

June 26, 2022

# Viewpoint from the Valley Grove Church Of Christ

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## When Tolerance Turns To Compromise

Author Unknown

In our “politically correct” world, young and old are constantly bombarded with propaganda which promotes the tolerance of “alternative” lifestyles. It is not improbable to hear “religious” teenagers saying, “We should stop scolding homosexuals because we are creating homophobia. I love and respect all my homosexual friends who are open about their sexual preference.” Perhaps we have even met “religious people” who are so bold as to say, “Being a homosexual does not make them different in a bad way, or bad people. I think we need to keep an open mind and respect other’s preferences and style and even learn a little from them.”

Frequently, Christians who take a stand on immorality are reminded of the verses which proclaim that we are to “love our neighbor and not judge people.” Does this attitude of tolerance lead to compromise on issues which the Bible condemns? A respect of others and an embracing of all races is, at its roots, a virtue. This attitude creates racial harmony which this country has sought after since the days of the Civil Rights movement. It also enables men and women to appreciate each other’s uniqueness. But this virtue can become a liability for young people who are unable to distinguish between diversity and perversity.

As with all answers in life, one must consult the scriptures as the infallible guide. Students of scripture will realize that judgment has already been passed on those who persist in immorality. When preaching is done on various moral issues, it is not the preacher who proclaims judgment, it is the word of God. The same Bible that promises eternal life promises judgment. Exodus 23:20 says, “Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.” Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

What will rescue people in sin is not tolerance, it is Jesus Christ. By telling this to people in sin (whatever sin that may be), we can help them avoid the punishment of everlasting condemnation. We must speak the truth in love, and

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that demonstrates real love (Ephesians 4:15). That is how Jesus dealt with the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11). He did not say, “It is okay that you are in sin. It is just an alternate lifestyle.” Many young people ignore God’s desire to lovingly confront sin. They instead pride themselves on being “tolerant” and “respectful” of immorality. Also, this lack of discernment makes one wonder how long it will take some young people to go from respecting sin to experimenting with it.

Disoriented drowning victims will actually fight the person trying to save them. One can certainly see how Christian young people actually fight against the scriptural stance on sin. We live in an ocean of immorality, harmful trends, and flawed ideologies. Unfortunately, a lot of adolescents — even those from godly homes — are sinking fast without realizing it.

“Tolerance” and “love” are two very different concepts — a truth young people must grasp. We are called to love all men in the name of Jesus Christ, but we are not called to ignore their debauchery in the name of diversity. Psalm 97:10 says, *“Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.”* We must show compassion to the lost without sanctioning their depravity.

The media is selling our children the idea that denouncing a sinful lifestyle is somehow showing hatred

for the individual. But the opposite is true, assuming the confrontation is handled appropriately. In 2 Samuel 12, Nathan related a story to David, and when the story enraged David, Nathan condemned his sin. The whole event was appropriate and effective in condemning the sin in David’s life. Stand against sin while doing your best to save someone from a life of sin.

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## My Heart Belongs To...

By Gene Samford

Many people spend their whole lives devoted to the wrong things. Money, popularity, power, selfish desires — you name it, someone has given his heart to it. Most see nothing at all wrong with such pursuits, as “that’s the way of the world”. But there’s great danger in giving one’s heart to such things, as Paul writes in Philippians 3:18-19, *“(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)”*

It’s not a matter of how much one may enjoy “earthly things”, nor how their pursuit often makes one more acceptable to others, nor that they are important to most people as a measure of one’s success in life. When one gives his heart to them, it makes him an enemy of the cross of

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Christ! This means that he is the enemy of Almighty God, as James 4:4 tells us, *“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”*

It’s for this reason we are told in 1 John 2:15-17, *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”* We cannot go to Heaven as “friends of the world”, because God is not in us. Perhaps this sounds a bit simplistic, but the fact of the matter is that many still have not learned this valuable lesson.

Even some members of the church have misplaced their hearts in this respect. As they become more involved with “the world”, they begin to question even plain teaching of the Scriptures. They don’t attend services as they should, for example, and try and justify themselves with “an ox in the ditch” which is nothing more than the world clamoring for their attention. Before long, they even question the plain language of Hebrews 10:25, which says, *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day*

*approaching.”* From there, it’s just a short step into full-blown apostasy.

Undoubtedly, the best way to avoid such a trap is to remember what our Lord says in Matthew 6:19-21 --- *“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”*

To what does your heart belong — or rather, to whom? Is Heaven just a step away from you — or condemnation?! My heart belongs to . . .

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**S**ome say a little talk with Jesus makes it right, but Paul had a little talk and had to *“arise and be baptized”* (Acts 22:16).

**A** Bible class teacher asked her little children as they were on the way to worship service, “And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?” One bright little girl replied, “Because people are sleeping.”

**“I** am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do.”

— Helen Keller

# If A Man Dies, Will He Live Again?

By Bob Pulliam

The question of our title was asked by Job in Job 14:14. He obviously thought the answer to be yes, for his statements following this question indicate such. Many in the world today ask this question in a different way than Job asked. They ask it with a laugh, or with ridicule; obviously not believing that man will live again. Truly, they think themselves clever, and above foolishness and vanity. But I have a question for them (with a laugh of my own): If a man will not live again, what is his reason for living? Think about it! I can amass riches; but someone else will squander it when I'm gone. I can become famous; but then what's that worth to Caesar, Shakespeare or Herodotus now? I can help others; but can all suffering be relieved?

You can laugh at me, but I have hope and purpose in my life that no agnostic or atheist will ever have!

## Read Your Bible

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

**July Birthdays:** The 9th Ruth Davis; The 10th John Randolph; The 29th Opal Yarbrough.

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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.

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