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"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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"RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY"

by J. D. Thomas

Strict obedience is a prime virtue.

It is easy to see the need for obedience in other people. To adults the biblical admonition, "Children, obey your parents," makes good sense. Children are those who do not understand the forces that whirl about their lives and actually they are not competent to make decisions for themselves. The very best for the child can be had only if he strictly obeys the admonitions of his loving parents, who do understand what is best for him. We would even go so far as to say that if children do not obey and do not show proper respect for authority, they should be spanked.

In a school, students must obey their teachers and the administrative authorities so the whole organization can function effectively as a unit. Any sort of anarchy or refusal to conform will disrupt the good that can be accomplished for every student, including the disobedient one.

What good would the military be unless all of lesser rank respected the obligations of discipline and strictly obeyed the commands of their superiors? Surely those of us who stay at home and have others go and fight our wars for us are glad that they are expected to show proper respect for authority. If we should be told that no longer will our service men be expected to pay attention to the commands of their superiors, we would be scared of the outcome, for we know that victory is possible only when people work together as a team. We could not afford to have 100,000 men in a war zone, each doing what he pleased.

Back home we cannot afford to have citizens disrespect the law, Human beings have to be controlled by proper authority, and the great life is possible only when each man submits to that authority and recognizes that his own desires must be secondary to the authority that governs

the group.

In the Church, Christians are admonished to "Obey them that have the rule over you and submit to them." In the relationships of the local congregations, there can be no successful working together unless all respect the authority of them who have been given it.

Finally, all of us must respect God's authority as it is expressed in His revealed will—the New Testament. We suffer if we decide to take our spiritual condition into our own hands. God has a right as our maker to give commandments, and He has the knowledge to know what is the best life for us. In most cases of disobedience, the one disobeying has less information about the situation and the consequences of nonconformity than does the one who is in position to serve as the authority.

In view of all of this, there is no place in an orderly society for what some call "civil disobedience." Neither is there a place for student rebellion or any sort of public demonstration that violates the law. Certainly, in human organization or government anyone with a good idea should have the right to make his idea known, but in all these relations there is a way for expression of ideas and even for changing of laws that does not call for "breaking the law" in order to get the idea advanced. We are a people of law and we must remain such. We are a people under God's complete authority, and woe be unto us if we do not respect it.

They Haven't Tried It Yet

Lately one increasingly hears from the militant, aggressive, outspoken, intellectual youth of today the statement that the old institutions of ages past are worn out, irrelevant and need to be discarded. In these statements they are speaking of institutions basic to our way of living,

including the home, family living, and the church. These militant radicals are fighting political and social institutions. They are seeking to change even the arts.

They hope to create a psychedelic culture. And in all of this they aim some of their heaviest punches at religion. In a modern scientific world, they say there is no room for religion and the church.

Our answer to this rebellious minority of young people in their fight against the Christian religion is that: "they haven't tried it yet." In fact, they have hardly seen the true religion of Jesus Christ. They want to throw out religion, but they haven't been taught enough of Christ's Word at home to know what it is. If they attended Sunday School at all, most did not hear God's Word, but rather studied psychological, sociological discussions taken from the writings of liberal theologians. In church services, they heard often the quotations of the world's great thinkers, sometimes reports on great literature, but seldom did they hear the Word of God. On TV and on the movie screen, they have seen a caricature of religion exposed. In drama, when a preacher was portrayed, he was most often some Bible quoting character that will commit adultery at the slightest chance, or else he is spineless and cowardly in action.

These youth ought to study about Jesus Christ and His way as taught in the Scriptures before they knock Him. Concerning religion, they haven't really tried it, have hardly even seen it and yet they are willing to discard it.

To those sympathetic to these rebellious youth and their desires, we would ponder them these questions. Is suicide an alternative religion? (Suicide is alarmingly climbing among those advocating the scrapping of religion!) Is homosexuality, crime, dope and children born out of wedlock better for society than religion?

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THEY HAVEN'T TRIED IT YET

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To those that would scrap religion, we know the right answer is, rather than scrap religion—let's change it. Let's change it to the kind of religion Christ died to establish, Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free, (John 8:32). It is of course obvious that untrue religion will never set men free, but on the other hand the liberty and license of nihilistic youth will bring anarchy and chaos rather than the freedom for which these youth seemingly desire.

True freedom is to be found in religion, the true religion of Jesus Christ. They shouldn't discard it, In fact, they can't discard it, for they haven't even found it yet. But they can find it if they seek it. Jesus died even to set the Hippies and Yippies free. Some may try to rebel from society, but they have one factor common to society graphically illustrated in their actions. They are sinners like the rest of us. And if they would be saved, they must come through obedience of the gospel to the saving blood of Jesus Christ, and begin living the Christian life. They don't know how good this life really is because they haven't even tried it yet.

By James D. Jarrett

ANSWERS TO SOME VITAL QUESTIONS FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

by Billy Goodin

"My son and daughter are of high school age. What instructions should I give them regarding dating and the modern custom of going steady? I know they need the benefits of social contact with those of the opposite sex for their personality development. But I don't want to give them the wrong guidance. What should I tell my son and daughter?"

This is a vital question neglected by too many parents today and we depend on our parents to a great deal for the guidance we need during the very crucial teen-age years as Pat Boone put it in his book *Between 12 and 20*. Many modern-day parents are afraid of what other people might say. While I hope that this is not the case with any of your parents, it just might be because many parents,

teachers and even ministers are in confusion about moral standards. (Some ministers that is, but thank God for those true gospel preachers who have the courage to speak and direct others to the only source of real truth.)

Many teen-agers ask where they can go for the truth, for guidance along the way to marital happiness. Almost no one, it seems, but the few I have mentioned has considered that the one who does know is the God who created us male and female, the God who set all laws in motion, and who revealed them to us in the Bible.

Perhaps you never have thought of the Bible as the foundation of all knowledge. Where else could one go for the truth about social behavior before, during, and after marriage.

Most boys and girls start dating today as soon as they enter their teens and many before. This means their childhood is shortened with early dating, which leads to going steady and often pregnancy and early marriage. How early do American youngsters begin dating? Dr. Calfred B. Broderick, Professor of Family Relationships at Penn State University, has said in an issue of Newsweek, "WE may have to go down to the second grade to find a dateless class. Ten years ago dating was considered an adventurous and unusual activity for a 21 year old. Today teachers in many communities across the nation report that some 9 year olds are beginning to date and 11 year olds are going steady. In one middle class school district that was studied, 40 % of the fifth graders, mostly 10 and 11 year old children had started to date."

Children should never begin dating so early in life. "Without knowing what they are doing, or why, or what trouble they are headed for, too many American sub-teens are rushing and being rushed into growing up too fast and too soon. Going steady, engaged in constant campaigns to captivate each other or be captured, the younger boys and girls are involved in sub-teen romances, complete with wrap-around dancing and necking," warned an editor of Life Magazine. Parents who promote early dating or who agree to the practice, fearful of bringing on a family war, are directly responsible for this situation.

But what about going steady? You may say your parents allow it. Teenagers assume the term going steady automati-

cally means they can have more freedom in physical intimacy. A couple going steady assumes they are free to do all the kissing and necking they wish and even go all the way without second thought. **That is sin!** The Apostle Paul plainly said: "Flee fornication. Every (other) sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." I Cor. 6:18 and verses 9 and 10 of this same chapter say, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the Kingdom of God." The commandment forbidding adultery, and all illicit sex relations, was given to man to protect marriage and the family. When an individual member of a family suffers dishonor or discharge, all are wounded and hurt. When a man marries a girl, he not only joins his life to hers, but, in a broader sense, to her parents, brothers and sisters. She in turn brings her life into the family circle of his blood, relatives, So, premarital relations can involve not only the couple but her family and his.

In a national poll on teen-agers going steady, 72% of the girls and 74% of the boys admitted that dating only one person leads to more physical intimacy than dating more than one.

A good principle: Don't go steady unless you are prepared for marriage and are planning to get married in the near future. Date a number of girls and boys and broaden your horizon in dealing with opposite sex. Going steady opens the way to fornication or to an early marriage with the wrong person.

More than 20,000 boys and girls between 12 and 15 are married in the United States. Teen-age marriage hits hardest at those who have been going steady the longest, who come from unhappy homes, or who have no plans for education beyond the 12th grade. Divorces occur six times more often among those who marry under the age of 21 than among the 21 plus brides and grooms. Statistics indicate 53% of all teenage weddings are forced by pregnancy.

When should young people get married? This may be a question that is bothering you. You may feel that I am discouraging marriage all together but this is not so. I

do not feel that we can be as happy as God intended for us to be unless we do marry. I feel that it is an obligation of every Christian to marry and raise a Christian family in a Christian home where that is possible. It is a great privilege and yet a responsibility. But when should young people get married? One experienced counselor and minister states, "Based on actual experience, my judgment guided and approved by God is that until out of the teens a boy or girl is too young to marry. And it is also my judgment and I think it is sound and approved by God, based on lifelong experience counselling on marriage problems of hundreds of people that even 20 is too young to be the best age for marriage. The best age for a man to marry is around 24 to 26, after he has devoted those top aptitude years between 16 and 25 for mature education experience, and preparation after he has acquired the knowledge, preparation and preliminary experience to assume adult responsibilities, after he is able to assume the responsibility of supporting a wife, and family. And the best age for a girl to marry is between 23 and 25, when she has utilized those top aptitude years for preparation and is prepared to assume the duties of wifehood and motherhood, the responsibility of planning, decorating, arranging a home, keeping it and being a help and inspiration to her husband."

The kind of dating done nowadays commonly leads to situations sought by those who have nothing on their minds but kissing, necking, petting and committing fornication. Most teen-agers go out twice a week and the most popular activities are going for a drive, dancing, getting together for a party or going to the movies. There is usually no place for the old fashioned chaperone. They are left to themselves to do as they please.

God commands all: Flee fornication! Stay away from places and people that will lead to "Loving it up." Develop the art of dating as it should be—of going to educational events and places, taking part in sporting activities, and going on outings with parents or other adults, Could I not add worship services and church sponsored activities? Youth needs to learn the true values of life—that breaking the laws of God will exact a terrible penalty! Promiscuity does not pay! It doesn't lead to

happiness in life. It only breaks down the character traits of trust, responsibility and honesty.

Youthful lust and vanity can completely destroy young lives! What a fearsome thing it is to see mere teenagers sobbing out their hideous problems of pregnancy, a vile disease, a wretched, miserable, broken life, even before it's really begun.

While it is the responsibility of parents to teach you much of what we have told you, it is also a responsibility of the church to teach and admonish as God directs in His Holy Word. Parents must live by the laws of God themselves and strive to teach their children the great values of a clean conscience, a wholesome life, a future of true freedom!

Often we hear from our young people such remarks as "Everybody's doing it, why shouldn't I?" First, let me say when God's word says "Thou shalt not," it makes no difference who is doing it, "We shall not." Secondly, all are not doing it. Recently a poll was taken on the Tulsa, Oklahoma University campus by a university magazine that exposes this myth. The poll revealed that 65 % of the single women were virgins, only 13 % of the single men said that virginity would be of no importance in their choice of a wife. 62 % said it was very important. Only 44 % said they drank alcoholic beverages frequently and 84 % had never tried drugs of any kind. Everybody is not doing it. Plenty, in fact too many are, but most are not.

We would not lead you to believe there is no pleasure in sin. No doubt there is but it is so fleeting, so temporary, so expensive that we just cannot afford it. Nothing that sin in any form has to offer can compare to the real, lasting happiness that a righteous life can bring.

God's laws are good. They are holy. They are designed to bring us happy lives, healthy minds and bodies, and the only real success that we can attain. When you have a question or a problem, go to God's word for the answer. You can do so with the assurance that the answer will be true, it will never fail and that you will be rewarded by obeying it. If you are unable to find the answer by yourself in the Bible, do not hesitate to ask your parents or your preacher to help you.

Christ said "search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life and

they are they which testify of me." John 5:39. Paul said that the Christians in Berea were more noble in that they received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily. Acts 17:11.

May God help us to avail ourselves to the council, advise and admonition that His word gives.

News

Brother Jason Frizzell will be preaching at Dellhalf, Missouri the 2nd and 3rd Sunday's of each month.

Brother James Henley reports that all records were broken in the month of August at Mammoth Spring, Ark. with an average attendance of 280 per Sunday.

Contributions

Contributions for Last Month:

Velma Proffett	\$2.00
Mrs. Nola Gearhart	2.00
Arthur Garner	5.00
R.E. Stephens	2.00
B.R. Price	5.00
A friend	5.00
Agnos Church of Christ	5.00
Wheeling Church of Christ	5.00
Viola Church of Christ	5.00
Elizabeth Church of Christ	5.00
Ring Church of Christ	5.00

MORE FUNDS NEEDED TO PRINT PAPER

During the past year printing costs of Fulton County Gospel News have advanced from about six hundred dollars a year to about a thousand dollars a year. The Elders of the Mammoth Spring Church of Christ authorized the editors to ask for increased contributions from our readers so that the paper can continue to operate. What is needed most is for more monthly contributors of about five and ten dollars each.

The paper is mailed to about eighteen hundred persons. The price of printing comes to a little over fifty cents per person for a year. Our mailing permit does not allow us to charge a subscription, so all we receive are donations.

If you want the paper to continue during the coming year, let us hear from you as soon as possible.

THE FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS is a monthly publication distributed free of charge to any who care to receive it. We will be happy to add any names to the regular mailing list. If you send in a name, be SURE to include the Zip Code Number, It must be with each address according to the Postal regulations. This paper is supported by unsolicited contributions for which we are grateful. If you care to know of its financial status and expenses, that information will be furnished upon request.

EDITORS : Clovis Ragsdale and James E. Henley

BY FAITH MOSES FORSOOK EGYPT

"By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the king: for he endured as seeing him who is invisible", Heb. 11:27. From verses 23 through 26, we are told WHY Moses chose to serve God, rather than the king of Egypt. Yet it was ALL "by faith". Because Moses walked by faith, does this mean that he had to "only believe" and once he had believed, he only had to wait for salvation? NO, NOT AT ALL! His faith had to WORK!

Moses, when he reached manhood, made a choice! This is what Joshua admonished the people to do in his day, "choose you this day whom you will serve", Joshua 24:15. This is the BIG problem today, millions are seeking a type of immunity from Hell, through religion, without having really chosen to serve God! Once a person has truly chosen to SERVE God, there is no problem as to whether salvation is by faith, or works, or both, it is a simple matter of, "Lord what would thou have me to do?" To study his will, to know his will and then OBEY him in ALL things.

After Moses made his choice to serve God, he then had to GO SERVE GOD. This service was BY FAITH, but he still had to GO and DO the things required by God. It was not enough to believe that God COULD save him and WANTED to save him, he had to DO HIS PART. He WENT to Egypt, DID all God told him to do, led the people OUT of this land and led them for forty years toward the promised land. Did this VOID his salvation as being "by faith"? The answer is "NO". It was ONLY when his faith was "wrought" with his works that his faith pleased God!

As long as a person thinks that this commandment, or that commandment form God is not essential to his salvation and is only willing to obey the commandments which HE THINKS ESSENTIAL, HE HAS NOT YET CHOSEN TO SERVE GOD! HE IS NOT YET READY TO PLEASE GOD!

By Faith Abraham Went Out

"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and went out, not knowing whether he went.. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations. whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11: 8-10.

Here we learned that Abraham did receive a call from God, instructing him to leave his home and GO into a land that God would show him. The land at this was NOT KNOWN to Abraham, therefore he went BY FAITH. Gen. 12 should be read here. God promised to GIVE Abraham and his posterity a land, yet Abraham had to Go and obey God, and later his posterity had to FIGHT for every inch of this land! Does this VOID the land as being "by faith", NO, of course not, for "faith without WORKS is DEAD". James 2:24. Every one must OBEY Christ to be saved today, Heb. 5: 8-9.

Abraham, like us today, was LOOKING for a city, which God has built. God's law then, as the New Testament today, was God's instructions concerning this city, including the instruction to go there. Then, as now, not those who said, "Lord, Lord", entered the city, but those who "DID" the will of the Lord. Matt. 7:21; Heb. 3:19.

Abraham BELIEVED God, but it was not until this faith MOVED him to OBEY God, that his faith was "Imputed unto him for righteousness", James 2:23. It was when his faith was "wrought with his works, and by works was his faith made perfect", James 2:22. Man must "work righteousness", not BELIEVE righteousness, to please God, Acts 10:34-35, God's righteousness is REVEALED in the Gos-

pel, Rom. 1:17. ARE YOU OBEYING GOD?

ROBBING THE CHILDREN

Parents are frequently guilty of robbing their children, not of money, but of that which is of far greater value. One of the most precious possessions that a child can have of a parent is the memory of a devoted Christian life. But many parents rob their children of this memory by refusing to obey Christ. Some parents, even though they become members of the church, allow so many things to interfere with their faithfulness that the child is robbed of the memory of a zealous Christian life lived by the father and mother.

The parents who possessed the power to provide for the child those things of a temporal nature but refused to do so, would be bitterly condemned by all. Yet many parents possess the ability and the opportunity to provide Bible study for their children, and refuse to do so. The parent who refuses to encourage his children to attend Bible classes by setting before those children the proper example of Bible study attendance, is robbing his children.

Are you robbing your child?—copied.

HAPPINESS COMES INCIDENTALLY

Happiness in this world, when it comes, comes incidentally. Make it the object of pursuit, and it leads us a wild-goose chase, and is never attained. Follow some other object, and very possibly we may find that we have caught happiness without dreaming of it; but likely enough it is gone the moment we say to ourselves, "Here it is." like the chest of gold that treasure-seekers find. --Hawthorne.

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