

June 13, 2021

Viewpoint from the Valley Grove Church Of Christ

Gossip

By Clarence R. Johnson

King Solomon, the sage of Israel wrote, *“A fool’s lips enter into contention, and his mouth calls for blows. A fool’s mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul. The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body”* (Proverbs 18:6-8). And again, *“A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends”* (Proverbs 16:28).

This truth has been recognized by many before and after Solomon. Friendships and family ties have been sacrificed at the altar of gossip. Even whole nations have been brought low by slander.

Each of us, at one time or another, has been the object of another’s gossip. We know all too well the power of the tongue to hurt and destroy. Perhaps the gossipier needs to be reminded that “whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” (Gal. 6:7). Perhaps that is why the wise man said, “whoever speaks slander is a fool” (Prov. 10:18). Jesus Himself admonished, “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them . . .” (Matthew 7:12).

A good rule to follow when tempted to repeat a juicy morsel of gossip might be to ask one’s self a few pertinent questions: (1) do I know this to be a fact, (2) would I be willing to put it in writing and sign my name to it, and (3) will those to whom I tell it be made better by this knowledge? If we cannot answer these questions in the affirmative, let us refrain from the temptation to “tell all.” If someone approaches you with a bit of slander, ask him to submit to this same three question test. If he “flunks out” consider the source of that which you have heard, and pour cold water on the fire of contention.

“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).

“Am I Ready To Be Baptized?”

By Luther Pratt

It’s always a joyful and exciting occasion when a young person obeys the gospel and is baptized. Sometimes we can struggle with the question, “Am I ready to be baptized?” Here are five answers that can help you to know you’re ready to be baptized and become a Christian. I need to be baptized when . . .

I Know Good And Evil

The age when one is baptized is different for everyone. I’ve known young people who were baptized from 9 to 19 years old. Yet, your age isn’t the most important thing.

When we reach an age that we understand “right” and “wrong” we become accountable to God. He doesn’t consider young children to be guilty of sin, “your little” ones . . . who today have no knowledge of good and evil” (Deut. 1:39).

Yet, when we reach an age that we know “good and evil,” and we do evil or wrong, we are guilty of sin.

I Am A Sinner

When we’re guilty of sin we become a sinner, “*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*” (Rom. 3:23). Now that I am a sinner, I need to be saved from my sin.

The guilt of sin is a very serious matter! My sin separates me from God (Isa. 59:2), makes my conscience feel guilty (1 Pet. 3:21), and it can doom me to eternal punishment. “*For the wages of sin is death*” and “*the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death*” (Rom. 6:23; Rev. 21:8).

I Need Salvation

God doesn’t want to condemn anyone to Hell. His great love for us is the reason He sent Jesus Christ to die on the cross for our sins. “*For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved*” (Jn. 3:17).

Jesus died for your sins! His bloody, cruel, and horrifying death on the cross teaches us how God “sees” the “ugliness” of our sins!! Although we have sinned, God’s wonderful mercy and grace is abundant towards us — and all men! “*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by*

His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him” (Rom. 5:8-9).

Salvation is a free gift we receive when our sins are forgiven by God. *“Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins’ ”(Acts 2:38).*

I Want To Follow Christ

Wanting the forgiveness of sins is a good reason to be baptized. Another reason to become a Christian is you have decided to follow Jesus.

A Christian is a disciple and follower of Christ. *“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Lk. 9:23).*

Being a disciple means we listen to Jesus, not the world and worldly friends, and let Jesus guide our lives through His word. We strive the best we can to obey Jesus. *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Matt. 7:21).*

I Want To Go To Heaven

When we die, we want to go to Heaven. God, Jesus, angels, and our saved loved ones will be there! The only way to Heaven is by salvation in Jesus Christ. *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 6:23).*

If you need to be baptized into Christ to be saved, please talk to your elders, preacher, or parents. Now that you know what God wants you to do, why are you waiting?

A New Phobia

By Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

A new phobia has developed among Christians in recent years. It has become rather pronounced among several younger Christians, egged on by a few older ones. It is the fear of being considered a “traditionalist” or a “lockstep” follower of generally accepted views among their brethren.

No Christian should BLINDLY accept any doctrine or practice, no matter how old or how new it may be to him. He should examine and even reexamine every position that comes across his path by the scriptures to see if it is so (Acts 17:11). All need to learn to study for themselves.

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However, one can foster such a phobic (excessive) fear of tradition and conformity to positions brethren may have held, with good reason, for years. In doing so he begins to pride himself in being an “independent thinker” and one who “thinks outside the box.” So, he must put a different twist on any subject that may be generally taught by his brethren — even if he has to borrow that twist from another outside the box. Often he will scoff at those whom he perceives to be toeing the “party line.”

It does not seem to register with him that those who follow the apostolic “traditions” (2 Thess. 2:15) will have been following them for a long time and what he calls “church of Christ tradition” in many cases may actually be the apostolic traditions.

No one should BLINDLY accept any position because it may have been around for years among us. Nor should he BLINDLY reject any position that has been around for years in order to stroke his pride of independence.

June Birthdays:

The 13th Ethan Collins
The 18th Mary Randolph
The 18th Joann Malone

*Visitors — We pray that you
benefit spiritually from our
worship together and hope
to see you again.*

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Valley Grove Church Of Christ
2110 East Stateline Road
P. O. Box 461
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Sunday

Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M.
Worship 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

Phone: 662-342-1132

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