

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

Floral Heights
Church of Christ
1814 Buchanan
Wichita Falls, Texas
76309
(940) 322 - 1650

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Our Elders:

Mike Chancellor
(322 - 6374)

Tom Witherspoon
(923-6479)

Deacons:

Joe Cronin

Jim Hall

David Witherspoon

Preacher:

John C. Robertson

Curse and Effect (Col. 3:8)

By Stan Cox

In a recent edition of the *Ft. Worth Star Telegram*, an article on the subject of Cursing appeared in the *Life & Arts* section. The article was a good example of unbiased reporting, as it just reported the societal trend of increased cursing and swearing, while not commenting on the appropriateness of the trend. I do not intend to be unbiased however, in commenting on the trend. The use of obscenity is condemned in scripture, and unworthy behavior for one who would please God.

One individual quoted in the article is a psychologist in Ft. Worth by the name of Richard Citrin. He said, "Clearly, the permissiveness of today's culture allows this. It's undeniable that things never said in public even a generation ago have become part of our language. I don't say that common usage makes these terms appropriate, but they are in large part accepted." He is right on in this. Common usage does not make cursing right! Common usage is characteristic of the world, not the child of God. The Bible clearly states that we are to "... *have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them*" (Ephesians 5:11). Christians are to "... *walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil*" (Ephesians 5:15-16).

But, why has cursing increased? Why is culture more permissive of such obscenity? According to the article Richard Tallingen, a Media scholar in New York, said, "... it became clear that younger people, as they began to have more money to spend, liked to spend it on things that would shock their parents and teachers and ministers. So TV, music, books, all those things that help shape our culture, got racier and racier. It hasn't really stopped since." Furthermore, Toni Taylor, a fourth grade teacher in Arlington, believes that even very young children are learning to curse at home. She said, "I've had parents come to school and start swearing during conferences."

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Please keep the following members in your prayers:

Jim Hall had a relapse of pneumonia this past week. It has been a hard week for Jim (keep him in your prayers).

Tom Witherspoon is down to 15 more treatments as of Friday (February 6th). Continue to pray that all will go well for Tom.

Elizabeth Cribbs had her first Anti inflammatory steroid shot into her back to relieve her pain this past Monday. She will be getting these painful shots every other week for a while.

Quincy Adams received a favorable report regarding his recent eye surgery. We pray that all will continue to go well.

Women's Bible Study:

Kasey Robertson will be teaching a ladies Bible study every other Friday beginning February 13 at 12:30 PM. The ladies will be studying Bible Basic type lessons.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

It seems that these things are cyclical in nature. No doubt the pagans of the first century were every bit as corrupt as a people as our society seems to be today. Paul spoke of them as *"being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them"* (Romans 1:29-32). American society today is very much characterized by the same ungodliness. In fact, if I were not aware of the date of Paul's writing, I would think this scripture to be directly pointed to our day. Paul warned Timothy of this cycle of ungodliness, and instructed him as to how to deal with it. He said in 2 Timothy 3:13-14, *"But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of ..."*

An example of these "evil men" is found in the Telegram article. A Fort Worth "poet/essayist" by the name of William Bryan Massey III is said to frequently use profanity in his writing. In fact, the article stated, "Few of Massey's poems or essays could be even partially reprinted in a family newspaper, but he thinks this is a mark of distinction, not dishonor." Notice his rationale for using such obscenity, "I choose the words that best express the idea or feeling I'm trying to get across to the reader. Some people say that poems or whatever could be just as good without [obscenities]. But when I'm using the language, I want to take advantage of every word." Such absurd drivel would be laughable if it were not such a sad commentary on our times.

Educated people have always considered obscenity the haven of the coarse, uneducated and immoral man. It is the language of the drunken sailor, not the poet; of the tramp, not the businessman; of the law breaker, not the law maker. If that is now changing, we are saddened. However, we as Christians must refuse to be influenced by this ungodliness. We are called to a higher standard. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, *"Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ"* (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12).

Bonds in Our Life

Introduction:

The word “bond” is identified as “a bond of union, bond, fastening” (LS 797). Moulton defines the word as, “That which binds together; a ligature (i.e., something that unites... a cord, wire, or bandage used for tying or binding... a thread, wire, or cord used in surgery to close vessels or tie off ducts) (Moulton 337). The Bible speaks of many “bonds” in a person’s life. This lesson shall examine the bond of marriage, peace, perfection, law, unity, and iniquity.

I. The BOND of Marriage:

A. Jesus teaches on the marriage bond (Matt. 19:3-9).

B. The apostle Paul teaches on the marriage bond (Rom. 7:1-2; I Cor. 7:27, 39).

II. The BOND of Peace:

A. Where there is unity among brethren there is peace (Eph. 4:1-3).

B. The Christian should strive for peace at all times yet never compromising the truth (Col. 2:16-23).

III. The BOND of Iniquity:

A. Peter accused Simon of being in the “bond of iniquity” (Acts 8:23).

B. Jesus can free us of such bonds (see Jn. 8:31-34).

IV. The BOND of Perfection:

A. Love binds man to perfection (Col. 3:14).

B. Perfection is to be the priority of all the saints (Phil. 3:12-15).

VI. The Bond of Law:

A. Man is bound to the Law of God (Rom. 7:1-6).

B. Those who separate themselves from law have sinned (Rom. 4:15; 5:13; 7:7; I Jn. 3:4).

VII. Who Binds Man?

A. Satan may bind man in sin and lawlessness (Jn. 8:32-33, 43-44).

B. God binds man to righteousness by law (see Matt. 19:6; Gal. 6:2) and thereby frees him from sin (James 1:25).

Conclusion:

God binds man and woman together in marriage as a doctor binds a wound with sutures. The saints of God are also bound to each other by God’s law in unity. Peace, perfection, and unfortunately iniquity become a part of one’s life as we choose our perspective roads in life. Let us all travel down the narrow path that leads to heaven and be bound to God forever in comfort (Matt. 7:13-14).

