

Lesson 31 – Christian Standards

- 1) Who are Christians ambassadors for?

2 Corinthians 5:20 “Now then we are ambassadors for _____, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.”

NOTE: We are ambassadors for Jesus Christ. There is an old cliché that goes like this, “You may be the only Jesus people ever see.” There is definitely some truth to that statement. We are to represent Jesus to a world that does not know who He is.

- 2) What must be lifted up before the people?

Isaiah 62:10 “Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; ____ up a _____ for the people.”

NOTE: Standards are not popular to talk about these days. Many feel that standards are legalistic requirements. But, can you imagine an earthly army without any kind of standards? Surely that army would not be organized or equipped for their warfare. In many instances Christian standards serve the same function. It let's everyone know around you whose side you are on in the battle between good and evil.

- 3) What does God tell us not to love?

1 John 2:15-17 “Love not the _____, neither the things *that are* in the _____. If any man love the _____, 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.”

NOTE: We are commanded to not love the world and all its charms. The word, “world” in this context is not speaking about the people in the world, but rather the things of this world and the attitudes that are so prevalent in our secular society. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, these three characteristics have saturated our way of life for so long that they are deemed as totally acceptable. Whether it is some partially nude person on a billboard, or if it is simply the mindset of pride in the business world, these things God hates, and He wants His followers to hate these things as well.

- 4) What are we not to be conformed by?

Romans 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God,

that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not _____ to this ____: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

NOTE: Christians should not just go with the flow of society. If they are, maybe they are not true believers. We should not conform to what the world does in order to fit in with the world. A perfect example: in a small suburb of Los Angeles a young man named McKay Hatch, founded an unprecedented club – “The No Cussing Club.” Hatch said, “I finally told my friends, I don't cuss. And I said, If you want to hang out with me, you don't cuss.” This club even has their own website. Hatch is definitely not conformed to this world in that aspect at least.

- 5) What should Christians think about?

Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are ____, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are ____, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any _____, and if there be any _____, think on these things.”

NOTE: As Christians we are to think about the things mentioned above. This should be our standard of what we view on television and how we talk to one another.

- 6) How can we change our natural character?

2 Corinthians 3:18 “But we all, with open face _____ as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

NOTE: To change is to behold. When we spend time with God in His word and look to Him, we will see the changes as we become more like Him. Some changes may be dramatic, some may take years, but the pivotal issue is that we keep beholding.

- 7) How does God feel about those who love violence?

Psalm 11:5 “The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul _____.”

NOTE: God does not take kindly to those who are bloodthirsty. He hates their activities so much that if they choose not to repent, He will destroy them.

- 8) What should be the prayer of our heart?

Psalm 119:37 “Turn away mine eyes from beholding _____; and quicken

thou me in thy way.”

NOTE: In our culture of vanity this is a prayer that is especially applicable.

9) What is the goal of the Christian life?

Philippians 2:5 “Let this mind be in ____, which was also in ____: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of ____, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he ____ himself, and became ____ unto death, even the death of the cross.”

NOTE: The goal of the Christian life is not to go to heaven. The goal of the Christian life is to be like Jesus. When we see the humility in the life of Jesus, it is a direct rebuke to proud human beings like ourselves. Much of the fashions and customs in our world today are designed to appeal to our pride. Jesus is calling us to behold Him and to observe how He is. This is why the Christian cannot love the world. If a Christian loves the world then they are a Christian in name only regardless of their profession.

10) How should a Christian dress?

1 Timothy 2:9-10 “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in ____ apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with ____ hair, or ____, or ____, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.”

1 Peter 3:2-4 “While they behold your chaste conversation *coupled* with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that ____ *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of ____, or of putting on of apparel; But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”

NOTE: When it comes to Christian dress, modesty is the best policy. That is the all-pervading principle. God wants us to focus on our walk with Him, not to rush to the mall when every new fashion is unveiled. It does not mean we should dress slovenly but be neat and clean.

It also grieves the Lord when His children wear jewelry. Jewelry attracts attention to the wearer, and basically preaches the sermon – “I am not satisfied with the way that God has made me.” What does the Bible mean when it says the plaiting of the hair? The plaiting of the hair was the practice of weaving gold into the hair. So, it is not speaking of braiding the hair like it is done today.

11) What did God command Jacob to do?

Genesis 35:2-4 “Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that *were* with him, Put away the _____ that *are* among you, and be clean, and change your _____: And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went. And they gave unto Jacob all the _____ which *were* in their _____, and *all their* _____ which *were* in their _____; and Jacob hid them under the oak which *was* by Shechem.”

NOTE: When Jacob had a revival experience with God, he was told to change his garments and to remove the strange gods in his hand and the earrings in his family’s ears. This is very significant. Today, we are living in the time of judgment, and because of this we should realize that we, too, should prepare our lives for the coming of Jesus.

12) What did the children of Israel do as they entered the Promised Land?

Exodus 33:3-6 “Unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou *art* a _____ people: lest I consume thee in the way. And when the people heard these evil tidings, they mourned: and no man did put on him his _____. For the LORD had said unto Moses, Say unto the children of Israel, Ye *are* a _____ people: I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee: therefore now put off thy _____ from thee, that I may know what to do unto thee. And the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by the mount Horeb.”

NOTE: What does God call a person who wears jewelry stubbornly? He calls them stiff necked. God called them to strip themselves of their jewelry before they entered the Promised Land. He is doing exactly the same thing today. He is calling people to remove their ornaments before they enter the Heavenly Promised Land.

13) In the Bible, what is jewelry associated with?

Hosea 2:13 “And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she _____ herself with her _____ and her _____, and she went after her lovers, and forgot me, saith the LORD.”

NOTE: Like it or not, jewelry is associated with idolatry. It is associated with forgetting about the God of heaven.

14) How does God picture the false church at the end of time?

Revelation 17:1-5 “And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the

inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with _____ and precious _____ and _____, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead *was* a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”

NOTE: When God pictures the rebellious religious system at the end of time, He uses a woman that is decked out in gold, precious stones, and pearls.

15) What does Jesus want to clothe us with?

Isaiah 61:1-3 “The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the _____ of _____ for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.”

NOTE: Jesus wants to cover us with His righteousness. Then we will wear the garment of praise for what He has done for us.

16) What should our relationship with God be like?

John 8:29 “And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do _____ those things that _____ him.”

NOTE: Wow! What a testimony Jesus had! He always did those things that pleased the Father. Jesus wants us to be the same - always finding out what best pleases the Lord. That is life at its best.

17) Where does true happiness come from?

John 13:17 “If ye _____ these things, _____ are ye if ye do them.”

NOTE: Once we know what God’s will is, we are happy when we please Him. Everything else that we do to find happiness will not produce happiness.

18) What should be the Christian’s ultimate delight?

Psalm 40:8 “I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law *is* within my heart.”

NOTE: A real Christian delights in following God. To please Him in every lifestyle practice. Some may say, that the concept of what we wear is a “little thing” and that God doesn’t care about “such things.” Friends, if we are being true with ourselves we will recognize that this is not the case. If it is such a “little thing” it will not be a problem giving up these little things for Jesus.

IS IT YOUR DESIRE...

To follow Jesus, by always doing those things that please Him. Yes or No