

Be a good example even when they don't know to expect it

Of course, we know that we need to be a good example around everyone, but sometimes we may be tempted to think, "Well, they don't even realize this particular thing is a right/wrong issue, so they won't know that I'm even setting a good example for them." Does that matter?

When it comes to remaining sexually pure before (and after) marriage, to being free from the influence of intoxicants, to maintaining a pure tongue rather than a profane one, to being honest in all of our words and actions, the world does not understand that and many do not even realize "that's a thing." So we may be tempted to back off, fit in and not "make it a thing."

The Bible repeatedly teaches us to "let your light so shine before men" (Matt. 5:16), "having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles" (1 Pet. 2:11), "in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works" (Tit. 2:7), and to "be an example...in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12). This is our responsibility all of the time, not just when folks might be expecting it. How else will they too long to "glorify God" (Matt. 5:16; 1 Pet. 2:12)? ~David Sproule

And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one word has failed of all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed. But just as all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you have been fulfilled for you, so the Lord will bring upon you all the evil things, until he has destroyed you from off this good land that the Lord your God has given you, if you transgress the covenant of the Lord your God, which he commanded you. (Judges 23:14-16a)

Kennewick Church of Christ

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Meeting Times:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

Elders:

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Minister:

Attendance 07/11: 40 | Budget \$2484.00 | Contribution: 07/11: \$2043.00

July 18, 2021

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



How Do I Know I Really Love God? (Part 1)

There used to be these things called magazines, paper publishing that came out monthly. In some of those magazines that targeted women and teen girls there were tests. Some of the popular ones were: "Does your crush secretly love you?" or "Are you really best friends?" and "Which Disney princess are you?" While these are not meant to be scientific evaluations, there is some truth to the questions. This quiz is to help evaluate our love toward God.

1. Do I seek His companionship?

The companionship we can offer God is through worship, assembling with those that worship God (Heb. 10:25). Another form of companionship is through prayer. How often do we pray that is not connected with food? We ought to "always pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1). "Always praying" and "without ceasing" are emphasized in Scripture (Eph. 6:1; 1 Thess. 5:17). Companionship can be sought in Scripture, reading and listening to God's wisdom (Rom. 7:22).

2. Am I happy over this relationship?

There is a spirit of rejoicing that comes with first entering into a relationship with God (Acts 8:39; 16:34). We see that in new converts, but has our rejoicing waned? "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!" (Phil. 4:4).

3. Do we have things in common?

Can I say that I love the things He loves (1 John 5:3)? Can I say that I hate the things He hates (Prov. 6:16-19). If we love God, then we need to have these things in common.

4. Do I trust Him?

This is a tremendous problem in many relationships. Trust is something that is earned over time. God, throughout all time has proven Himself to be trustworthy. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight" (Prov. 3:5-6). "Have faith in God" (Mark 11:22).

5. Do I gladly give Him gifts?

Am I willing to share what I have? It was God's to begin with. "Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7). Some have chosen to rob God (Mal. 3:8). Our gifts prove the sincerity of our love (2 Cor. 8:8).

While this is not the entirety of the quiz, we can see how helpful it is to take a moment and evaluate the question. He loved us even when we were unlovable (Rom. 5:8). ~Josh Blackmer

Keep These Dates in Mind

July 11 – Potluck
 July 17 – Memorial for Marilyn Davis

Please let Lynette Jones know about upcoming events, prayer requests or birthdays she hasn't included so she can include them in the bulletin.

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Kael Botts 7/3
 Danny & Shannon Mendoza 7/22
 Jim & Holly Preston 7/22
 Sarah Mendoza 7/28
 Ila Stephens 7/28

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

Bible Studies

Adult Bible Classes
 Sunday a – 1 Samuel
 Wed p – Obediah

**Young Adults class-
 Teen Room** (led by
 Danny Mendoza)

Ladies Class
 (Contact Sandi
 Gray for
 information)

Ongoing Health issues: Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Sandi Gray, Linda Lafferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce Michael Stimson, Jim Preston



**In Our
 Prayers**

I haven't heard of any that are sick. Let's keep those in our prayers whom we know about individually who are in need of prayers and let's give thanks for those who have recovered from their illnesses and have returned to worship and fellowship with us.



Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. (James 3:13-18)

Our Ministries**Mountain States Children's Home**

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (James 1:27)

Peru Ministry – Oscar and Anna Maria in Peru

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and of the Holy Spirit

Food Pantry - If you are in need of food assistance, please contact one of the men of the congregation and they will be able to help you with this need.

“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.” (Proverbs 19:17)

Stirring Up Strife

“He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; therefore, do not associate with one who flatters with his lips” (Proverbs 20:19).

Erma Bombeck once said, “Some say our national pastime is baseball. Not me. It's gossip”. Unfortunately, I have to agree with her because this is a sin which is very prevalent. Gossip is a temptation that begins early in life as teenagers engage in a lot of “drama” regarding their relationships with each other at school. It continues as we are tempted to talk about others with whom we are at odds whether at our workplace or even in the church. As the opening verses above indicate, we are warned not to associate those who want to partake in gossiping about others.

For some gossip is appealing: “Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; and where there is no talebearer, strife ceases. As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, so is a contentious man to kindle strife. The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body” (Proverbs 26:20-22). The words of a “talebearer” can be “tasty” (i.e., they can pique our interest). However, gossip is not a harmless activity. It is evil. In fact, note that the wise man describes a “talebearer” as being “perverse” and “ungodly”: “An ungodly man digs up evil, and it is on his lips like a burning fire. A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends” (Proverbs 16:27-28).

Many problems arise from gossip. It creates strife among people and it separates friends: “He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends” (Proverbs 17:9; cf. Proverbs 16:28). Gossip also prevents peace from being able to occur between two who at odds with each other because continuing to spread gossip causes the contention between them to grow: “The beginning of strife is like releasing water; therefore, stop contention before a quarrel starts” (Proverbs 17:14).

Although we may know that gossip is not an activity in which we should engage, how should we react when we see it occurring all around us at the workplace, school or even at church? First, avoid the temptation by not associating with those who are prone to gossip (Proverbs 20:19). Second, resist from meddling in a quarrel that is not your own: “He who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a dog by the ears” (Proverbs 26:17). Third, be wise enough to not believe just one side of the story of a person's grudge against another: “The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him” (Proverbs 18:17). Finally, instead of letting hate fill your heart and gossiping about the hurt someone has done to you, follow the example of Jesus and seek to cover up the transgression committed against you with love: “Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins” (Proverbs 10:12).

Gossip is a terrible evil that too many, even among Christians, want to overlook as just a “small” sin. It is not. It is ungodly and is an activity in which only those who are perverse in mind and spirit engage. What was true in Solomon's day is still true today: “A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter” (Proverbs 11:13).

Resist the temptation to listen to the “tasty trifles” about others. Have the wisdom to hear both sides of a matter before reaching a conclusion and strive to follow the example of Jesus Christ to cover up the hurts done with love.

“It is honorable for a man to stop striving, since any fool can start a quarrel” (Proverbs 20:3)

~Susquehanna Valley Church of Christ