

II Cor. 3:17 -- "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is..."

LIBERTY

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ITCHING EARS

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

"And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."—II Tim. 4:3, 4.

Beware of false teachers and preachers who distort the Word of God for money, fame and/or power. Beware of promises of perfect health, wealth, ordering the Holy Spirit around to answer a prayer now, churches that play and sing only loud music, following the crowd.

Don't look for someone who tells you things that sound nice but are not in accordance with Scripture. Beware of unusual teachings you've never heard before. And consider how long a specific teaching has existed historically.

Know your Bible! Keep your eyes on Jesus.

—Prisoners of Hope Ministries

† The cross of Christ is the sweetest burden that I ever bore; it is such a burden as wings are to a bird, or sails to a ship, to carry me forward to my harbor.

—Samuel Rutherford



"OF COURSE NOBODY KNOWS WHAT GOD LOOKS LIKE. I HAVEN'T FINISHED DRAWIN' HIS PICTURE YET."

In Days Gone By

On September 26, 1789, the Methodists organized in our country.

In Everything Give Thanks

For all that God in mercy sends---
For health and children, home and friends;

For comfort in the time of need,
For every kindly word or deed,
For happy thoughts and holy talk,
For guidance in our daily walk---
In everything give thanks.

No Place for the Boys

What can a boy do, and where can a boy stay,
If he is always told to get out of the way?
He cannot sit here, and he must not stand there;
The cushions that cover that fine rocking chair
Were put there, of course, to be seen and admired;
A boy has no business to ever be tired.
The beautiful roses and flowers that bloom
On the floor of the darkened and delicate room
Are not made to walk on—at least not by boys;
The house is no place, anyway, for their noise.

Yet boys must walk somewhere; and what if their feet,
Sent out of our houses, sent into the street,
Should stop 'round the corner and pause at the door
Where other boys' feet have paused oft before;
Should pass through the gateway of glittering light,
Where jokes that are merry and songs that are bright
Ring a warm welcome with flattering voice,
And temptingly say, "Here's a place for the boys"?
Oh, what if they should! What if your boy or mine
Should cross o'er the threshold which marks out the line
'Twixt virtue and vice, 'twixt pureness and sin,
And leave all his innocent boyhood within!

Oh, what if they should, because you and I,
While the days and the months and the years hurry by,
Are too busy with cares and with life's fleeting joys
To make 'round our hearthstone a place for our boys!
There's a place for the boys. They'll find it somewhere;
And if our own homes are too daintily fair
For the touch of their fingers, the tread of their feet,
They'll find it; and find it, alas, in the street,
'Mid the guildings of sin and the glitter of vice.
And with heartaches and longings we pay a dear price
For the getting of gain that our lifetime employs,
If we fail to provide a good place for the boys.

—Author Unknown

A Father's Example

There are little eyes upon you;
They are watching night and day.
And there are little ears that listen
To every word you say.

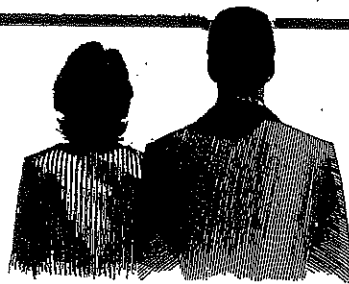
There are little hands all eager
To do the things you do
And a little boy who is dreaming
Of the day he'll be like you.

You are the little fellow's hero;
You are the wisest of the wise.
In his little mind, about you
No suspicions ever arise.

There is a wide-eyed little fellow
Who believes you are always right
And his ears are always open
As he watches day and night.

You are setting an example
Every day in all you do,
For the little boy who is waiting
To grow up to be like you.

"For Bitter or for Worse?"



"Family life among the Egyptians was easier than it is today," wrote a little girl in her history composition. "They were all facing the same way."

It is well to get it straight right off that no marriage is simple, whether you're facing the same way or not. You are going to find out later anyhow, so you may as well know it sooner: you have some needs that are *not* going to be met. And there will be some things upon which you will *never* totally agree.

Now you can go on scratching the itch of your disillusionment, or you can stop and contemplate what God has to say about the duties and relationship of husbands and wives. What He says, in effect, is not "Are you in love?" but rather, "*Wilt thou love?*"

—Ethel Barrett.

DON'T GET CAUGHT IN A CULT

A cult is "any group that claims to be Christian while holding to beliefs contrary to the basic tenets of the historic Christian faith." Be suspect, then, of a group which follows the following deviant paths.

- Cults often maintain that they have special revelation to add to Scripture and Scriptural authority is usually second in importance to their leaders' interpretation.
- Cult leaders are usually charismatic and very caring. Unfortunately, this concern usually comes with a long string attached.
- Cults look for people who are very trusting and obedient, and once their prey is part of the group, they are taught that any criticism of the cult is synonymous with Satan-inspired unbelief. The purpose of course is to dissuade any discernment or questioning of cult authority.
- Cults appeal to the pride by promising great spiritual maturity to such worthy, obedient souls, and they also redefine sin by excusing anything (such as stealing or homosexuality) which will serve the group's purpose.
- Cult leaders' "special insight" qualifies them to rule on everything, whether it's the truth of salvation (not usually by grace through faith in Christ) or the choice of magazines their followers read.
- Most cults either subtly or unsobly deny the Trinity (Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons and Christian Scientists do so directly.)
- Cult leaders are the self-absorbed and self-willed center of their spirituality, and they live out the belief that God wants to reward them abundantly and materially for all they're doing for Him.

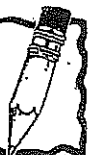
The bad news is that cults aren't going away. The good news is that keeping in close touch with God's Word and His Spirit will give you the discernment you need to avoid cult capture.

—Tim Hensley, *Home-Life*

Miscellaneous-

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



INFECTED WITH THE DISEASE OF CRITICISM

The church is made up of imperfect people. All of us have our faults. The amazing thing is that God has been able to work through imperfect Christians. He has never had a chance with any other kind. The Christian who becomes infected with criticism of others loses sight of the major cause. He gets engrossed in details and misses the supreme design. His eyes wander from the crucified Christ to focus on the faults of those for whom Christ died. This causes his spiritual life to dry up.

Wanted: Christians who overlook the faults of others
as easily as they do their own.

WHEN WE ARE BORN AGAIN

Doctors tell us that in the first few minutes of a baby's life at least forty physical changes take place. And as soon as a person is born again, some wonderful changes come to him, also. He becomes a child of God, which means a change of parentage. He becomes an heir of God, possessing a rich inheritance. He possesses eternal life, which means a change of destiny.

He is accepted in the beloved and is no longer a stranger to God. He is sealed by the Holy Spirit with a seal that cannot be broken. He becomes a temple of the Holy Spirit — God lives within him.

Now not one of these things is gained by anything we do. It is all the gift of God.

FULL BARNS AND EMPTY HEARTS

The rich farmer in Luke 12 was so consumed about having his barns full he didn't realize he had a more serious concern, an empty heart. He did all he could to assure himself that he had plenty for this life but gave no thought for his soul. The final pronouncement by God was, "Thou FOOL, this night thy soul shall be required of thee." Most people have food, shelter and clothing but express discontentment by wanting more and more. When Jesus told us about this rich, foolish farmer, He said, "So is he that layeth up treasures for himself, and is not rich toward God." Are you rich toward God?