



Little Eyes

Sometimes the most sublime truths can be stated in the simplest ways. We have a song that is often sung in our children's classes and vacation bible schools: "Oh, be careful little eyes what you see." The song continues and speaks about being careful about what we hear, say, do and where we go. Moreover, it is certainly a Biblical principle that we ought to abstain from the lusts of the world (1 John 2:15-17). One of those lusts is "the lust of the eyes." So, it comes as no surprise to Christians that a recent study done by the RAND Corporation shows that there is a strong connection between teens who watch and listen to sex and sexual talk on television and teens who choose to engage in sexual activity. The study, published in the September issue of *Pediatrics*, found that teens that watched and listened to sex and sexual situations on television were TWICE as likely to have sex within the next year as teens not exposed to such. To put it in real numbers, one out of every two teens who watch such on television will end up behaving that way.

Gospel preachers and Bible teachers have been sounding the warning regarding the dangers of television for years now. How is it that they have had advanced information on this subject without the benefit of the RAND Corporation's study? Simply put, the Bible has told us plainly that we are what we think. Proverbs 4:23 says, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." If we allow evil into our heart through the influence of television, then we will allow evil into our life as well. Notice also Proverbs 23:7 "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...." We are what we think; if we allow evil things to permeate our thoughts, then our ways will be evil as well. Finally, we note what Jesus said on this topic, "But the things

which proceed out of the mouth come forth out of the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart come forth evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, railings: these are the things which defile the man..." (Matthew 15:18-20).

Now, if television can have such a significant affect on the lives of teens when it comes to sex, what about other matters? What about drinking alcohol? What about smoking or using tobacco? What about cursing and using God's name in vain? What about lying and cheating to get ahead? What are the numbers on these other areas of morality that don't require a physical encounter with another person, but simply a thought, word, or careless action? My guess would be that the percentage is a lot higher on these things than on sex.

When are we going to wake up and realize that we are destroying ourselves with our own devices? Television and movies have an enormous reaching power in our country. They ought to be used for good, not for evil. We saw how television could be used for evil at this past year's Superbowl half-time fiasco. Voices of good and decent folks around the country were heard in opposition to that filthy display. But it isn't single events like the Superbowl half-time show that move the hearts and minds of television viewers to practice what they see. It is the litany of daily barrages in the "soaps," "sit-coms" and evening "dramas" that affect us most. And as long as we allow the television networks to continue to promote such godless activities in our own living rooms, the more debased, degenerate and destroyed we will become as a people. Awake to righteousness! (1 Corinthians 15:34)

If It Ain't Broke, Don't Fix It

Along with other human proverbs, these words are part of a body of human wisdom that demonstrates itself correct in most situations. As a boy I often tore into things such as broken clocks, and I tried to repair, fix, them. No success. Others have torn down working clocks, have determined how they worked and restored them to fine working order. Maybe I envy them a little for that skill and the patience needed to do it.

Now there are folks who are trying to "fix" the beautiful bride of Christ. What is wrong with Christ's bride? Nothing! Why then are they trying to fix her? Good question. Among the elements of the church of Christ that these folks are attempting to fix are matters of worship, inclusion and exclusion, and organization.

In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said, "I will build my church..." He knew exactly what He was doing. The Lord Jesus Christ knew the eternal purpose of God, the perfect plan, Ephesians 3:8-11. Jesus knew what worship would be acceptable to the Godhead, John 4:23-24. Jesus knew the terms of inclusion and exclusion, John 3:3-5. Jesus knew the organization with which the kingdom would function, Colossians 1:18; Philippians 1:1.

But - even if Jesus really knew these things, how can we possibly know? At the risk of merely stating only what is obvious to anyone who has bothered to "rightly divide the word of truth" 2 Timothy 2:15, the answer is, Jesus, by the process of prophecy

(revelation and inspiration), left us clear instructions on each of these matters in His last will and testament, the New Testament, Hebrews 9:15-17; 10:9-10. Regarding any inheritance, only the last will and testament is the legal instrument for a correct transfer of it to the heir. This is abundantly evident with regard to the "eternal inheritance." Intellectual honesty is required, Luke 8:15. Actually giving some effort in reading for understanding is necessary, Ephesians 3:3-5. Yet, men still desire to "fix" that which God has given and which isn't broken.

In the New Testament, Inspiration is clear that the faithful are to observe the Lord's Supper in the assembly every first day of the week, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7. Now we find some saying this isn't so clear since we have become more scholastic in our study of Scripture. So, man desires to "fix" the Lord's Supper by, among other things, observing it on other days (Saturday) or in other situations (groom serving his new bride the emblems as his first act as a husband in the wedding ceremony). The best word to describe such is "blasphemy." Some call it "spiritual," but it is carnal to the core. Some call it beautiful, but as with all Satan's counterfeits, it is heinous. Lest this go on and on with men's innovations, notice that the New Testament has established singing as an appropriate avenue of worship. You know the passages, don't you? Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16 and Hebrews 13:15. But some, having taken up

scholarship rather than truth, say, "But 1 Corinthians 14:8 uses a trumpet as an illustration. God would not use something unacceptable in worship to teach a lesson." Maybe these folks haven't read Jesus parable of the wicked husbandmen of Matthew 21:33-41 or the parable of the unrighteous steward, Luke 16:1-9. The illustration of the trumpet that we must make certain of all that we believe, say and do, and no more authorizes other forms of music in worship that Inspiration's example through Paul, 1 Corinthians 9:25-27 authorizes boxing as an act of worship. The principle is, "If something is NOT in the seed, then it can not be in the resulting organism."

Only those included by Jesus through the terms and conditions set forth in Jesus' last will and testament may be included. Excluding all others is a Divine requirement, 2 Corinthians 6:17.

Jesus is the only head of the church, Ephesians 1:22-23 and He has delegated elders/pastors/bishops to oversee each local congregation (Acts 14:23; 20:28) with deacons to serve under them (Philippians 1:1).

What Jesus has given us through the apostolic and prophetic office in the New Testament - of worship, of inclusion/exclusion and organization - ain't broke! Believe it! Respect it! Observe it. For sure and for certain, let not any man attempt to "fix" or improve God's perfect pattern.

Foy Forehand

Sermons and Study Topics

Week of 9/12/04

Morning	Things That Unite—One Hope!
Scripture	Ephesians 4:1-6
Evening	Questions and Answers
Scripture	NA
Sunday Morning Bible Study	The Book of Hebrews
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	The Book of Micah

Weekly Record

Week of 9/5/04

Sunday Class	62
Sunday A.M.	88
Sunday P.M.	72
Wednesday	65
Contribution	\$1499.78
Budget	\$1778.13

Gospel Meeting

You're invited to attend our fall gospel meeting and Bible study with Foy Forehand, Gospel Preacher.



October 10-13, Sun:
9:30 AM, 10:20,
6:00 PM. Mon-Wed
at 7:00 PM.

We are located
on Hwy 62 right
across from Pizza
Hut

In the Kingdom of King Jesus!

- What is the kingdom of Jesus?
- How does one become a citizen of the kingdom of Jesus?
- What are the essential characteristics of the kingdom of Jesus?
- The religion of the kingdom of Jesus.
- The spread of the kingdom of Jesus.
- Are you sowing the seed of the kingdom of Jesus?

Tel: 870-423-3068

Kevin's Korner

Well the cooler temperatures, the sunny and dry days, and the pollen in the air have only lead me to one conclusion—it's allergy season again. The Cauley family has been coughing, snorting, and sneezing all week. We understand that goldenrod and ragweed are set for a record crop this year! The changing of the seasons, however, is very nice. We had a wonderfully mild summer and for that we are thankful. It appears that fall is going to be beautiful as well. God has certainly blessed us with these changing seasons and we need to be forever thankful for his providence and care.

I will be teaching another computer class at the community center this month. The first one will be this Tuesday on the 14th and the second one will be on the 28th. We will be

looking at Microsoft Office applications: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and possibly Publisher. This is always fun and I get to meet and know others in the community from their interests in computers. If you want to come to the class, it is free and you are more than welcome to attend.

Our monthly preachers meeting in Joplin, MO is tomorrow. We always have a real good time going to these events. Not only is the event itself fun, but the drive over is usually quite a hoot itself. If you want to go, please meet here at the building tomorrow morning at 8:00 and we will get going!

I want to express my gratitude to all of you who came out for Virginia Blansett's funeral this past Tuesday. We didn't know that family very well, but I believe that we truly showed them that we are a church that cares about others and that we are willing to do whatever we can in order to

support others in their time of need. Time will tell, but we may have made a difference in someone's life by being there that day. I know that the members of the family who were members of the church were very appreciative for our support. It is these little deeds of love and care that shine as the brightest lights (Matthew 5:16).

Elders:

Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan,
Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn
Quigley

Deacons:

Ken Smith, Brent Stevens,
Rusty Windle.

Preacher:

Kevin Cauley... 870-423-6707

- We are truly thankful to God for the wonderful new Lord's day that he has given us today to worship him in Spirit and in Truth!
- Let us remain constant in prayer for the following individuals: Gary Bragg, Justina Goucher, Jim McVey, Florene Neal, Bill Powell, Jack Sears.
- This week also remember the people in Florida as well as the people of Chechnya in your prayers.
- Please remember our shut-ins: Curtis Hull and Edith Mischler.
- Our gospel meeting is coming up real soon! Please be inviting your friends and family to this event. Why not give them one of our bulletins?
- Saturday, November 13th there is a youth rally in Yellville. If anyone would like to attend, please see Rusty.
- Our monthly potluck is next week. Please make your plans to join us.
- Our monthly Questions and Answers session is tonight!
- There are one or two Truth for Today commentaries left. Please get one if you have not done so.
- Tomorrow I will be going to Joplin for our monthly preachers meeting. If you would like to go with me, just let me know. I've got room.
- The pantry item for this week is Canned Fruit Cocktail.



Welcome!

To the Berryville church of Christ.

Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:..... 9:30 AM
 Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
 Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 PM
 Ladies Bible Class: 10:30 AM
 Wed. Evening Bible Class: 7:00 PM

Serving Each Other

September 12th, 2004 September 19th, 2004

	September 12th, 2004	September 19th, 2004
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Brent Stevens	Ken Smith
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	George Eddings	Bob Moore
Scripture Reading:	Brent Moore	Perry Foster
Lord's Table	Dan Hand	Glenn Quigley
	Leon Duncan	Brent Stevens
(assist)	Raymond Kimes	Jack Gentry
	Brandon Foster	Jerry Roller
Closing Prayer	John Gass	Bruce Foster
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Bruce Foster	Glenn Williams
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Clay Bozarth	Bruce Foster
Scripture Reading:	Glenn Williams	Dale Pinkley
Lord's Table	Leon Duncan	Ray Duncan
	Rusty Windle	John Gass
Closing Prayer	Dale Pinkley	Jack Gentry
Wednesday		
Songs:	Glenn Williams	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dan Hand	John Gass
Invitation:	Ken Smith	Leon Duncan
Closing Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Ken Smith

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