

THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

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SIN AND RECONCILIATION

"Therefore as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin; and so death passed unto all men, for that all sinned."

Sin is the curse of the world. Man's life is embittered by disappointment and sorrow, ("The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain,") (Romans 8:22), and that because of sin.

Sin had its beginning in the Garden of Eden. Since that time "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23). (See 1 John 1:10).

In order for us to properly understand the subject, it is necessary that we know what sin is. John says, "Sin is lawlessness." (1 John 3:4). Lawless action is action inhibited by law. Again he says, "All unrighteousness is sin." (1 John 5:17). Paul says, "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin." (Romans 14:23). Solomon declares sin to be the "thought of foolishness." (Prov. 24:9).

Sin has a way of whispering peace and safety to its victims, and deceiving them into sin. The devil never warns anyone of sin. With this in mind, Paul advises to "exhort one another day by day, so long as it is called today; lest anyone of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."

(Heb. 3:13). Sin deceives man by the "pleasures" that accompany sin. But here we need admonition from Paul concerning Moses, "By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to share ill treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." (Heb. 11:24-25). Paul says one can become enslaved to sin by obeying sin. (Romans 6:16). But Paul says further, "Thanks be to God, that, whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto ye were delivered; and being made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness." When a man sins he becomes a servant of the devil and is separated from God. Isaiah says, "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God and your sins have hid his face from you." (Isa. 59:2). Man cannot be saved being separated from God; therefore, he needs to be reconciled to God. "For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, shall we be saved by His life." (Rom. 5:10). We receive reconciliation through Christ, and he gave unto us the "ministry of reconciliation." 2 Cor. 5:18.

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Editorial

"Be At Peace Among Yourselves

Each Christian has the responsibility of being at peace with other Christians. Paul said: **"Be at peace among yourselves."** (1 Thess. 5:13b). No one Christian alone can bring peace in any congregation. All Christians can contribute things that make for peace. All Christians have the responsibility to **"seek peace and ensue it."** (1 Pet. 3:11). We must eagerly seek peace. When trouble arises within a congregation, each Christian has a responsibility to bear the fruit of the Spirit called PEACE. Christians are to have their **"feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace"** (Eph. 6:15), and to **"let the peace of God"** RULE in their **"hearts."** (See Col. 3:15). We are to **"make peace"** (see James 3:18), by following **"the God of peace."** Paul exhorts us to **"follow after the things which make for peace . . ."** (Rom. 14:19).

THINGS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE

1. A GENUINE DESIRE FOR PEACE. No person will contribute much to bring about peace among Christians unless he has a sincere desire that there be peace. Peace is a companion of righteousness. One should hunger and thirst after right-

eousness. (See Matt. 5:6). In order to promote peace, we must do right. Some claim to desire peace but their actions indicate otherwise. If you have a genuine desire for peace, your attitude and actions will manifest it.

2. MEEKNESS. Meekness is kindness and gentleness. It is not easily provoked. It is ready to yield rather than cause trouble when it can do so without compromising truth or purity. Christians should endeavor to **"restore"** those who are overtaken in faults. This should be done **"in the spirit of meekness."** (See Gal. 6:1). A wise man will show **"his works with meekness of wisdom."** (See James 3:13). Christians are exhorted to **"put on"** meekness. (See Col. 3:12). We should give a reason of the hope we have (3:15). Following after **"meekness"** is one way of **making peace.** The meek shall **"delight themselves in the abundance of peace."**

3. A SOFT ANSWER. Strife and contentions are often caused by words spoken in haste or in anger. Grievous words stir up anger, but **"a soft answer turneth away wrath."** (Prov. 15:1). We should **"be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."** (James 1:19) As we give an answer concerning our hope, let us do so with **"meekness."** **"The words of the pure are pleasant words."** (Prov. 15:25; see also 16:24). **"The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious . . ."** (Eccl. 10:12). We can help promote peace by comforting one another with proper words. (See 1 Thess. 4:13-18). A person who always says what he thinks is not striving to promote peace among God's people.

4. PERFECTION AND UPRIGHTNESS. Christians are exhorted to be **"perfect."** (See 2 Cor. 13:11; Col. 4:12; James 1:4). By **"perfection"** I mean **"maturity."** Christians are exhorted to develop into maturity. Babes should become full-grown. Paul said: **"Quit ye like men. Be strong."** (See 1 Cor. 16:13). When we put away **"childish things"** we will help promote peace and harmony among ourselves. To walk according to the truth of the gospel is to walk up-

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Paul goes on to say that God, "committed unto us the word of reconciliation." (vs. 19). So, it is through the word of Jesus Christ that we are reconciled to God. Since we must not add to nor take from the word of Christ (Rev. 22:18-19) we will speak as the oracles of God (1 Pet. 4:11) in telling how the middle wall of partition of sin may be broken down between God and the man of sin.

Paul says, "It was God's good pleasure through the foolishness of the preaching to save them that believe." (1 Cor. 1:21). Man must hear the word (Romans 10:17), and believe it to be pleasing to God. (Heb. 11:6). Then, he must repent of his sins. Repentance destroys the practice of sin. "Repent therefore, and turn again that your sins may be blotted out." (Acts 3:19). Then, in baptism, the culminating act, the sins are washed away. (Acts 22:16). That which separated man from God has been removed. He has been delivered out of the power of darkness, and translated into the kingdom of the son of his love. (Col. 1:13).

Friend, are you separated from God? Have you been reconciled to God? Today is the day of salvation. Harden not your heart.

—Horace Huggins

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"BE AT PEACE AMONG YOURSELVES"

rightly. **Walking uprightly** contributes to **making peace**. The Psalmist said: "**Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of this man is peace.**" (Psalms 37:37).

Each of us should carefully examine ourself in the light of God's word. Are we causing **strife** or are we contributing to **peace**? We should "**live in peace.**" Prayers should be made "**for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.**" (See 1 Timothy 2:1-2).

Remember the apostle Paul said: "**And be at peace among yourselves.**"

(CRS)

"Be Careful, You're Bending That Twig

We are all aware of the old proverb that says, "As a twig is bent, so will it grow." And when we seriously consider this, we know it is true. But it is so easy to forget this lesson. For parents, Solomon expressed the same principle when he said, "Train up a child in the way that he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6).

Parents, remember, you **are** bending that twig. One way or the other, to the right or to the left, for better or for worse, you are determining the course of life which that child will take. Be careful, lest you bend it in the wrong way!

Paul commanded parents to "Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4). This includes:

1. Train your children in **morality** — in clean thoughts, words and deeds. "Wild oats" (corruption) that is practiced in childhood and adolescence cannot be productive of purity later. If you complacently watch their immodesty in childhood, you can expect to see impurity in adulthood.

2. Train them in **honesty**. It is still the best policy! Help them to regard truth and fidelity as precious qualities. Show them, by word and by example, that half-truth is only a lie and that a man's word should be as good as his bond.

3. Train them to respect **authority**, always — the policeman, the teacher, the parent and the Lord. If they do not learn to respect the first three, they will hardly respect the Lord either.

Your children deserve the best you can give them. They did not ask to be born, and their destiny is not really in their own little hands, but in your strong or weak will. And the best you can give them is not just measured in education, culture, financial security, etc., but in character which you produce in them.

Children are like jello. Parents are the mold. What will your children become when they have been formed after your pattern and by your direction? Yes, you are bending that twig. Be sure you bend it right.

—Leslie Diestelkamp

How To Bring Down A Son

1. Let him have plenty of spending money.

2. Permit him to choose his own companions without restraint or direction.

3. Give him a latch key and allow him to return home late at night.

4. Make no inquiry as to where and with whom he spends his leisure moments.

5. Give him to understand that manners make a good substitute for morals.

6. Teach him to expect pay for every act of helpfulness to others.

7. Let him spend Sunday hours, between services, on the streets.

8. Be careful never to let him hear your voice in prayer for his salvation and spiritual growth.

—GOSPEL ADVOCATE, 1926

(Editor's note: I make two other suggestions. 1. Let him have his own car as soon as he turns 16 and let him go when, where and how he pleases. 2. Be afraid to exercise discipline over him for fear he won't love you.)

The Hill-Sutton Debate

The Hill-Sutton Debate that was scheduled for the week of May 6th has been postponed due to an injury received by Carrol Sutton in an automobile accident. He is making satisfactory recovery, it seems, and plans are that the debate will be re-scheduled soon.

When I Lose My Temper

When I have lost my temper, I have lost my reason, too;

I'm never proud of anything which angrily I do.

When I have talked in anger, and my cheeks are flaming red,

I've always uttered something which I wish I hadn't said.

In anger I have never done a kindly deed, or wise,

But many things for which I felt I should apologize.

In looking back across my life and all I've lost or made,

I can't recall a single time when fury ever paid.

—Author unknown, via
THE DEFENDER

Sentence Sermons

A little man doesn't really know how little he is...

Common sense is about the most uncommon thing there is.

An immoral man is dangerous whether he is armed with a gun — or with a Bible.

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