

## ***Truth's Consequences***

The consequences of truth are sometimes bitter. Many a man has lost his job, or home, or friends, or life because of his stand for truth. Many a preacher has been ousted from the pulpit, having neither house nor salary, because he preached the truth. Many a person has had his name slandered and maligned because of truth. With all such people, love for truth is greater than love for comfort, security, or even life itself.

Unfortunate indeed is the man who looks ahead to evaluate the consequences of a position before evaluating the position itself. Such a man will rarely come to a knowledge of truth. His thoughts concerning "What will my wife think?" or "Where will I preach?" or "Won't I be condemning my good mother to hell?" or "How will I explain my change to good ole Brother Jones?" or "How will I support my family?" or "Everybody will think I'm crazy," may well blind his mind to whatever evidence is at hand. The man who really demonstrates a love for truth is the man who studies every subject objectively and then lets the consequences-whether they be good or bad-take care of themselves.

Unfortunate too is the man who complains and grieves over the consequences of truth, for truth must bring joy to the heart, whatever may be its consequences. Self-pity may lead one to "sell the truth" and to profane this precious commodity. If pity is to be felt, it must be felt for that person who has never suffered the consequences of truth, for such a man has obviously loved the praises of men more than the praises of God.

No men ever felt the consequences of truth to a greater degree than did the apostles, but they faced all such consequences "rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name" (Acts 5:41). Worthy! There's the key! The man who lets a fear of consequences dictate his position on every question never suffers, for he is not worthy to suffer. Pity him! But the person who stands for truth regardless of the consequences shall suffer, for he is worthy to suffer. Rejoice with him!

What a difference between the man who is "heaven" oriented and that one who is "this world" oriented!

**- by Bill Hall**

---

## ***The Problem of Apathy***

Problems facing the body of Christ are many and varied. The devil opposes us with persecutions, false doctrines, and all kinds of fleshly temptations. But one of his most successful devices is apathy - an attitude of indifference which afflicts Christians and eats away their zeal like a cancer. It is highly contagious and, if unchecked, is fatal to the souls of men and women. In many areas, it has now reached epidemic proportions.

Indifference was the problem with the church in Laodicea. To that dead congregation, Jesus said, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold or hot; I would that thou wert cold or hold. So, because thou art lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spew thee out of my mouth" (Rev. 3:15-16). How many churches of Christ are in that same condition today?

Brethren, when we spend more time watching TV and playing ball than we do studying and teaching the word of God, are we not indifferent? When we find time to go to the movies and other places of entertainment, but not to visit the sick and erring, are we not indifferent? The time has come for us to wake up and get to work. Our indifference will send us to eternal hell!

**- by Steve Cawthon**

---

***Some important thoughts from one of our members . . .***

### ***"Let's Go Brandon!"***

This phrase has become popular recently at college football games and other sporting events. Following a race at the Talladega speedway, a reporter was interviewing Brandon Brown, when the crowd started shouting something. The reporter thought she was hearing "LETS GO BRANDON", but that is not what the crowd was saying. The crowd was actually saying and

expletive word that begins with an “F” against the man that occupies the White House at this point. So, from that point on, crowds started shouting “LETS GO BRANDON” instead.

Paul, in writing the church at Ephesus points out, *“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”* Although, Joe Biden may not be considered to some as the rightful president of this country, he is in that position now until the people lawfully remove him. As a leader of the people, he is inducted the rights as issued in Acts 23:5 *“Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people.”* We may not agree with our leaders and it is ok to disagree with them and even voice our disagreement, but it is not ok for us to “speak evil” of them.

**- by Wade Shelton**

---

## ***Forgiving Others***

There is no doubt that one of the conditions of our own forgiveness by God is that we forgive others who sin against us. Jesus said: *“If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses”* (Matthew 6:14,15). He also taught us that we should extend this forgiveness again and again. Notice: *“Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven”* (Matthew 18:21,22).

The question arises, though, about a situation where an individual is not interested in our forgiveness. They do not ask to be forgiven and may, in fact, continue the offending act against us. What should our response be in such a situation?

Jesus gave valuable information about dealing with this problem in Luke 17:3,4: *“Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.”* The teaching here clearly indicates that forgiveness must be sought before it can be granted. We must be ready to forgive - willing to forgive - even anxious to forgive. But, until the offender seeks our forgiveness, there is no way that forgiveness can be accomplished. (A moment of reflection will remind us that this is exactly the pattern that God has established for us to be forgiven by Him. He is continually ready to forgive us, but we must repent and seek His forgiveness before we can receive it.)

It's worth noting that the apostles realized the difficulty of forgiving a brother who continues to commit the same offense over and over. After hearing His command in this matter, *“the apostles said unto the Lord, increase our faith”* (Luke 17:5). It takes a strong faith to fulfill the Lord's will concerning forgiveness.

**- by Greg Gwin**