, what are we the servant of? **John 8:34 “servant of sin”**
4. When we sin, who are we aligned with? **1 John 3:8 “the devil”**
5. When we continue in sin, what is the end result? **Romans 6:23, Revelation 21:8 “death”, “second death”**
6. How does sin affect others? **Proverbs 14:34 “[is] a reproach”**
7. When we ask for forgiveness of our sins with an honest and sincere heart, what do our sins become? **Psalms 32:1, Romans 4:7 “covered”**
8. When we do acknowledge our sins before God, what happens to our sins, figuratively? **Micah 7:19 “cast all their sins into the depths of the sea”**
9. What does Jesus say to us regarding our confession of sins? **Luke 5:20 “Man, thy sins are forgiven thee”**
10. What is the goal regarding sinning? **1 John 2:1 “that ye sin not”**



December 2022 Bible Questions and Answers

What is sin?

Questions & Answers

QUESTION: Did Jesus send peace or a sword?

ANSWER: In one verse, it looks like Jesus is giving out peace, but in another, He says that He is sending a sword instead. Here are the two verses in question:

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Matthew 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

Proponents of the peace-loving Jesus look to what the apostles taught and even referenced to esus. This is where the hippie movement criticizes Jesus for failing at His mission. They then take the symbol of the cross; flip it upside down; stick it back in the ground; and break the arms of the cross to form a peace sign. In other words, the peace sign is an anti-Christ symbol. It is a sign that declares that Jesus was a failure and the hippie movement is what real peace is all about. With that in mind, here are a few samples of verses that seem to support the peace-movement-type of Jesus:

Acts 10:36 "The word which [God] sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)"

Romans 14:19 "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another."

2 Corinthians 13:11 "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of

good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

Philippians 4:7 "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Colossians 3:15 "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

2 Thessalonians 3:16 "Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord [be] with you all."

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all [men], and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Hebrews 13:20 "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,"

So, no wonder people are confused when they meet verses that seem contrary to the peace-seeking God, such as:

Luke 14:26 "If any [man] come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple."

Matthew 10:35-37 "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. And a man's foes [shall be] they of his own household. 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."

Luke 12:51-53 "Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law."

Reconciling the original pair of verses comes down to realizing the same misunderstanding regarding peace that is usually heard around New Year's Eve – "Let us pray for world peace", they say. There will never be world peace on this side of the second coming. In fact, it will wax worse and worse for "ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all [these things] must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom" (Matthew 24:6-7).

The solution to the original question ("Which did Jesus bring? Peace or a sword?") is found in the next couple verses.

Romans 5:1 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"

Colossians 1:20 "And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, [I say],

whether [they be] things in earth, or things in heaven.”

The peace that Jesus brought is peace between repentant sinners and God the Father. Sin cut the whole human race off from God. Jesus, our Mediator, brought peace to restore the connection. Between like believers, we may have peace. Between unlike believers, or between a believer and a non-believer, there is going to be a sword. It is not to be a literal sword, but there will be sharpness in the relationship.

Therefore, Jesus giving peace is within the relationship among believers, while sending a sword is our relationship among other people who do not believe in the true God and in His expectations – obedience to the Word (John 14:23) and His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

QUESTION: Does “Whosoever” mean all are saved or they lost?

ANSWER: The word “whosoever” appears to apply to anybody and everybody. Romans 10:13 tells of a way to be saved, while in Luke 12:10, it looks like no matter what one does, if they are guilty of speaking against the Holy Spirit, they can call upon the name of the Lord all they want, but it will be useless. In other words, Romans 10:13 appears to not apply to “whosoever” but actually excludes people – those of Luke 12:10.

Romans 10:13 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Luke 12:10 “And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but

unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.”

The problem comes from the misunderstanding of blaspheming the Holy Ghost as well as misunderstanding what it means to call upon the Lord. With a proper understanding of what the blaspheming of the Holy Ghost is, it will then be safe to say that such a person would never attempt to fulfill Romans 10:13, and therefore Romans 10:13 does not exclude the guilty.

Saying something derogatory to the Holy Spirit is not the sin discussed in Luke 12:10, meaning if one were to hit their thumb with a hammer and shout out a cursing use of the Holy Spirit, which people usually go for the second Person of the Godhead instead, that is not blaspheming the Holy Spirit.

Let us approach it first by defining the role of the Holy Spirit, which is to “guide you into all truth” (John 16:13) and “reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (John 16:8). If we reject the truth, reject the conviction of sin, reject the conviction of righteousness, and reject the preparation for the judgment, we are blaspheming the Holy Ghost. When we excuse away sins in our lives and teach others to do the same thing as well, that is the act of blaspheming the Holy Spirit. As “sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4), “Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:19). Thankfully, blaspheming the Holy Spirit is not a single act and we can

cease this behavior and be forgiven. But if we live the life of sinning and teaching others to do the same and die in this state, that is when we shall not be forgiven.

Likewise, if we declare that there is no truth and teach others how silly it is to think that there is a single correct religion and even denomination, then we die in that state will have committed the sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit. If we lead people away from doing that which is right, for “he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous” (1 John 3:7), that is when we commit the blaspheming of the Holy Spirit. Finally, if we downplay the judgment, we are agents against the Holy Spirit. All people in this state of mind will not call upon the name of the Lord for they have no interest in the true God.

Now, the second issue is in misunderstanding what it means to call upon the name of the Lord. It is not just the words involved that so many Christians think it is. It is not like, “Well, I called and He didn’t answer, so I left a message.” To call is to commit one’s life unto God. “Lord, I have lived a life of sin. Save me, please! I don’t want this sinful life anymore.” That is the type of calling that is referred to in Romans 10:13. In fact, we do not of ourselves call upon God “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing” (Romans 7:18). With that in mind, Jesus said, “I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Matthew 9:13). Notice that with calling, repentance, which is repentance from sin, is involved.

And we are told "him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). Praise the Lord! But do notice that a synonym to "call" is "come". In other words, "Whosoever shall come to the Lord shall be saved." And the expectation of understanding is

"that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

Therefore, Romans 10:13 and Luke 12:10 are not opposites or excluding anyone. Someone who repents of their sins would not be guilty of also blaspheming the Holy Spirit for the Holy Spirit is leading peo-

ple into truth, hating sin, obeying righteousness, and preparing for the judgment. And one has not blasphemed the Holy Spirit by a single act, but does so with a life time of resistance. If resistance to the Holy Spirit is the lifestyle, they would not call upon the Lord.



News and Comments

November 1

Fox News

Data show there have been 22 times more attacks on pro-lifers than pro-choice groups since Supreme Court leak

Although the vast majority of violence happens from the side that wants to kill life, evidently there is some violence from the side that supports life. That is not good as most pro-lifers are of a religious nature. "Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!" (Matthew 18:7).

November 3

MSN

I spent \$100,000 on leg-lengthening surgery to help my career. It was unbelievably painful, but I have no regrets.

At what length, literally and figuratively, people will go through to

chase the mighty dollar. "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26).

November 5

Yahoo Finance

The US diesel crunch means it's time to stock up on food, Robert Kiyosaki says. Here's what the 'Rich Dad Poor Dad' author and 5 experts are warning as fuel runs short.

Yet another way to make sure inflation cripples the United States. This is all part of the agenda. There should be no shortage, yet, the purposeful policies are forcing the new way of life without regard to the ramifications. If one does not have diesel vehicles, it is recommended to turn to electric, including trucks despite the cost involved at every level. We provide this article not to slam any political party but an encourage-

ment to be seeking other means for daily needs. "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be [ye] warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what [doth it] profit?" (James 2:15-16). These conditions make it more likely to accept the Mark of the Beast as a solution.

November 7

The Daily Beast

The Word 'Homosexual' Is in the Bible by Mistake: The Explosive Documentary That Is Under Attack

Obviously they are referring to a modern version, but the article overall is trying to convey that this whole battle over homosexuality from a Christian experience is because of a mistake in the translation. This is yet another angle that the liberal agenda is using to justify this particular sin. The term is

insignificant. To bring the argument out this way puts doubt in the Bible itself now and is done on purpose. The descriptions provided in the Bible calling it an abomination is sufficient enough to see that the relationship is still condemned despite the word being there or not. The bottom line is, "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it [is] abomination" (Leviticus 18:22) and then we have most of Romans 1 to see that it still is so in the New Testament for "I [am] the LORD, I change not" (Malachi 3:6).

November 13

The Times of Israel

Activists smash tablets atop 'Mount Sinai' to launch faith-based climate push

"Saying officials gathered at COP summit need to do more, Sinai Climate Partnership will seek to recruit religious leaders globally to lobby for faster action on climate change." Basically, humans replacing God's Ten Commandments with the climate change commandments is fulfilling again the prophecy "think to change times and laws" (Daniel 7:25). "[It is] time for [thee], LORD, to work: [for] they have made void thy law" (Psalms 119:126).

November 14

In the Know

Disney guest calls for 'boycott' after being asked to buy shirt to cover up: 'You are in the wrong here'

"Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and

then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye" (Luke 6:42). Although telling the young woman to cover herself is the correct action, at the same, families that watch Disney movies targeted for children are being exposed to content very much not family appropriate. So, if they are about being family appropriate, it should be for all things Disney and not just the parks, otherwise, they are hypocrites, but we knew that.

November 15

Star Telegram

Dancing man on top of 18-wheeler slams into bridge and later dies, Texas police say

Psalms 38:5 says, "My wounds stink [and] are corrupt because of my foolishness." It is sad that people do foolish things to get attention even to the point of death. Is foolishness really worth dying for?

November 16

Jezebel

Mormon Church Suddenly Backs Same-Sex Marriage Rights—But With Conditions

This is not proper Bible study conclusion. For humans to make an allowance along with conditions that appear to go along with the Bible is as bad as when King Saul being told to kill all of the Amalekites and livestock (1 Samuel 15:3) yet he justified bringing back the king alive and the best of the livestock (1 Samuel 15:9). Samuel reminded King Saul that he did not do exactly as told (1 Samuel 15:22-

23), and so it is with the allowance here.

November 20

Red State

Christian Church Publishes a Prayer Promoting 'Grateful' Assisted Suicide

"Churches help people do lots of things, including — as it turns out — kill themselves. Call it a twist on the 23rd Psalm." This is a deadly example of people pulling verses out of the Bible to support their own agenda. Isaiah 28:9-10 instructs us to gather all the verses on the subject to determine God's will. The primary result would be, "Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13), including one's self.

November 29

The Blaze

San Francisco approves 'deadly force option' for police robots

"We are living in a dystopian future, where we debate whether the police may use robots to execute citizens without a trial, jury, or judge," said Tifanei Moyer, an attorney for the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area. "As the days of Noe [were], so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:37). "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence" (Genesis 6:11) and now with the police force.



What is New With You?

These verses are different from last year. Happy New Year!

Mark 2:21-22

No man also seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment: else the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old, and the rent is made worse. And no man putteth new wine into old bottles: else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled, and the bottles will be marred: but new wine must be put into new bottles.

Jeremiah 31:31-33

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day [that] I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this [shall be] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Hebrews 8:8-11

For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to

lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this [is] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

Hebrews 12:23-24

To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than [that of] Abel.

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all [men] know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Revelation 14:2-3

And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they

sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred [and] forty [and] four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

2 Peter 3:13

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Revelation 21:1-5

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, [and be] their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.



Natural Remedies

Calming Anxiety or Panic Attacks

When you are feeling anxious, or suspect a panic attack is coming on, hold a cooling eye mask (even a bag of frozen peas will do in a pinch!) over your eyes for at least

30 seconds. The shock will bring you back to the present when your mind is racing. The cold also activates your parasympathetic nervous system, which calms the phys-

ical symptoms of anxiety like a racing heart and quick, short breaths.

