

# *Better Way Apostolic Church- Bible Study*

## *Subject: Changing God's Way: I Corinthians 15:33*

### **Thinking Errors- Minimizing:**

The person will make the problem seem smaller so they can avoid being accountable for their behaviors. By reducing or limiting the true signification of a hurtful behavior by comparing it with worse behaviors, the person is filtering out the effects of on others and does not recognize the effects of their behaviors.

**When you hear the words **only** and **just** this indicates that this thinking error is being used.**

I was only ten minutes late.

It was just a little bit of beer.

When will Jesus Christ return for His church? Nobody knows; but when it occurs, it will be "in a moment in the twinkling of an eye" (1 Corinthians 15:52). It behooves us to be ready (1 John 2:28-3:3).

Why Are the Dead Raised? (1 Cor. 15:29-34, 49-58)

The resurrection of the human body is a future event that has compelling implications for our personal lives. If the resurrection is not true, then we can forget about the future and live as we please! But the resurrection is true! Jesus is coming again! Even if we die before He comes, we shall be raised at His coming and stand before Him in a glorified body.

Paul cited four areas of Christian experience that are touched by the fact of the resurrection.

**Evangelism** (v. 29). What does it mean to be "baptized for the dead"? Some take this to mean "proxy baptism," where a believer is baptized on behalf of a dead relative; but we find no such teaching in the New Testament. In the second century, there were some heretical groups that practiced "vicarious baptism," but the church at large has never accepted the practice. To begin with, salvation is a personal matter that each must decide for himself, and, second, nobody needs to be baptized to be saved.

The phrase probably means "baptized to take the place of those who have died." In other words, if there is no resurrection, why bother to witness and win others to Christ? Why reach sinners who are then baptized and take the place of those who have died? If the Christian life is only a "dead-end street" get off of it!

Each responsible person on earth will share in either the resurrection of life and go to heaven, or the resurrection of judgment and go to hell (John 5:28-29). We weep for believers who have died, but we ought also to weep for unbelievers who still have opportunity to be saved! The reality of the resurrection is a motivation for evangelism.

**Suffering** (vv. 30-32). I die daily does not refer to "dying to self," as in Romans 6, but to the physical dangers Paul faced as a servant of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:8-5:10; 11:23-28).

He was in constant jeopardy from his enemies and on more than one occasion had been close to death. Why endure suffering and danger if death ends it all? "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we shall die" (Isaiah 22:13).

What we do in the body in this life comes up for review at the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10). God deals with the whole person, not just with the "soul." The body shares in salvation (Romans 8:18-23). The suffering endured in the body will result in glory at the resurrection (2 Corinthians 4:7-18). If there is no future for the body, then why suffer and die for the cause of Christ?

**Separation from sin** (vv. 33-34). If there is no resurrection, then what we do with our bodies will have no bearing on our future. Immorality was a way of life in Corinth, and some of the believers rejected the resurrection in order to rationalize their sin. "Evil company corrupts good morals" is a quotation from the Greek poet Menander, a saying no doubt familiar to Paul's readers. The believer's body is the temple of God and must be kept separated from the sins of the world (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1). To fellowship with the "unfruitful works of darkness" (Ephesians 5:6-17) is only to corrupt God's temple.

It was time for the Corinthians to wake up and clean up (see 1 Thessalonians 5:4-11). The believer who is compromising with sin has no witness to the lost around him, those who "have not the knowledge of God." What a shameful thing to be selfishly living in sin while multitudes die without Christ!

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

**Death (vv. 49-57)**. The heavenly kingdom is not made for the kind of bodies we now have, bodies of flesh and blood. So when Jesus returns, the bodies of living believers will instantly be transformed to be like His body (1 John 3:1-3), and the dead believers shall be raised with new glorified bodies. Our new bodies will not be subject to decay or death.

Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychiatry, wrote: "And finally there is the painful riddle of death, for which no remedy at all has yet been found, nor probably ever will be." Christians have victory in death and over death! Why? Because of the victory of Jesus Christ in His own resurrection. Jesus said, "Because I live, ye shall also" (John 14:19).

**Sin, death, and the Law go together.** The Law reveals sin, and the "wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Jesus bore our sins on the cross (1 Peter 2:24), and also bore the curse of the Law (Galatians 3:13). It is through Him that we have this victory, and we share the victory today. The literal translation of 1 Corinthians 15:57 is, "But thanks be to God who keeps on giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." We experience "the power of His resurrection" in our lives as we yield to Him (Philippians 3:10).

**Know this:** Thou must not keep company with the wicked, but converse always with good men. With such eat, drink, and associate. Please those who have the greatest virtue. From good men thou mayest learn good things; but if thou keep company with the wicked, thou wilt lose even the intelligence which thou now possessest.

A man that can't be corrected is a man that can't be followed. Always keep a teachable spirit.

**Mire**- wet spongy earth (as of a bog or marsh). 2. : heavy often deep mud or slush. 3. : a troublesome or intractable situation <found themselves in a **mire** of debt>

"

Can the rush grow up without mire?"— Job 8:11

The rush is spongy and hollow, and even so is a **hypocrite**; there is no substance or stability in him. It is shaken to and fro in every wind just as formalists yield to every influence; for this reason the rush is not broken by the tempest, neither are hypocrites troubled with persecution.

I would not willingly be a deceiver or be deceived; perhaps the text for this day may help me to try myself whether I be a hypocrite or no. The rush by nature lives in water, and owes its very existence to the mire and moisture wherein it has taken root; let the mire become dry, and the rush withers very quickly.

Its greenness is absolutely dependent upon circumstances, a present abundance of water makes it flourish, and a drought destroys it at once. Is this my case?

Do I only serve God when I am in good company, or when religion is profitable and respectable? Do I love the Lord only when temporal comforts are received from His hands? If so I am a base hypocrite, and like the withering rush, I shall perish when death deprives me of outward joys. But can I honestly assert that when bodily comforts have been few, and my surroundings have been rather adverse to grace than at all helpful to it,

I have still held fast my integrity? then have I hope that there is genuine vital godliness in me. The rush cannot grow without mire, but plants of the Lord's right hand planting can and do flourish even in the year of drought. A godly man often grows best when his worldly circumstances decay. He who follows Christ for his bag is a Judas; they who follow for loaves and fishes are children of the devil; but they who attend Him out of love to Himself are His own beloved ones. Lord, let me find my life in Thee, and not in the mire of this world's favour or gain.

Evil communications: -- Let me --

I. EXPLAIN THIS DOCTRINE.

1. Good manners, although applied by St. Paul to those Christian principles from which his converts were in danger of being seduced, may be understood as including both right sentiments and holy practice.

2. The term "evil communications," means the associating with evil men.

3. Such evil communications corrupt the mind, sap the principles, and taint the conduct. In the case of the upright Christian, whose duty leads him to intercourse with the world, this tendency may, indeed, be counteracted by watchfulness and prayer, and by the preventing grace of God. But if, without this defence, a man will freely associate with the ungodly, the effect will soon be visible in his character.

4. The injurious effect of evil communications is not described as taking place in any sudden or striking manner. Corruption is a gradual change. Silently, but surely, evil communications corrupt good manners.

II. CONFIRM IT, by an appeal to --

1. The Word of God (Prov 4:14, etc., 9:6, 13:6; 2 Peter 2.).
2. Maxims of wise men. St. Paul's words are borrowed from a heathen writer. This shows that Reason without the aid of Inspiration has led men to the very same conclusion with the apostle. To this I will add the modern saying of "a man is known by the company he keeps."
3. Take the cases of Lot, Solomon, etc.
4. Personal experience. Look back through your past lives, and recollect in how many instances your views and conduct have been influenced by the example of those among whom you lived.

III. APPLY IT. **Be not deceived.**

1. As to the reality of your danger from ungodly society. We soon perceive the perilous situation of a son, a daughter, or a friend; but we are apt to be very blind when the case becomes our own. **There is no safety in the society of those who have not the fear of God before their eyes.** If they be openly immoral or unprincipled, all connection with them is perilous in the extreme. But their society is scarcely less dangerous to a true Christian, if, while destitute of religion, their outward behavior is plausible and decorous.
2. As to your ability for resisting the influence of evil communications. A man may say, "I know that there is danger, but my principles are fixed: and, as I do not go into such company, out of any love for their bad conduct, I shall easily avoid what I know to be wrong." The man who talks thus is ignorant both of the power of temptation and of the weakness of his own heart, and he that trusteth in his own heart is a fool. And should the tempter suggest, as he did to Jesus, that God will give His angels charge over you to keep you, recollect that there is no promise of such protection to those who quit the path in which the Lord requires them to walk.
3. As to the possibility of separating yourself from ungodly connections.
4. As to the final tendency of that corruption, which arises from evil communications.

**The goal of the gospel is to change** men and women to be a mirror of Christ to the world and set the standard by which all men should pattern their life style.

The Bible seeks to promote holiness or biblical change as a life style. When biblical principles are implemented into people's lives they will become consistently Christ centered and Christ like in every area of life including their desires, thoughts, attitudes, feelings and behavior. In order for change to come we must practice these principles in the nitty gritty of life and continue to apply these principles until godly patterns of thinking, feeling, and living have been integrated into our life.

Mature Christians are able to discern between good and evil because they have practiced consistent godliness. On the hand, immature Christians are described as those who have been taught many truths but have not practiced them sufficiently. That means that many people who have been saved a long time can still be immature.

### **I. Planning ahead to do the right thing: Romans 12:17**

(Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.)

Romans 12:17 says that we should respect what is right in the sight of all men. “The Greek word translated respect literally means to plan ahead of time. So the verse speaks of advance planning for the right behavior.

### **II. Get rid of the old: Romans 13:14**

(Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.)

The first aspect of planning is to identify factors that hinder biblical change and to take the steps to eliminate them. Romans 13:14 tells us to make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts. The things that stir up the lust of the flesh must be identified and eliminated.

The apostle Paul warns us, Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good morals I Cor. 15:33.

Here in the book of Proverbs it warns us of the dangers of wrong associations.

PR 13:20 He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

PR 13:21 Misfortune pursues the sinner, but prosperity is the reward of the righteous.

PR 20:19 A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much.

PR 20:20 If a man curses his father or mother, his lamp will be snuffed out in pitch darkness.

PR 22:24 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered,

PR 22:25 or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared.

PR 23:20 Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat,

PR 23:21 for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags.

PR 23:22 Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

We must never feed the flesh. Make no provision for the flesh says Paul, to fulfill the lust thereof. There is a fire within you, never bring any oil anywhere near it because if you do there will be a flame, and there will be trouble. We must avoid everything that tends to tarnish and hinder our holiness. Abstain from all appearance of evil, which means, avoid every form of evil. It does not matter what form it takes. Anything that I know does me harm, anything that arouses, and disturbs, and shakes my composure, no matter what it is, I must avoid it. I must keep under my body, I must mortify my members. In order to be helped we must be strictly honest with ourselves.

### **III. Put on the new! Romans 13:14**

Putting on the new involves not only eliminating sin but also cultivating godly thinking and behavior.

### 1. Involvement in Church:

Since the Church is described as Christ's body, putting on the Lord Jesus Christ means getting involve in a local church.

Col. 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

Col. 1:24 Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

**If change is going to occur in our lives church must be vital, not just casual, we must be involved in a church where Christ can meet our needs in a special way.**

### 2. Godly Associations:

While the wrong kind of associations leads to sin, the right ones stimulate godliness. Paul told Timothy to pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart (2 Tim. 2:22). The godly virtues Paul mentioned are stimulated by associating with others who seek after them. Christians are to stimulate one another to love and good deeds. (Heb. 10:24, 25)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

<sup>25</sup> Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

***The way to become wise according to Proverbs 13:20 is to walk with wise men.***

### 3. Meaningful Devotions:

Since Jesus is revealed in the Scripture, it is impossible to put on the Lord Jesus Christ without studying the Word of God.

<sup>1CH 28:9</sup> "And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted **devotion** and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.

<sup>1Cor. 7:35</sup> I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided **devotion** to the Lord.

**Either sin will keep you from God's word or God's word will keep you from sin.**

### 4. Accountability:

It is helpful to establish a relationship of accountability with someone who will inquire how you are doing from week to week. Just the assurance that someone else knows what I am struggling with and will ask questions about those struggles can provide the incentive to resist temptation and do the right thing.

Those who resist accountability usually do not successfully implement biblical change.

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