

MIDWEST

# Pilgrim News

Spring 2021

Publishing Holiness Since 1967





## EDITOR'S COLUMN

A pastor that takes God's name in vain. A bible teacher that is embezzling money. A Christian layman that wants to be kept away from Christians that believe you do not have to deliberately sin every day. Is it any wonder that the world has lost respect for the church? Why should non-believers believe what we preach when we are not living any better than they? At least there is consistency between their beliefs and actions.

Obviously, such behavior is not God's intention for His children. God did not offer up His Son for us to continue in our sins. Christ died in our place so that we might be delivered from our sins. (Matt 1:21) It is His will for the old way of living to be put to death and for His children to walk in newness of life. God gives us a new mind, a new heart, and an exciting reality of spiritual freedom from sin. (Rom 6:1-23; 2 Cor 5:17; Eph 4:17-32)

Pastors and laymen, I want to challenge us to live according to the privileges that have been offered us. Let us not discredit this great salvation by professing overtop of a life of sin and shame. Let us rise and prove the power that is in the blood of Christ. (Rom 12:1-2) With His Spirit within us, we can silence the accusations of our critics and show them that there is a God in Heaven that changes lives. (Titus 2:8) What He has done for us, He will do for them if they only turn to Him.

If you are still struggling under the control of sin, I encourage you to confession, repentance, and where appropriate, restitution for your sin. Go on immediately to experience entire sanctification and the fullness of the Spirit. A life of spiritual victory is yours for the taking. (Jude 1:24) ~TRF

Cover Photo: Black Capped Chickadee with Deadly Nightshade.

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**Mission Statement:** The mission of the MPN is three- fold: 1.) We desire to glorify God and facilitate the worship of His person. 2.) We seek to promote the Gospel of Christ with its beautiful message of heart holiness. 3.) We seek to be an encouragement to our readers spiritually, as well as an informative source of information to those who relate to, or are interested in, our Conference.

**Cover Photo:** The cover photo was taken by Michael Fuller. Mike lives in Duanesburg, NY and attends the Middleburg, NYPHC. His photography has been featured in Ranger Rick, National Wildlife, Audubon Magazine, and other notable publications. He enjoys traveling the USA and Canada with his camera, cross country skiing, flying his powered – parachute, and other outdoor activities. We will be featuring Mike's photos of God's amazing world in upcoming issues of the MPN.



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# THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Rev. Don Nichols

Sin in the camp is not new but does have earthly and eternal consequences. While Moses was on the mount (Exodus 19) God bent low from the heavens and shared with him the terms of the Covenant with Israel. The Israelites vowed to keep these terms (19:8), having seen the goodness and power of God in delivering them from Egyptian bondage; But after giving them detailed instructions about how they were to order their lives, while Moses was on the mount with God, the Israelites became impatient (32:1) and gathered and asked Aaron to make them gods to go before them. Aaron failed to be true to his God-ordained office and led the people in disobeying God's commands. He

enabled and officiated over idolatrous worship leading to immoral and wicked conduct. In succeeding chapters, you can see how angry God became. Sin always angers God. The sin of the people, idolatry, and vulgarity, springing from disobedience angered Moses as well. Verse 6 of chapter 32 shows the sordid sins. "These be thy gods", O Israel, that brought thee up out of the land of Egypt." (Exodus 32:4) The people have been taken out of Egypt, but Egypt had not been taken out of them.

God spoke to Moses and told him to get down from the mountain; that Israel, his people had sinned a great sin. As he went down, Moses found the Israelite doing what God had forbidden. As God's wrath grew, Moses became angry and began to question God's judgment. The next few verses highlight one of the most striking, yet tender moments of intercession on the part of any man with God. Verses 11-13 of Exodus chapter 32 detail the prayer of intercession. Moses said if God would not forgive their sin, to blot his name out of the Book which He had written. God promised He would forgive if they repented, and when Moses met with them and offered restoration, they gladly took it. God always forgives confessed and forsaken sin.

What does this narrative have to do with the theme of this periodical? The church, like Israel, must be transparent, honest, and united in standing up for the moral principles established by the Word of God. Offenders must be held accountable for their actions, and their sin rebuked. Hiding moral indiscretions only enables the offender to continue his path of wickedness and sin. Sometimes it victimizes others. The church must rebuke sinners and sin, or it will never have credibility in a world where the church is already being mocked and many are leaving because of inconsistencies. The church's message of heart holiness must be preached by holy men of God who speak as the Spirit enables. When the foundations are destroyed, what must the righteous do? They must rebuild them. Where there is no teaching of the law and the prophets, failure will soon follow. If the minister is not pure, the message will be tainted.

Moral failure in the pulpit brings great disgrace to the cause of Christ and causes others to stumble. Rev. Billy Graham kept a good reputation because he surrounded himself with a network of accountability. He refused to put himself in compromising situations. He left a reputation of modesty and moral purity because of personal and organizational guidelines that he instituted and followed carefully. He left an example for other ministers to emulate in maintaining a life-long testimony of piety. In the second item of the "Modesto Manifesto" that he and his team composed and resolved to follow, they pledged to avoid any situation that would even have the appearance of compromise or suspicion. From that day on, Dr. Graham did not travel, meet, or eat alone with a woman other than his wife. He determined that the Apostle Paul's mandate to Timothy would be his, "Flee youthful lusts." II Timothy 1:22 Ministers and laymen alike would do well to be careful in like manner.

Some of the articles in this issue of the Midwest Pilgrim News will highlight the horrible shame of pornography and its pervasive destruction in our society. No doubt it is associated with abuse in the home, human trafficking, and many other sins. Please pray that God will deliver our world from this horrible scourge. If you are ensnared, please seek help. God does forgive confessed and forsaken sin. God will not turn His back on you but will also be sure to hold you accountable. Judgment must begin at the house of God.

*Rev. Don Nichols is married to his wife Ruth and pastor the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Lima, OH. They also serve as the Conference President of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Conference. Their church also operates a Christian Day School.*

THE CHRISTIAN WHO DOES NOT GROW BECOMES PEEVISH, FRETFUL, AND UNHAPPY, LIKE A CHILD THAT HAS CEASED TO GROW. IS THIS NOT THE REASON WHY SO MANY PROFESSORS OF RELIGION HAVE BECOME WEAK, UNEASY, AND DISSATISFIED? IN NATURE, WHEN GROWTH CEASES, DECAY AND DEATH ARE AT HAND. WHEN A CHILD CEASES TO GROW, IT STARTS FOR THE GRAVE. NOT TO PROGRESS IS TO REGRESS, AND REGRESSION IS DESTRUCTION. —J. A. WOOD

# NEWS BOARD



Rev. Jeremy Jessup and his wife Emeline pastor the PHC in Elwood, IN. Their boy's names are Jeremy, (5) Elijah, (3) and Jayden (1).

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## CONFERENCE CALENDAR

### Youth Lock-In

**When:** April 2

**Where:** Noblesville PHC, Family Life Center

**Time:** 7:00 P.M.

### Mnisterial

**Speaker:** Dr. Timothy Cooley

**Singers:** Tim and Julia Cole

**Date:** May 4-6

**Place:** Noblesville PHC

### Youth Camp

**When:** June 14-18

**Where:** Frankfort Camp Ministries

**Speaker:** Steve Stetler

**Youth Director:** John Forsee

### Camp Meeting

**Date:** June 18-27

**Place:** Frankfort Camp Ministries

**Workers:** Rev. Bryan Spangler, Rev. James Plank, Jerry Glick Family

The photo to the right is begging for a caption. Do better than ours and we will print yours in the next issue. Text suggestions to 317-615-9313 or E-mail to [forsee4@juno.com](mailto:forsee4@juno.com)

*Cole (4) and Slate (2) Stratton live in Kansas and apparently refuse to take piano lessons.*

Here comes dad.

I still ain't doing it.



**No one will question your integrity if your integrity is not questionable**

...what you have heard from me entrust to faithful men

# FAITHFUL MEN

2 Timothy 2:2



## Pastoral Qualifications

1. A pastor must be a one-woman man (Tit 1:6; 1 Tim 3:2).
2. A pastor's children must be in submission, though not perfect (Titus 1:6; 1 Tim 3:4-5). If a man does not know how to manage his own family, he will not know how to take care of God's church.
3. A pastor is a faithful steward (Titus 1:7).
4. A pastor must be humble — not arrogant (Titus 1:7).
5. A pastor must be gentle — not quick-tempered (Titus 1:7; 1 Tim 3:3).
6. A pastor must be sober — not a drunkard (Titus 1:7; 1 Tim 3:3). This is not just overindulgence in alcohol but is idiomatic for any behavior that fuels addictive responses.
7. A pastor must be peaceful — not violent (Titus 1:7; 1 Tim 3:3).
8. A pastor must have financial integrity — not greedy for gain (Titus 1:7; 1 Tim 3:3; 1 Peter 5:3).
9. A pastor must be hospitable, his home open for others to enjoy. (Titus 1:8; 1 Tim 3:2).
10. A pastor must be a lover of good (Titus 1:8).
11. A pastor must be self-controlled in his diet, time, mouth, exercise, relationships, sex, and money. (Titus 1:8; 1 Tim 3:2).
12. A pastor must have integrity in his relationships and in how he treats others. (Titus 1:8).
13. A pastor must be gifted to teach (Titus 1:9; 1 Tim 3:2). The other qualifications deal with character. This is the only ability-based requirement.
14. A pastor must be holy and spiritually mature (Titus 1:8; 1 Tim 3:6).
15. There must be no credible witness to ongoing sinful behavior. (1 Tim 3:7).
16. A pastor must be an example of biblical expressions sexually, in time management, marriage, parenting, worship, relationships, and any other way. A pastor should be someone your sons could pattern their life after and the kind of man your daughter should marry. (1 Pet 5:3). ~Adapted from Acts 29.com

**Question:** From which pastoral qualification should the lay person be exempt?



## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT THE RECENT CHRISTIAN SCANDALS

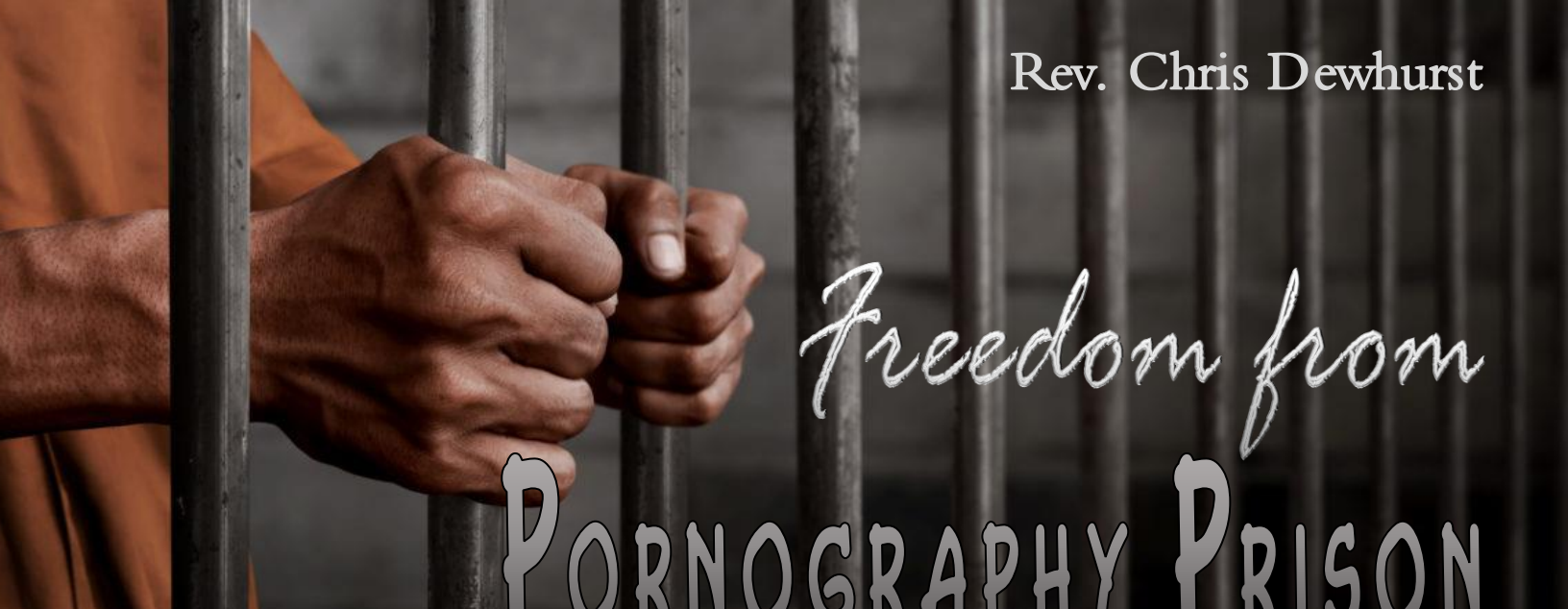
“For some large number of white evangelical men, there seems to be an attitude toward women that’s disturbing and not biblical.” “A lot of people think Christianity is laced with hypocrisy. Christians say one thing and do another. Faith is not transformative; it is just a proxy for political tribalism. It doesn’t transform lives in the way it should.” ~*Peter Wehner is a senior fellow at the Ethics / Public Policy Center.*

“Exposing religious sexual hypocrisy is, as the cliché goes, like shooting fish in a barrel. If you follow the right Twitter accounts, literally every day there is a new story of religious conservative leaders philandering, downloading illegal pornography, or, by far worst of all, sexually abusing minors or other vulnerable people.” “Every time a priest or pastor fails, the conservative Christian myth of human nature is reinforced. (We are all wretches that just need the grace of God.) Thus, the conditions ripen for the next shameful offense. If Christians would let go of their sexually repressive ideas, these offenses would not occur.” ~*Jay Michaelson is a critic of Christianity and a legal affairs columnist at the Daily Beast.*

I no longer trust any Christian leaders, including local church pastors. ~*Anonymous*

“It is reasonable to expect leaders to live up to biblical qualifications. If they fail morally, they should be removed from leadership. (This is in the best interests of the church, the rest of the staff, and themselves.) Christ will not give up on the church. He says ultimately the gates of Hell will not prevail against it (Matt 16:18). Instead of giving up on church, we should help raise the bar of moral accountability. If we are in churches where we believe pastors are unqualified to lead based on biblical standards, if the leaders do not agree and we remain convinced of it, we should find another church where leaders are character-qualified.” ~*Randy Alcorn is the founder of Eternal Perspective Ministries and a New York Times best-selling author of fifty-plus books.*

*The most influential persuasion tool you have in your entire arsenal is your integrity. Zig Ziglar*



# Freedom from PORNOGRAPHY PRISON

Pornography is one of the church's most significant modern foes. According to the research of the Barna Group and Covenant Eyes, 68% of men in churches, 76% of self-identified Christians aged 18-24, and over 50% of pastors view pornography. In terms of ministering to the crisis, 59% of married men ask their pastors for help, 69% of pastors said pornography has an adverse impact on their churches, and 70% of youth pastors were asked for help from a teenager in the past year. These staggering statistics, though, do not tell the full story of how insidious pornography is. Just as catastrophic as any other sexual sin, pornography destroys spiritually, physically, and culturally.



## SPIRITUAL DESTRUCTION

Pornography's spiritual destruction correlates with the rise of hedonism – the pursuit of pleasure. It began when Adam and Eve tried to bypass the natural laws of cause and effect and sought to be “as gods” (Genesis 3:5). By eating the forbidden fruit, they hoped to gain wisdom without experience and power without sacrifice – a hedonistic quest that continues, with mankind ever looking for more clever paths to pleasure for the least effort. Pursuit of pleasure has been described as the hedonism treadmill, referring to the fact that the quest is never ending. No matter the effort, the seeker of pleasure never seems to reach his destination. All the searching is rewarded with more searching (Ecclesiastes 1:8). Within the last year, we have witnessed the appalling results of decades of hedonism promoted through secular humanistic curricula in public schools and universities and watered-down theology in pulpits. We seem to have more illicit drug use, sexual immorality, and materialism in our society than ever before. A hedonistic culture is one where debauchery, hatred, and wickedness are flaunted on social media, and where death, destruction, mayhem, anarchy, and unrest are commonplace in the streets.

Pornography is uniquely hedonistic, because it directly assaults mankind's oldest covenant with God – to propagate the love He entrusted to us. The command to “be fruitful and multiply” (Genesis 1:28) was given to us by God, because it was how we were to build and maintain the original fellowship of faith (the family), and it was the means by which we were to fill the earth with more people to enter into fellowship with Him. As a reward for faithfulness, God designed intrinsic physical, emotional, and mental rewards for engaging in the sacred act of intimacy within the context of a holy union. Not only does the act of intimacy fulfill the charge to

procreate, but it also strengthens the bond between a husband and his wife, ensuring their children and grandchildren will have a solid ark of safety in a hostile world. Nevertheless, relationships between real humans are hard work. Intimacy comes at the price of leaving and cleaving (Genesis 2:24), following Christ's example to give of ourselves (Ephesians 5:25), not being harsh (Colossians 3:19), loving our wives as ourselves (Ephesians 5:33), and honoring them as the weaker vessel, for our prayers to be heard (1 Peter 3:7). All this hard work is thrown aside when engaging with the mysterious and anonymous woman on a screen. By bypassing God's law, pleasure is achieved apart from responsibility. God's reward is taken without the requisite effort. Pornography facilitates theft of the sacred.



## PHYSICAL DESTRUCTION

God's sacred reward system is both physical and psychological, with the psychological component being the more powerful of the two. It involves the neurotransmitter dopamine, which is also implicated in the opioid and obesity crises in the U.S. Dopamine is associated with reward anticipation, programming memories into the brain and helping associate them with past pleasure. A good example of this process can be seen in the Pringles potato chips ads from the late 1990's, where we learned, “Once you pop, you can't stop.” This ad is classic psychology at work. The sound of popping open a can of Pringles becomes associated in our brains with the smell of the snack and the taste of the chip in our mouths. Procter and Gamble was counting on dopamine to signal to our brains that the sound of the opening can is the sound of goodness being unleashed into our lives. For many of us, that dopamine keeps bringing us back to those cans over and over. Hallmark, too, understands this principle in the way it markets romance with ads that remind us of the sights, sounds, and smells of when we first fell in love. As we reminisce, we keep coming back to Hallmark to rekindle our love and romance.

Dopamine is released through physical contact and intimate moments with our spouses, signaling us to return to our mates for the sacred reward from God. In God's plan, the wife says, “I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me” (Song of Solomon 7:10), because God's reward system draws the man back to his wife. Unfortunately, though, dopamine can also rewire the brain for sin through something called neuroplasticity (brain change). Neuroplasticity is involved in the process of addiction, as the

brain is changed. In the case of pornography, dopamine released in the presence of a computer, or phone will signal the addict to return there for reward. As the person is drawn inextricably to the new source of reward, he becomes physically and psychologically altered, and he becomes progressively unable to be physically intimate with his spouse. Therefore, the pornographic industry's rise has been paralleled by the rise of the male performance enhancement industry. Countless men in our country have unwittingly altered their physiologies in pursuit of the mysterious and anonymous woman on a screen. As their addictions worsen, they turn to more sinister and depraved forms of pornography to produce the same levels of dopamine, a fact illustrated by Dr. James Dobson's legendary interview with Ted Bundy.



## CULTURAL DESTRUCTION

As individuals' brains are being rewired by pornography, the collective morality of society is also being disastrously altered. Most insidiously, pornography is killing our culture by objectifying women for mere carnal pleasure. Since the mysterious and anonymous woman on a screen will provide whatever pleasure is requested without an emotional price, young men are being taught that it does not matter how women are treated. The effect on families is equally disastrous. In the same Barna Group and Covenant Eyes research previously cited, pornography was a problem in 47% of families; it increases marriage infidelity by more than 300%; and 56% of divorces were attributed to pornographic obsessions. In addition to breaking down the traditional family unit, pornography promotes homosexuality and polysexuality. Even pornography that is heterosexually themed can create unholy curiosities in young people toward their own sex.

As insidious as pornography is, though, I have personally witnessed that it is no match for the Blood of the Lamb, the prayers of the saints, and the purging fire of Pentecost. One of my most rewarding victories of 17 years' pastoring has been the dramatic transformation of a parishioner caught in the chains of pornography. For years, I helped construct boundaries and accountability for him. We agreed he would not take part in ministry within a week of having fallen into sin. For years, he faithfully and voluntarily removed himself from ministry each time he sinned with pornography – sometimes at a discouraging rate – but, through years of prayer, fasting, and love, God's Holy Spirit finally broke through his stony heart. The man was entirely sanctified and achieved consistent, enduring victory over sin. Deliverance is possible! Grace is real! That victory, though, was only achieved when a church and its pastor relentlessly stormed the gates of Hell and refused to accept sin in its midst.

*Rev. Chris Dewhurst and his wife Constance have 4 children and currently pastor the Lexington, KY PHC. Rev. Dewhurst recently received his doctorate in clinical psychology and has accepted a position with Hobe Sound Bible College. They will be moving in August. Prayers for this transition are appreciated.*



## Slaying the Beast

### • REMOVE YOURSELF FROM MINISTRY:

Continuing in leadership while actively involved with pornography is a violation of your word and the trust you have been given. It angers God and exacerbates the fallout from exposure. If you are using pornography you need to resign your position until freedom is experienced. It would be a terrible shame for you to be caught and publicly removed from your post. (Ps 50:16-23). Be holy or step down now. Just be sure you do not allow the Accuser to shame you out of ministry because of past sin. There is a difference between repented of sin and sin you are currently engaged in.

• **FOCUS ON YOUR SPIRITUAL WALK:** After your sin has been confessed and repented of to God - get serious about your walk with God. Spend the time with Him that you have not been spending. Immerse yourself in scripture and prayer. Attend available church services. Cherish all the means of grace. Seek to experience and maintain the work of entire sanctification. The infilling of the Spirit of God will help you as nothing else to resist the temptations of the old life. (Ps 119:11, Rom 12:1-2, Heb 10:25)

• **CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSET:** If you are serious about your repentance you will destroy anything that relates to your old habits. Do not leave the smallest space for the enemy to gain a foothold. You cannot expect God to help you if you are clinging to remnants of your sin. This would include safeguarding or even eliminating your computer or Smartphone. Only using a computer in public or reverting to a flip-phone is inconvenient but may be necessary for your recovery. (1 Kings 18:21)

• **TELL A TRUSTED CHRISTIAN:** Do not let shame

isolate you in your struggle. Find a trusted Christian friend or pastor and make yourself accountable to them. (James 5:16, Prov 27:6) Their prayers, support, and rebukes can be critical to your recovery. We would encourage caution though in who, and how many people you tell. Many people cannot "conceal a matter" (Prov 11:13) and Satan would relish smearing your sin across the neighborhood to the discrediting of Christianity. One of Adam Clarke's rules for ministers was to "tell your innermost struggles to very few." John Piper also said that "The proportion of public repentance should be in proportion to the publicity of a sin or a sin's effect."

• **GUARD YOUR MIND:** One recovering addict was distressed that wicked thoughts would come back even during prayer. They had been taught that when bad thoughts came you could just "change the station" so to speak. They related their struggle to learn to "bring every thought into the captivity of Christ." (2 Cor 10:5) This is a valuable lesson. We must remember that sinful thoughts can come to us unsolicited. Our responsibility is to view them as "unwanted intruders", arresting and expelling them from our mind. God can enable a zero-tolerance policy. We do not have to consent for even 1 second.

• **KNOW YOU ARE LOVED:** Your addiction can evoke feelings of guilt, shame, and worthlessness. These negative feelings can so terrify you of exposure that you hide your sin and suffer Satan's abuse in silence. Please know that God loves and values you despite your sin. His people also love you and are ready to forgive and stand beside you in your recovery. Your freedom starts today! (2 Cor 2:7, 1 Pet 4:8)



# A SERMON IN SHOES

**I**t was not long into my ministry before I realized the importance of walking in integrity before the people I pastored. During my first pastorate, I was completing a college degree in marketing and working a job in outside sales. On a typical sales call, I would give a persuasive presentation about my product and end up with a call to action: asking for the order.

Not having any Bible school education, I approached my preaching ministry in much the same way as I did my sales work. I would give a persuasive message and call the people to action. At this point I felt my work was done. After all, I left the results with God and the people. I carried on this way for several years. This may have been preaching but it was not pastoring.

The truth of the matter dawned on me one day several years later when I asked the question, "When does the sermon begin and when does it end?"

The sermon did not begin with the introduction of my text, nor did it end when I concluded my message. It began well before the introduction and went on preaching through my actions long after I finished my message. The integrity of the messenger is so important here.

God works on the heart of his messenger long before a message is written. There is a gestation period where God plants seeds of truth and weaves life experiences into the heart and life of the messenger that germinate and find profound expressions through the preaching of the Word. Concurrent with this process is the deepening of the integrity of the messenger.

For example, as God works on the heart and life of his messenger, he or she grows in grace and demonstrates a consistently deeper walk with God amongst the flock during weekly pastoral

visitation. The truth of the sermon is reinforced by the consistent walk of the messenger amongst the flock. The sermon in a sense is still being preached by the actions of the messenger. Those who lack integrity walk inconsistent with their message and defeat much of the purpose of their preaching ministry.

*As the pastor shares messages, walks among the flock, and builds deeper relationships, the truth of the gospel is embodied by the pastor and the people. In a sense, the sermon keeps on preaching as the pastor grows in stature and influence among the people. In short, the pastor is the messenger of God who embodies the sermon—the sermon never ends. Through the pastor's walk of integrity, the sermon lives on as does his or her influence.*

It has been said, "Your actions are speaking so loud that I can't hear what you are saying." As ministers of the gospel, we must cherish and guard our integrity lest our inconsistently lead others astray.

*Rev. Martin Laramie received his PHD in Business Management with a specialty in Leadership from Capella University. Dr. Laramie pastors the PHC in Bloomington, Illinois with his wife Nancy and is a part-time adjunct professor.*



# CONSEQUENCES OF A MORAL TUMBLE

By Randy Alcorn

Whenever I feel particularly vulnerable to sexual temptation,  
I find it helpful to review what effects my action could have:

- \* Grieving the Lord who redeemed me.
- \* Dragging His sacred name into the mud.
- \* One day having to look Jesus, the Righteous Judge, in the face and give an account of my actions.
- \* Following in the footsteps of these people whose immorality forfeited their ministries and caused me to shudder. (List names)
- \* Inflicting untold hurt on Nanci, my best friend and loyal wife.
- \* Losing Nanci's respect and trust.
- \* Hurting my beloved daughters, Karina and Angie.
- \* Destroying my example and credibility with my children, and nullifying both present and future efforts to teach them to obey God ("Why listen to a man, who betrayed Mom and us?").
- \* If my blindness should continue or my wife be unable to forgive, perhaps losing my wife and my children forever.
- \* Causing shame to my family ("Why isn't Daddy a pastor anymore?").
- \* Losing self-respect.
- \* Creating a form of guilt awfully hard to shake. Even though God would forgive me, would I forgive myself?
- \* Forming memories and flashbacks that could plague future intimacy with my wife.
- \* Wasting years of ministry training and experience for a long time, maybe permanently.
- \* Forfeiting the effects of years of witnessing to my father and reinforcing his distrust for ministers that has only begun to soften by my example but that would harden, perhaps permanently, because of my immorality.
- \* Undermining the faithful example and hard work of other Christians in our community.
- \* Bringing great pleasure to Satan, the enemy of God and all that is good.
- \* Heaping judgment and endless difficulty on the person with whom I committed adultery.
- \* Possibly bearing the physical consequences of such diseases as gonorrhea, syphilis, Chlamydia, herpes, and AIDS; perhaps even infecting Nanci or, in the case of AIDS, even causing her death.
- \* Possibly causing pregnancy, with the personal and financial implications, including a lifelong reminder of my sin.
- \* Bringing shame and hurt to these fellow pastors and elders: (list names)
- \* Causing shame and hurt to these friends, especially those I have led to Christ and discipled: (list names)
- \* Life-long shame and embarrassment upon myself. (Leadership, Winter 1988 p. 46)

INTEGRITY is rooted in that private life we develop  
alone with God in the secret, hidden place.

By John Forsee



## The Marshmallow TEST

In the Marshmallow Test, marshmallows were placed on saucers in front of small children. Each is told that they can A. Eat the marshmallow, or B. Wait until the teacher returns. If they still have their marshmallow when the teacher returns, they will get two marshmallows. It is comical to watch the kid's reactions as they suffer under temptation. Some cannot stand the pressure and immediately stuff the sweet into their mouths. Others touch, smell, and lick but then writhe, sing, and sit on their hands to control themselves. Amazingly, many children do make it the whole 10 minutes and receive the promised reward. Studies done on the children in the Marshmallow Test reveal that the ones who refrained enjoyed greater success in life than their gobbling counterparts. There is a clear application for Christian youth: Refrain from temptation now and enjoy greater dividends later.

**\*What are the dividends for staying pure?**  
See last page

A great orator, a megachurch pastor, a Christian comedian, a Sunday School teacher, a deacon of a local church, it seemingly never stops. Almost every time you turn around another professing Christian has been caught in sexual immorality. Individuals that professed to know Christ as their Lord and Savior and were held in high esteem, and yet they yield to temptation and fall prey to immorality. I will never forget, as a young man, when I heard the news that one of my heroes of the faith had fallen from grace. I was devastated to say the least. How could this happen? Why would he do such a terrible thing? He had it all: a wonderful wife, beautiful family, and a great career. These were just a few of the questions that swirled around in my mind. I remember the thought the devil tried his best to convince me of, "See, it's not real, there is nothing to this way, they're all just hypocrites." Then there was the thought, "Well, if they can't keep faithful, who can?"

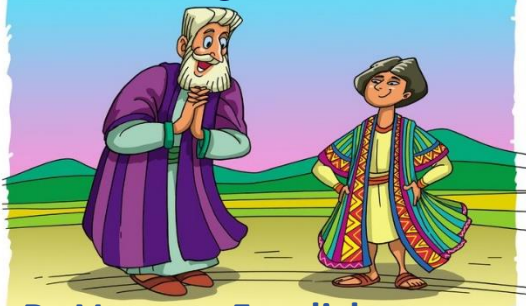
Young people, do you know who CAN keep faithful? YOU! Jesus said in **Matthew 5:8** that the pure in heart will inherit the kingdom of heaven. Even though there seems to be many who are failing God, it does not have to be you! You can live a pure and holy life even in a wicked and sinful world. One of the greatest stories in the bible is the story of Joseph. Genesis chapter 39 relays to us the integrity and commitment of this young man. (**Genesis 39:12** And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.)

How could a single young man stand so strong? It was because of a pure heart and a love for God. (**Genesis 39:9** There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back anything from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?) The apostle Paul also writes in **Romans 10:1** "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved."

Young people, my heart's desire, and prayer, to God for you are that you would purpose in your heart to keep yourself pure and unspotted from the world. **1 Timothy 4:12** Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

John Forsee is the pastor of the PHC in Noblesville, IN. He is currently serving as our organization's Youth Director.





By Vanessa Froelich

# JOSEPH

## Man of Integrity

Integrity...Do you have it? You might be thinking “What is integrity?” Integrity is, by definition, “the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness.” Sounds like a good thing to have, right?

It is an incredibly good thing to be a young person of integrity, or honor. As a Christian child or young person, the earlier in your life you learn to be honest, and have strong moral principles, the easier it will be to maintain that integrity as you grow older. Your parents, Sunday School teachers, and your pastor all want to see you become a young man or a young woman with integrity and a Biblical worldview.

**What are some characteristics of a person of integrity? Someone with integrity is:**

- **Honest in their speech and actions**
- **Responsible and trustworthy**
- **Respectful to others**
- **Going to keep their promises**
- **Helping others**

We can look to the Bible for examples of people who show these traits. One of many examples is Joseph in the Old Testament. Joseph stayed true to his principles through the ups and downs in his life. His story begins in Genesis chapter 37 and goes through chapter 50. Joseph was just 17 years old when his life is changed forever. Joseph was the favored son of Jacob, and he had 10 much older half-brothers, and one younger full brother. They called Joseph a “dreamer” because of the dreams he shared with his family. In his heart, Joseph knew these dreams were more than just dreams, but his family brushed them off. God was already working in Joseph’s life, and showing him future events, even if Joseph did not fully understand it. Joseph showed respect to his brothers, even though they did not like him much at all. Joseph’s brothers hated the fact that he was the favorite son, and when given the opportunity, they sold him away to some travelling merchants, who in turn, sold him to be a slave for a man named Potiphar in Egypt.

Once in Potiphar’s house, Joseph showed responsibility and trustworthiness as he carried out his duties. So much so, that the Bible tells us Potiphar noticed how God helped Joseph to prosper at everything he did. Potiphar was so impressed with Joseph, he made Joseph the overseer of his household. Joseph did not let this new responsibility go to his head. Instead, he stayed humble as he

helped the members of Potiphar’s house. Things were going well for Joseph...

But it was not just Potiphar who noticed Joseph’s success. Potiphar’s wife was also watching Joseph. She tried to get Joseph to abandon his moral standards to do something sinful. Joseph refused, and even ran away from Potiphar’s wife. He was thrown into prison, accused of doing something he did not do.

Even in prison, Joseph found favor with the people around him, from his fellow prison mates to the keepers of the prison. Again, God was helping Joseph to prosper because Joseph stayed faithful to the one true God. After several years in prison, God used a dream and its meaning to elevate Joseph from a lowly slave to one of the highest positions in the land of Egypt.

Joseph was a man of integrity. He did not waver in his principles, even though he was all alone in a strange land. God used Joseph to save the lives of perhaps thousands of people by helping Pharaoh and Egypt prepare for a 7-year long famine. God rewarded Joseph for his faithfulness, and he was able to be reunited with his family, especially the father he loved so much.

**God has promised to help each of us be boys and girls, and men and women of integrity. If we are faithful to God, God will be faithful to us. Matt 6:33 says “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”**

Another Bible verse, this one from the Old Testament, helps us learn to walk in uprightness, another word for integrity. Micah 6:8 says “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” This would be a great verse to underline in your Bible. Perhaps you can even memorize it. Keep it in your mind and in your heart. When you follow the words of this verse, to act justly (love God, and keep His commandments), love mercy (show kindness), and walk with God in humble obedience and trust, you can become a person with integrity, someone others can trust, and most importantly, someone God can use to build His Kingdom.

*Vanessa Froelich and her husband Carl live in Greenwood, IN. She is the Children’s Director at the PHC in Franklin and her husband is the Youth Sunday School Teacher.*



**Integrity is doing the right thing whether anyone knows you did it or not.**

# FROM THE HEART

By Trish Jewett

I am much concerned these days for our precious children and teens. Many are anxious, troubled, disoriented---their world has been shaken. They are looking to US for encouragement and courage---are we being the role models we should be? Are we so deeply involved with our own needs that we forget theirs?

Just today I spent time with our precious granddaughter, Alyson. She is seeing those whom she had real confidence in, failing the 'grade'---missing the 'mark'! Her mind is full of questions. "Is this real holiness---who can we believe in?"

We need to be extremely sensitive when dealing with their 'tender' hearts. Harshness and bitterness will never turn them to Jesus. I am so thankful that in my younger years I saw and felt the love of my family---and I was blessed to have godly preachers who cared for my soul. Their genuine love for me

drew me to the Savior. I will be eternally grateful. Lord, help me to be faithful and 'true blue' for those who come behind me.

We need to remind those who are in our keep that God will never abandon them. There is HOPE---He will provide for their future because HE is ALIVE! He has overcome the world, the flesh and the devil. John 16: 33. While the whole world reels and rocks, "He is and will be the stability of our times." Isaiah 33.

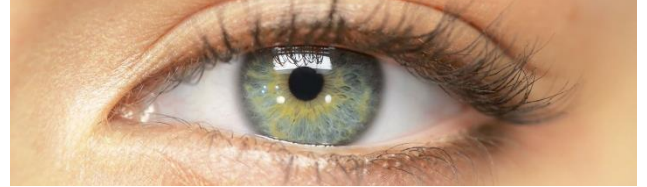
Hug a child/teen today and tell them how much you love them. Hold out HOPE to them. Give them JESUS. They are 'precious' in His sight.

*Trish Jewett lives in Indianapolis with her husband Larry. Trish is the director of the Women of Worth Indianapolis Chapter.*



- 1.) **A strong relationship with God:** Immorality is a sin that separates you from your relationship with God. Keeping yourself pure from this sin and others allows you to walk with God in faith believing. You can enjoy God's presence and rejoice in the hope of Heaven. (John 14:15; James 2:26; 1 John 1:7)
- 2.) **The attraction of a better spouse:** If you have a reputation for immorality you cannot be surprised when a godly person is not interested in considering you for a mate. You want a godly, trustworthy spouse? Be a godly, trustworthy person. (2 Cor 6:14; Matt 19:5; 1 Cor 6:15-16)
- 3.) **A stronger sense of intimacy with your spouse:** Our purity is one of the precious gifts that should be shared with our spouse and our spouse alone. What a betrayal to our mate when that sacred gift was, (is) shared with others. (Proverbs 5:15-23; Proverbs 6:32-35)
- 4.) **Freedom from immoral regrets:** This would include grieving God, hurting your spouse's heart, risking disease, alimony payments, illegitimate children lost to your influence, and much more. (Proverbs 13:15; Proverbs 2:16-20; Proverbs 5:3-13)
- 5.) **An example for your children:** Proverbs 22:6 and Ephesians 6:4 admonishes us to raise our children in the ways of God. It is easier to do this when your children know you have practiced what you preach. ~Selected

## The Psychology of Eye Contact



- Eye contact has the power to ignite or deepen a relationship.
- Steady eye contact can be taken as an invitation.
- Pupil dilation is a sign of interest.
- Eye contact makes your words more memorable.
- The eyes reveal whether a smile is real or not. If there are not "crinkles" around the eyes the smile is fake.

Some years ago, the Daily Journal in Schenectady, NY printed a study done in nightclubs concerning human dating habits. Among other things this study found that while men prided themselves as pickup artists, it was usually the women who gave permission for him to approach. Even from across the room, if she held a man's gaze, gave a warm smile, and shifted her body slightly toward him, he felt confident to approach. If she refused to hold eye contact, frowned slightly, and imperceptibly shifted away from him, he knew the answer was "no."

The power of the eyes is one reason Christian psychologists have suggested "bouncing the eyes" or limiting direct eye contact with the opposite sex as a way of safeguarding against temptation. If we conduct ourselves wisely, we can discourage many people with unholy intentions from ever approaching us.

**Proverbs 6:24-25** *"To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. 25 Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids."*

### HAVING A DIFFICULT TIME WITH ONLINE INTEGRITY?

*Check out the benefits of Covenant Eyes, X3-Watch, Net-Nanny and other accountability software programs.*