

All Rights Reserved By HDM For This Digital Publication  
Copyright 1998 Holiness Data Ministry

Duplication of this CD by any means is forbidden, and  
copies of individual files must be made in accordance with  
the restrictions stated in the B4Ucopy.txt file on this CD.

\* \* \* \* \*

**A WELL BUILT CHURCH  
And Other Articles**

**By David R. Merck**

Used by Permission

\* \* \* \* \*

Digital Edition 05/15/98  
By Holiness Data Ministry

\* \* \* \* \*

CONTENTS

- 1  
A Well Built Church
- 2  
Compromise Examined
- 3  
Lord, Teach Us To Pray
- 4  
Optimism, Pessimism, Realism  
Where Does The Child Of God Fit?
- 5  
Psalm 23 -- The Sinner's Version
- 6  
Sin
- 7  
The Language Of Clothes

8

The Proliferation Of Religions

9

Unity In Diversity

10

What Then Shall We Say To Sin

\* \* \* \* \*

Article 1

A WELL BUILT CHURCH

Matt 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

If a church is to be well built Jesus must be the master builder! We, His children, are laborers together as we follow His directives. If we fail to follow His directives, the church will be foundationally, structurally, and design deficient, not fulfilling its intended purpose and will be a dangerous refuge not worthy of mankind's trust. On the other hand, if we His people carefully follow His directives the church will be a great blessing to the soul's of men! Let us notice several characteristics of a well-built church.

A well-built church will be doctrinally sound. Two definite works of grace, justification and sanctification through the blood of Jesus, will be her theme. She will teach and preach that the marriage vows are until death do you part. The Ten Commandments are still in vogue and have not been relegated to the trash heap of non-essentials. She will tenaciously hold to the essential doctrines of the Trinity, the virgin birth, and the divinity of Jesus Christ! She will advocate the tithing of income for the support of the church.

A well-built church will be evangelically inclined. Her desire is to see the lost brought into the fold. Missions at home and abroad are among her most important goals. The man of God that graces her pulpit weeps as he calls for the lost to give their hearts to Jesus. The laity are constantly looking for the opportunity to win the lost to Jesus.

A well-built church will be spiritually developed. Her people are known for their saintly character. There is a Godly deportment among her constituents. She is not playing the harlot, but is conscientiously walking with her Lord in loving obedience. Her master's commandments are not grievous and she delights to do His will! She is non-conforming, for she believes with conviction that she is not of the world even as he is not of the world. Answers to prayer are not uncommon. There is the sweet fragrance of brotherly love permeating the air. She looks different from the world because she is attired modestly without all the trappings from the malls of Egypt's land.

A well-built church will be socially positioned. She still believes she is to let her light shine. She still believes she is the salt of the earth. She still believes her watchmen should cry aloud and spare not. She does not hide her head in the sand and vainly hope that the evils of society will go away. She recognizes that sins such as abortion, euthanasia, and sodomy are a terrible moral blight on society; therefore, she steps forth with holy dignity and sounds the battle cry against the sins that are a reproach to any people and a death knell to society.

A well-built church will be pastorally directed. The shepherd of the flock should be a shining example as he carefully and prayerfully leads the church. His life should be marked by consistency, persevering prayer and heavenly enlightenment. He should be a guardian of the truth intrusted to him. He patiently labors, seeks God's perfect will with all humility, preaches the truth with holy boldness, lovingly cares for the flock, and seeks for the lost

A well-built church will be Christ-centered. The church may have beautiful sanctuaries, powerful pulpiteers, angelic choirs, heavenly music, superb organizational structure, finances, and every type of ministry conceivable, but if Christ is not the center piece she is nothing more than an empty shell sadly in need of being rebuilt by the master builder himself, Jesus Christ.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Article 2 COMPROMISE EXAMINED

### I. The Clarification of Compromise

Compromise is an often used term in union and industry contract negotiations, management and employee relations, and especially in the political arena. It involves a give-and-take process until there is a workable arrangement hammered out. In the afore mentioned areas compromise may be desirable and very much needed; but, on occasion one side, or both, will not give sufficiently and negotiations are broken off.

In considering a fourth arena, compromise should be considered taboo, a veritable mine-field where no man dare tread: the religious arena! By stating the religious arena we are referring specifically to that element which has come to be known as the conservative holiness movement. Having referenced the conservative holiness movement we can proceed to define compromise with specificity: To concede, relinquish, or depart from previously held Biblical truths, standards, and principles to the profound detriment of the soul, church, or denomination. The term "compromise" is not used in scripture, but is alluded to and inferred many times. Proverbs 22:28 -- Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.

### II. The Causes of Compromise

Time -- Time has a way of reducing a stalwart young man of robust health and vigor into a stooped old man of poor health and slow step. It also has an insidious way of reducing a stalwart champion of the faith into one that has a form of godliness and who has stooped so low through the years that he has denied the faith by compromising his religious values. The tempestuous wind and

rain of time will gradually wear us down unless we are constantly, repairing the bulwarks of our faith. Carelessness -- A carelessness to pray, read and study God's word, and to watch has caused many a seaman to shipwreck on the jagged rocks of compromise.

Cooling-off -- We need to keep fueling the fires of faith and zeal. We need to maintain the anointing or and the glory. We need to be found on the highest pinnacles of love and holiness. Our spiritual temperature needs to be equatorial, not polar. We need to be too red hot to be numbered with those in the deep-freeze of compromise!

Coercion -- There are those in the conservative holiness movement who do not have any scruples when it comes to fulfilling their diabolical agenda of coercive compromise. New converts, older saints, preachers, missionaries, and evangelists are all in their cross-hairs. Man are the methods employed in their attempts to get the mighty to fall. Here are some: 1. Offers of money, position, power, and prestige. 2. Words of persuasion, flattery, and deception. 3. Efforts to demonize the old-fashioned in order to glamorize the compromised. Carnality -- It is the key causative factor of compromise. It already has the left leaning bent of the compromiser. It will cater to compromise. It will not resist coercion. It will not fan the flames of holiness but will pour frigid waters thereon. It will be carelessly indifferent to the things of God. It will only allow time to solidify its death grip on the soul.

Matthew 26:41 -- Watch and pray, that ye enter not in to temptation:

### III. The Continuance of Compromise

Compromise is an age-old problem extending from the very beginnings of man to the present. Man has fallen again and again into the seductive snares of the enemy and sadly doesn't even realize that he has succumbed to the crushing clutches of compromise.

Cain tried the compromise of a bloodless sacrifice. Eli compromised when he failed to restrain his sons in their evil practices. King Saul compromised Gods instructions by not slaying the sheep and oxen, and by sparing Agag. Jeriboam compromised the true worship of God for calf worship. Peter compromised his conscience in his denial of the Lord.

Religious organizations and institutions have fallen to the blight of compromise which history so readily verifies. Laymen., missionaries, pastors, and evangelists have raised the oars and have gone with the current of compromise.

In our day the awful history of compromise continues to be recorded. We look round about and everywhere we see the heart breaking results. Our colleges., camps, churches, and periodicals are reeling in the death throes of compromise. All around our beloved bastions of holiness are crashing down into oblivion. Truth has fallen into the streets and the stench of death lies heavy; in the air. A falling away has occurred and compromise will continue her cursed course until Jesus comes! II Timothy 3:13-But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived IV. The Characteristics of Compromise Wherever you find compromise you can be sure it is Satanically instigated, subtly carried on, and savage in its end results. Compromise is no respecter of persons, resists exposure, and rapidly destroys true spirituality. While the above

characteristics are true, it is often difficult to call compromise what it really is because it is chameleon-like in nature; changing colors whenever necessity demands. Compromise is also very adept at dodging the issues, clouding the waters, and as we will discuss later, masking itself with one of its fragrant colognes. Those who are guilty of compromise can nonetheless be identified by the following: 1. Passive concerning vital doctrinal issues. 2. Unresponsive to the old-paths. 3. Content to follow pleasing personalities who preach pleasant platitudes. 4. Satisfied with fun instead of fire. 5. Prefer socializing instead of agonizing. 6. Hungering for things of the world rather than things of God. Matthew 7:20 -- Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

## V. The Cliches of Compromise

A cliché is a trite phrase or expression. Compromisers have quite a catalog of these from which to draw in their efforts to justify their actions, to misdirect unsuspecting souls, and to gloss over the error of their ways.

We will not endeavor to define the clichés which we will list nor will it be a complete listing, but a sampling. Our listing is to help us be on guard when we hear them or similar ones used in conversation, from the pulpit, in a testimony, or read them in an article or book.

1. We need to be middle of the road.
2. Don't go off the deep end.
3. Religion has gone to his head.
4. Legalism.
5. Pharisaical.
6. Self-righteous.
7. Long skirts and long tongues go together.
8. Standards turn people off.
9. We need more love.
10. Its just your ideas, notions, and opinions.
11. We need to win souls and quit preaching on things.
12. I don't find that in black and white in God's word.

As previously stated this listing is only a sampling but will suffice to carry the point. Cliches such as these are so easily bantered about in the conservative holiness movement. Little

wonder that so many of our young people don't know which road to travel, nor do they know who or what to believe.

What is so dangerous about these cliches is the fact that they contain elements of truth, and when subtly used in conjunction with carefully crafted illustrations can be very effective tools in undermining people's belief in the old-fashioned way and their confidence in old fashioned saints. Remember, nothing is so dangerous as truth tainted with error! Matthew 12:37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

## VI. The Circles of Compromise

Look high and low, left and right, behind and ahead, and you will readily see compromise in virtually all of the colleges, denominations, camps, and missionary organizations in the conservative holiness movement. We do not make a statement such as this to derive some sort of perverted pleasure or to rail at anyone, but with concern, pain, and poverty of joy do we speak. Our colleges are turning out psuedo-preachers that are more concerned with frivolity, finance, and fringe benefits than they are about pure Bible doctrine and the salvation of souls. Compromise to them is just one way to advance their own self interests. Our denominations have become vehicles of compromise geared to drag people down to the level of the world and push out those who won't bend or bow to their dictates. Our camps have become glittery Hollywood style showplaces. The singers and evangelists know how to perform for their gullible audiences. Many workers have consciences which are so callused they deem compromise a virtue instead of a vice. Our missionary organizations are making secularized heathen instead of genuine converts. Missionaries have compromised the proven methods of the past for the modernistic methods of today such as video which., quite frankly, damn instead of deliver! Pity our college, denominational, camp, and missionary leaders who are actively seeking and asking for the paths of compromise, who are pressing our young men and women into their molds, and who are sending out their minions to wreak havoc on so many unsuspecting and gullible laymen and precious young people. God, save our people from compromise! Jeremiah 9:1 -- Oh that head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

## VII. The Cases of Compromise

The television and video are fast becoming staples of the conservative holiness people. Argument is made that we need to stay in step with the latest technology, but it is null and void for we have already witnessed the resulting havoc in the old-line holiness churches because of their use of television.

Adultery is no longer a serious offense and is winked at by the ecclesiastical hierarchy. We are told that it is no longer guilty party" but "innocent party." We are told that God is a God of love and understanding. Some groups allow those involved in adultery on the piano stool and in the pulpit. Some preachers are still in good standing in the conservative holiness ranks even though they are married to the third, fourth, or fifth woman! It seems strange indeed that all the ladies were guilty and the preacher was innocent every time!

Worldly amusements are the order of the day.. It no longer is sin to attend the circus, fair, carnivals, festival, and theater. Going to Disney World, Epcot Center, Sea World, Carowinds, Six Flags, and like places is very seldom frowned upon. Conservative holiness people can be found on the golf course, mixed bathing, the bowling alley, ball games, car races, and the skating rink. Standards are fast going the way of the dodo bird, carrier pigeon, and the woolly mammoth. Our women folk are easier to describe with Hollywood terminology than with holiness terminology. Spiked heels, sandals, seductive clothing, and all manner of Egyptian junk can be found rather than the plain, modest attire of the past. Our men are endeavoring to pattern their dress after that of the suave Wall Street business man.

The King James Version will soon be a relic of the antiquities of old. The New International Version is being muscled in. The cry is "The KJV is too difficult to understand." Our argument is; if one can understand Shakespearean prose or the street slang in modern day rap lyrics one can easily grasp the English of the KJV.

One of the latest conundrums in the holiness movement is very strange indeed. We understand that the men of the holiness movement need to grow beards in order to get God on the scene. Can it be we will soon encounter brigades of holiness hippies? Here we are on the verge of Christ's return and instead of standing firm many are traveling down the path of vain vagaries into the twilight of oblivion. Isaiah 58:1 -- Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house Jacob their sins.

#### VIII. The Cornering of Compromise

As God's people we have a solemn obligation to be faithfully cornering compromise so honest hearts can see it for what it really is: a heinous, ugly, slimy, black, damning device of the Devil. We need to preach it clear enough, close enough, and long enough until the compromise no longer have a refuge of lies in which to hide.

When the compromising crowd is cornered one of three things will happen:

1. They will repent in sackcloth and ashes and will come out on the side of God and old-fashioned heart holiness.
2. They will lightly cast us aside as mental basket cases.
3. They will come out of the come swinging.

In cornering compromise let us emphasize we are doing it in order to help honest hearts. From personal experience we find that once a person, church, or college has headed down the road of compromise they will seldom, if ever, repent and retrace their steps; but will blindly trudge on in their sin with an inevitable rendezvous with hell. Backsliders will often be honest and admit their condition. Compromisers, although backsliders, are dishonest and will vehemently deny and endeavor to justify their state when reminded of the former years. Matthew 23:37 -- O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

## IX. The Consternation of Compromise

The little Gideon's band who dare challenge the challenge the compromising hosts of our day, are looked down upon with dismay and disdain. How can it be that a few ignorant and unlearned men would dare challenge the superior intellectual forces of the compromisers! Who do we think we are anyway; little John the Baptists with voices crying in the wilderness, 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight'? When we would challenge the Goliaths of the conservative holiness movement we are considered dogs fit only for the discerning tastes and delicate dining habits of buzzards.

Be sure, my beloved brethren, we are under attack from the compromisers because of our stand for truth, righteousness, and holiness. All manner of innuendo and invective are contrived to cause us to cower down. Think it not strange if your name is cast out as evil. Don't think it strange if the information mills are filled with misinformation and disingenuous reports all coldly calculated for our demise. The compromising crowd will stoop to any level to silence us. Take courage and onward march my brethren!

Deuteronomy 31:8 --And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed

## X. The Caldron of Compromise

The caldron of compromise is a seething foment, a veritable witches brew. The ingredients are many. Its potency is powerful. Its capacity is huge. Its contents are being served up with a fervor that only compromising zealots possess.

Our beloved holiness movement is being inundated by a torrent of filth from the caldron which is heated by the sulfuric fires of Hell and is presided over by the master chef himself -- the Devil.

The desire of the compromisers is to silence all voices of opposition, and to see us feeding at their table with serving after serving of the deadly brew. Nothing thrills them more! We are not exempt, my brethren, from succumbing to the potency; of the caldron of compromise. Some sure symptoms that we have been partaking are these: sleeping sickness, dry bones, cold chills, carnal cravings, unholy desires, evil associates, heart problems, NIV usage, etc.

I Corinthians 10:12 -- Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

## XI. The Colognes of Compromise

Often times compromisers are very adept at disguising their treachery with generous amounts of the following name-brand holiness colognes: Kindness, Generosity, Sweetness, Love, Tolerance, Cooperative, Good Spirit, Helping Hand, Unity, and Love Offering. It never ceases to amaze us how these carefully selected colognes, when applied, completely mask the awful stench



of compromise from so many so-called people of God! Oh, what a lack of discernment many people have today!

We hear people say, "Oh, how kind, generous, sweet and loving!" "Oh, how tolerant, cooperative, and good spirited!" When Unity is applied in generous amounts nearly every one falls under the power of its enchanting fragrance and indifferently throw their convictions to the wind! And almost everyone is fooled by the most famous of all the colognes "Love Offering!" Money indeed covers a multitude of sins.

Did we hear someone say, "But, these colognes are the true fragrances of heaven?" Yes, indeed they are; but Oh, what hypocrisy when used with ulterior motives! Individuals who use these colognes wrongly are supposed to be broad minded, so understanding, and so steadfast in love; but woe unto the old-fashioned saint who makes one of the slightest, unintentional missteps. He will be immediately taken to kangaroo-court and found guilty in the first degree. Never forget, compromisers will love their own; but, when they smell blood, they have no qualms about crying "crucify" and may even forget to apply their colognes, thus showing what they really are, hypocritical compromisers.

I John 4:1a -- Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God:

## XII. The Culmination of Compromise

Listen to the echoes of the former days. Hear the shouts of glory and the thunder of old-fashioned truth. Look at the scenes of yesteryear. See the rugged warriors of the cross as they march with resolute heart across the vistas of our memories. Are the same sounds and scenes as abundant and genuine as in days gone by, or has a great falling away occurred?

We need in the holiness movement of our day a healthy dose of realism, only produced by Holy Ghost conviction, that will enable us to acknowledge the deadly drift produced by compromise. Our bastions of holiness have crumbled. Our warrior saints have long since marched past and are only occasionally remembered in the annals of church history. We find ourselves in a bleak, barren, and dangerous spiritual landscape. Only occasionally do we cross paths with a Nehemiah who is ready and willing to rebuild the walls and restore the gates of our beloved holiness movement. If compromise is the path to follow, why is it that we are not experiencing real revival, but are being steadily sucked into the vortex of the Devil's whirlpool of destruction? The hand writing is on the wall.

Compromise is everywhere. One has to be willfully blind or Satanically deceived not to recognize it. The indicators of compromise are evident. Look at the popularity of Dr. James Dobson and his philosophy of self-esteem rather than the holiness teaching of self-abasement. Look at our holiness people beginning to march in lock-step with the drum beat of ecumenicalism. The holiness movement has been shorn of her power by courting the Delilahs of this world.

Notice with us the downward path on which compromise travels and the end results to those who dare pay the fare and get on board for the wicked ride.

1. Cool off spiritually.
2. Tolerate sin grudgingly.
3. Embrace sin inwardly.
4. Condone sin passively.
5. Participate in sin openly.
6. Promote sin enthusiastically.
7. Apostatize completely.
8. LOST ETERNALLY!!!

May God have mercy and visit us one more time!

Matthew 5:13 -- Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted! It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Article 3

### LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY

#### Introduction

Andrew Murray said, "Prayer is the very essence of true religion, the channel of all blessings, the secret of power and life. Though in its beginning prayer is so simple that the feeblest child can pray, yet it is at the same time the highest and holiest work to which man can rise." Sir Thomas Baxton said, "You know the value of prayer: it is precious beyond all price. Never, never neglect it. H. Robb French said, "The church advances in her conquest for God on her knees, when she advances any other way she suffers a humiliating defeat." Through these great saints of the past we see the inestimable value they placed upon prayer! Yes, prayer is the channel by which we access the resources of the all-sufficient, inexhaustible, and eternal store houses of our great God! If there ever was a day when we needed to pray it is today. If there ever was a hour when we needed to storm the bastions of Heaven in behalf of the church, and never dying souls it is that hour. Seeing then that prayer is of such great importance we should be humbly entreating the Lord to teach us to pray. Luke 11:1. Oh, may we be with Christ in the school of prayer so that we may pray more consistently, correctly, intelligently, fervently, and effectively. May the Master prayer warrior now teach us to how pray and what will hinder our prayers from His Word.

#### I. How To Pray

Our prayers must be directed. Acts 12:5 -- ...but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. If we are to pray with power our prayers must be directed unto God. They must be directed to God with such intensity, accuracy, and humility that we gain an audience with him. This is what prayer is about, getting in touch with God, getting Him to lend an ear to our petitions.

We must obey in order to pray. 1 John 3:22 -- And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. We must listen to God's commandments if we expect God to listen to us and our prayers. Are we making it the study of our lives to know what is pleasing to our Father, so that our prayers will be answered?

We are to pray in the name of Christ. John 15:16 -- ...that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. We must approach God on the merits of Jesus and not on our own if we are to claim any blessing from God. Andrew Murray said, "The power of prayer and the answer depend on the right use of the name." When we pray in Jesus name He presents our petitions as His petitions.

We must pray according to the will of God. 1 John 5:14-15 -- And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. How are we to pray in the will of God? First by the word of God. God has revealed His will in His word. Secondly by the teaching of the Holy Spirit. Rom 8:26-27 -- Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. It is a very important matter that we pray in the will of God.

We are to pray in the Spirit. Eph 6:18 -- Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit... Notice, we are not to pray in our spirit but in the Holy Spirit. He helps us to formulate our petitions in keeping with the will of God.

We must pray with faith or believing. Mark 11:24 -- Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. May we have a simple faith that says, "If God says it I believe it." Andrew Murray said, "Faith is very far from being a mere conviction of the truth of God's word, or a conclusion drawn from certain premises. It is the ear which has heard God say what He will do, the eye which has seen Him doing it, and, therefore, where there is true faith, it is impossible but the answer must come. If we only see to it that we do the one thing that He asks of us as we pray: Believe that ye have received. How does this faith come? Romans 10:17 -- So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. We need to give earnest heed to His word.

We are to be always praying and not fainting. Luke 18:1 -- ...that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Let us make prayer the practice of our lives, so much so that we are regularly breathing supplications unto God.

We are to be persistent in our prayers. Luke 18:7 -- And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? Some prayers will only be answered by persistent, pursuing importunity. Importunity means troublesome, ceaseless, continuance. We must pray on and on until we obtain what we seek from God. Let us get a hold on God with a bulldog tenacity until He answers.

We must abide in Christ if we would know how to pray. John 15:7 -- If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. If ye abide in me is the all-inclusive condition.

We are to pray with thanksgiving. Phillipians 4:6 -- Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. In approaching God to ask for something or for new blessings, we should never forget to return thanks for blessings already received.

## II. Hindrances To Prayer

An unforgiving spirit will hinder our prayers. Matthew 5:23-24 -- Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. We must live in a continuing state of forgiveness for this will gender love for love is the only soil in which faith can strike roots and grow. Our prayers must not be self-exalting. John 14:13 -- And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. The Father is to be glorified not us. Poor domestic relations will hinder prayer. 1 Peter 3:7 -- Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered. Adam Clarke said, "Both the man and the woman being equally called to eternal glory; and as prayer is one great means of obtaining a meetness for it, it is necessary that they should live together in such a manner as to prevent all family contentions, that they may not be prevented, by dispute or misunderstandings from uniting daily in this most important duty - family and social prayer. Despising God's law will definitely hinder our prayers. Proverbs 28:9 -- He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination. A sinful life will hinder our prayers. Psalm 66:18 -- If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me: Isaiah 59:2 -- But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. If there is anything that is continually coming up in your moments of close communion with God, that is the thing that hinders prayer; put it away. Wavering dampens our prayer life. James 1:6 -- But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. To doubt God is to insult Him. We must not have a haughty or wrong spirit. 2 Chronicles 7:14 -- If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves... We must not pray half-hearted prayers. Jeremiah 29:13 -- And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. We must not use vain repetitions when we pray. Matthew 6:7 -- But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Hypocrisy will hinder our prayers. Matthew 23:14 -- Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

## Conclusion

Oh, Lord teach us how to pray and help us to see those areas in our lives that hinder our prayers! Oh, Lord, may we like the poet, get a glimpse of what prayer really is:

"Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,  
Uttered or unexpressed;  
The motion of a hidden fire  
That trembles in the breast."

"Prayer is the burden of a sigh-  
The falling of a tear-  
The upward glancing of an eye  
When none but God is near."

\* \* \* \* \*

## Article 4

### OPTIMISM, PESSIMISM, REALISM

#### Where Does The Child of God Fit?

##### Introduction

What constitutes our outlook on life in general and on religion in particular? Our parentage, environment, schooling, acquaintances, religion, the carnal nature, and a host of other variables enmesh sculpting us into the person we are with our views, opinions, preferences, convictions, and outlook. We came into the world with certain hereditary traits and environmental surroundings which are irrevocable and with some of the variables we had little or no control. Some people come into the world and everything seemingly clicks, producing the optimists. Some enter on a journey of misfortune and mishap, resulting in the pessimists. Some arrive into this life with more-or-less the same circumstances as the optimists or the pessimists, but some specific encounter or catalyst intervenes amid all the variables and contingencies of life, catapulting them beyond the realms of optimism or pessimism, and landing them in the realm of realism.

Where does the child of God fit? Are we optimists, pessimists, realists, or a mix of the three? Does our relationship with God have anything to do with how we are classified? Let us endeavor to answer these questions.

##### I. Optimism

Optimism is the tendency to take the most hopeful or cheerful view of matters expecting the best outcome or always looking on the bright side of things. The optimist seems to have an indomitable spirit that knows no obstacles or boundaries, is seemingly impervious to pain and loneliness, and presses on in the midst of the most unfavorable of circumstances. He is generally well liked and his spirit is often contagious. Most people admire optimism and have an inward

desire to have the same spirit. Well, is optimism the classification in which the child of God should fit? Before we answer this question let us look at optimism more thoroughly.

Optimism is influenced by many of the factors of life, but it has its basic influential source in one thing; the old carnal nature, which leads an individual into one of three veins of optimism. The first vein is a kind of can-do spirit hinging upon the abilities and efforts of men who pride themselves in their self-reliant, self-determining, self-exalting, self-made image. Man must put on a good appearance lest his image be marred and his pride deflated. The second vein is one where optimism is predicated upon naivete. The naive look at circumstances and situations through the proverbial rose colored glasses. Their heads are in the clouds and their feet are not on the ground. They sugar coat everything and press on blindly. They are the blind leading the blind. They are deceiving while being deceived. The third vein is where one puts on a false front of optimism endeavoring to cover up for some inward hurting. They do not want to humbly admit their need of the grace of God because of their carnal pride.

With the above thoughts in mind, I do not believe the child of God should be classified as an optimist.

## II. Pessimism

Pessimism is the tendency to expect misfortune or the worst outcome in any given circumstance or situation. A pessimist makes a practice of looking on the dark side of things. He drums out a steady beat of doom and gloom. Everything bodes ill and the pessimist never finds a cloud with a silver lining. When the pessimist looks at the economy, politics, religion, society, or world conditions it never fails that he comes up with a worst-case scenario for them every time. One has said, "If a pessimist does see the light at the end of the tunnel, it is the light of a train." Very few are they who would desire to be categorized as a pessimist, and fewer still desire to emulate the lifestyle of the pessimist.

Pessimism is influenced by many of the factors in life's ever-changing landscape. These many factors can entrap an individual in a prison of despair, despondency, dismay, discouragement, darkness, and defeat. This list of d-words depicts a terrible and most miserable lifestyle in which to find oneself, but it seems there are those who desire to company with misery and derive some sort of distorted pleasure from such a detestable life.

Considering the undesirable aspects of the life of a pessimist, we certainly do not categorize the Child of God as such.

## III. Realism

One may illustrate the difference between an optimist and a pessimist this way: the optimist sees the doughnut and the pessimist sees the hole. We have already concluded that the child of God is neither an optimist nor a pessimist. The child of God does not view only the golden brown sugar coated doughnut, but he also sees the empty hole without which the doughnut would be incomplete. Therefore we conclude that the child of God is a realist. We do not hide our head in the sand like

the proverbial ostrich, but we have our head held high to get a realistic view of things based on our faith in God's holy word.

The optimist's surrealistic world of beautiful doughnuts can come crashing down all around him with the force of a mighty avalanche because of the many variables and contingencies that can develop which are completely beyond the control of his seemingly indomitable spirit. The pessimist's bleak world of empty holes will only suffice to lead him downward into an ever deepening slough of despond.

The realistic child of God is much different. We have a lively hope based upon God's word, not on man's optimistic indomitable resourcefulness. We face the seemingly empty holes of this life, not with doom and gloom, but with the knowledge that all things work together for good to the child of God. We know, based on the assurances of the Word of God, that the Lord is our Shepherd and he will lead us through the empty holes of this life, and at the same time, will daily load us with benefits (the sugar coated doughnuts). The human ingenuity and resourcefulness of the optimist will wane, the empty holes of the pessimist will at times be all too real, but our God will go with us even unto the end of the way. That is truth, that is rock solid, that is realism!

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Article 5

#### PSALM 23 -- THE SINNER'S VERSION

1. The Lord is not my shepherd; I do always want.
2. Satan maketh me to roam in parched pastures: he leadeth me into raging waters.
3. He vexeth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of unrighteousness for his name's sake,
4. Yea, I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear many evils: for I am all alone; Satan and his demons torment me.
5. Satan depriveth me of a table in the presence of mine enemies: he doth fill my head with evil thoughts; my cup of iniquity is full.
6. Surely death and destruction shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will burn in Hell forever and forever.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Article 6

#### SIN

#### Introduction

On this terrestrial ball called earth there dwells, at present, five billion-plus members of the human race, who had their beginning in a man called Adam. Adam was a perfect creation made in the image of God, but this perfect man, did not stay perfect.

Satan, through deception and lies, was able to get man to sin. As a result of this sin, Adam was no longer a perfect creation of God, but became a sinful creature. Because of this fall from a perfect state to a sinful one, all the human race has this sinfulness as a factor or inherited condition within them. This sinful condition is what this writing is about. An attempt will be made to show what sin is and what it does to humanity, and the provisions that have been made for it by God's wonderful plan of salvation.

Several sources have been utilized in the writing of this article as well as the King James Bible.

### What Sin Is

The problem of evil has been intriguing to mankind all through the centuries. This evil is called "the mystery of iniquity." Evil has been veiled in a mysterious covering, but a person can turn to the pages of the Bible for sound truth concerning it. Evil has been recognized as a very powerful force working within man.

This evil called sin has not always been present within man. Sin came about through Satanic deception, as was mentioned in the introduction. Unfortunately man yielded to Satan, and by doing so found himself with an evil principle, or sin within. This Satanic deception and trickery, the yielding to it, and the resulting fall from a sinless state to a sinful state is recorded in the word of God in Genesis 3.

That sin should originate in a moral universe with God as Sovereign is the mystery. However, it is impossible to think of sin apart from a moral being. Sin is not an entity, but rather the perversion of moral faculties. Because the faculty is a part of us, once that faculty is perverted, sin is of us (not as a part of our basic constitution else we could never get rid of it) by being connected with our moral faculties. Sin is a vitiated state of human nature in which self is estranged from God. Sin is a Biblical term and has to do with man in his relationship Godward. All else of difficulty in the human race has its roots there. The law speaks of crime; society is familiar with vice; but the Word of God brings us face to face with the awful fact of sin. The word sin, with its derivations, such as sinned, sinner, etc., is found in the Bible over eight hundred times. We see by this that sin is so very real and evident that it is treated with great detail in the Bible and viewed with great concern by God himself.

### Kinds Of Sin

The Bible teaches us that sin is two-fold, actual and original or inherited.

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law. (I John 3:4) This gives a good concept of actual sin. By examining it we see a committed act of sin, which is the actual outworking or action of sin.



Actual sin is the outcropping of the evil nature within or the yielding to temptation to evil from whatever source. It is two-fold; commission and omission. Commission involves action; omission, the failure to act when duty demands. Omission of duty is as wicked as the direct transgression of the law. Therefore, to him that knoweth to do good, and death it not, to him it is sin. Actual sin originates in the life of the individual when he comes to the age of accountability; and, knowing the difference between right and wrong in his relation to God, he willfully chooses the wrong instead of the right.

The following texts are direct definitions of actual sin found in the Bible: I John 3:4 (breaking God's law) I John 5:17 (all unrighteousness) James 4:17 (neglected duty) Romans 14:23 (acting contrary to faith or not giving God the benefit of the doubt).

Actual sin is committed in one of three ways: we may speak-sinning in word, we may act-sinning in deed, we may think-sinning in thought. A person cannot commit actual sin except in one of these three ways. Inherited or original sin came about by the fall of Adam. This inherited sin is not tangible, material substance which may be seen, handled, cut out as a cancer, or divided into parts, but rather an evil principle, a personal quality, a bias, a wrong tendency, a current or trend within. It is an opposite. As darkness is the opposite of light, so this inherited evil principle is the opposite of the nature of God.

Original or inherited sin is the sin principle or evil nature within the heart with which every child is born. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Psalm 51:5 Inbred sin is known by many different names. Some scriptural names are: "The old man" Rom. 6:6; "the carnal mind" Rom. 8:7; "the flesh" Gal. 5:19; "the body of sin" Rom.6:6; "the body of death" Heb. 12:15. Some extra-Biblical terms are: depravity, bent toward sin, root of sin, and corruption.

### How Sin Acts

The original or inherited sin acts in many unholy ways. Some of them are anger, malice, self-will, hate, pride, lust, strife, boasting, etc. The carnal mind, which is a name for original sin, is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God neither indeed can be. Rom.8:7

The actual sins committed are the evil outcroppings of the original or inward sinful state. The actual sins or transgressions come about as a response to the corrupt inward nature.

### Sins Effects

Man in the beginning was in a state of sinless perfection. He talked and walked with God in the Garden of Eden. He saw God with his own eyes and basked in the light of His presence. He labored, but did not grow weary. He moved with time, but did not grow old. There were no evil sicknesses to afflict his body or mind. There were no difficulties in finding food or such things. All that was necessary was provided for the good and enjoyment of man.

When sin made its ugly encroachment upon man several things happened. These are the effects of sin. Man no longer fellowshiped face to face with God. He no longer lived on continually without aging, disease, or death. Man was excommunicated from the Garden, and from then on the whole earth was cursed because of sin. Man had to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow, and woman brought forth children with travail and sorrow. Gen. 3

There are four main things that resulted from the fall and they could be categorized as follows: DEATH -- Gen. 3:19; DREAD -- Gen. 3:10; DISTANCE -- Eph. 2:12; and DIS-INCLINATION -- Eph. 4:18,19. These four things blight a mans life. They take enjoyment out of life and result in misery for himself , loved ones, and society: and bring the divine wrath of God.

### Sin's Relationship To Man

Children are born innocent, but sinfully inclined. They have inherited sin in them, but do neither good nor bad in their relation to God, because they know not right from wrong. Inherited sin manifests itself early in life and leads one astray as he grows up. The Bible makes plain our different states:

1. The state at birth -- Psalm 51:5
2. The state after birth -- Psalm 58:3
3. The state after coming to the age of accountability -- Is. 5:18,20; Rom. 6:1; Is.1:5,6

Thus, we see that one is born sinfully inclined, then goes astray and becomes a sinner by actual choice, and then settles down in a practice of sin. All this transpires unless he is arrested and saved by the grace of God.

Sin is to be regarded as no plaything. It is loathesome, and foreign to our nature, yet in such absolute possession that unless some method can be found for its removal there is no hope for mankind.

Paul in his epistles gives us a seven-fold portraiture of sin which shows its relationship to man:

1. Sin is a dominating tyrant: It possesses, indwells, out works, and drives man to despair.
2. Sin as a hereditary evil: We are born with sin in us. Ps. 51:5
3. Sin as a unitary evil: The total or whole body is under the power of sin.
4. Sin is as a body of death: Sin clings to one, even though it does not belong there, and if it continues there it will end in eternal death.
5. Sin as a downward drag: It is a downward pull on the nature of man which is contrary to the law of the Spirit of Life.

6. Sin as an inward enmity: Sin is a hindering and oppositional barrier between man and God, right and wrong.

7. Sin as the corruption of moral nature: It is the corruption of a mans nature, and in accord with his bodily manifestations.

#### How Sin Must Be Dealt With

We have already seen that sin is of a two-fold nature, the actual sin and the original or inbred sin.

Actual sins are the results of an inward cause, which is the carnal nature. Just as smoke is the result of a fire, so it is that actual sins are the result of the inward sin principle, or causative force.

Since sin is of a two-fold nature, there has to be a two-fold remedy for it. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. James 4:8 Here we see the necessary blows that have to be dealt to each of the two types of sin in order to rid a person of them.

In the case of actual sin the sins committed must have a cleansing or washing away. In the case of the original sin, one must have a purification process take place within.

#### God's Provision For Sin

The work of human redemption is essentially a divine provision, for man in his fallen condition and left to his own devices neither would nor could have found his way back to God. Man was separated from God in the fall. God was the only one who could bring man back to Himself. God through His infinite love and mercy does not desire that man continue in the fallen, sinful state which he is in, but cared for man so much that He provided a way whereby man can be lifted up to the same moral plain that Adam enjoyed before the fall.

The question is, "What is the provision for sin?" God sent His son that we might be redeemed from sin. Jesus was the Lamb that was slain as a sin sacrifice once and for all. He is the atonement for sin. A sinner can come to Christ and ask Him to forgive and to cover his actual sins with His blood, and if the individual has faith in the atoning blood, his sins are washed away. But, what about the original sin?

Original sin is not like actual sins in that it cannot be forgiven. The same way one could come to us and ask us to forgive them of some act against us, and we forgive them of the act, could not forgive the thing that caused them to do it. So it is in the atonement. The thing, original sin, cannot be forgiven. It has to be eradicated through faith. This is when one is sanctified wholly.

Through sanctification we can realize the destruction of original sin. Original sin is cast out and the Comforter, who is the Holy Spirit, is given us.

The guilt of original sin is covered by the atonement and is not imputed to any of the offspring of Adam until the above remedy is willfully rejected. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. Is.1:18 Here we see justification of the sinner through the atonement.

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be de-destroyed, that hence forth we should not serve sin. Rom.6:6 Here. we see sanctification of the justified believer through the atonement. It thus becomes clear that the ground of our redemption is not human merit, neither is it divine pity, as such, but a satisfied justice for a broken law by a holy life in the person of Jesus Christ!

## Conclusion

Through this study we have viewed sin from all angles. Sin, after having thus been viewed, is no friend of mankind. Sin, if allowed to remain in man in whatever form, will eventually bring ruin and eternal destruction to him. But, through the atonement sin does not have to reign in our mortal members, but can be removed so completely that we can attain to perfect, pure, and holy religion, or salvation. This great deliverance from sin only comes about through the wonderful atoning sacrifice of our blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ! Praise His name!

\* \* \* \* \*

## Article 7

### THE LANGUAGE OF CLOTHES

#### Introduction

One writer made this observation, "For thousands of years human beings have communicated with one another first in the language of dress. Long before I am near enough to talk to you on the street, in a meeting, or at a party, you announce your sex, age and class to me through what you are wearing and very possibly give me important information (or misinformation) as to your occupation, origin, personality, opinions, tastes, sexual desires and current mood. I may not be able to put what I observe into words, but I register the information unconsciously; and you simultaneously do the same for me. By the time we meet and converse we have already spoken to each other in an older and more universal tongue." Another writer said, "Clothes are inevitable. They are nothing less than the furniture of the mind made visible." And, another says, "You are what you wear."

What we wear most definitely sends out signals to those with whom we come in contact, whether or not we like to admit it. People do form opinions and make judgements about us by the way we attire ourselves. The clothes we wear do speak in their own language for us, whether it be in ever-so-subtle undertones; or in big, bold, booming thunder tones.

In this article we will proceed with the conviction that the above premise is true.

## Clothes Are A Biblical Issue

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

Isaiah 3:16-24 -- Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet: Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts. In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon, The chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers, The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings, The rings, and nose jewels, The changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins, The glasses, and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the veils. And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty.

Deuteronomy 22:5 -- The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.

Proverbs 7:10 -- And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.

Through the above scriptures (more could be listed) we see that God's Word is not silent about dress. If God puts his great big finger on the issue of dress, it is not a little matter; therefore, it merits our further attention.

## Clothes Are A Holiness Issue

Since holiness and modest attire are both Biblical teachings, we as holiness people should not only heartily embrace and experience holiness, but should also heartily embrace and practice modest standards of dress. Holiness and dress standards are inseparable. They compliment one another. True holiness disdains worldly attire and embraces the modest godly attire of the saints. Godly attire bespeaks holiness. Worldly attire bespeaks sinfulness. True holiness and modest attire both exemplify the meek and quite spirit of which the Bible speaks in I Peter 3:4-5. Dress standards may exist without holiness, but to say that holiness can exist without dress standards is farcical holiness produces the real fruit of genuine modest attire.

Often times in the holiness movement when dress standards are mentioned from the pulpit the subject is met with looks of trepidation. When speaking to individuals about the necessity of modest attire they often resort to the naivety ploy, feigning ignorance of the subject matter. Yes, and there are those who are in ignorance about the importance of proper clothing because of the lack of godly examples, lack of scriptural knowledge, and the shamelessness of the society in which we live. Thank God, that even in this day one still finds a few holiness adherents here and there who do not squirm in their seats, and who will heartily affirm the truth when dress standards

are preached! Since there is quite a bit of fuss about dress standards could it be that many in the holiness movement do not have a genuine experience of heart holiness. Dear reader, it is not a grievous thing for the true saint of God to keep all of God's commandments, including modest standards of dress. Listen to these verses of scripture: Psalm 119:16 I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word. Psalm 119: 47 And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved. I John 5:2-3

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

Epictetus said, "Know, first, who you are; and then adorn yourself accordingly." Holiness people need a real revival of holiness so they can truly know who they are and what it means to be identified with holiness through dress. It is high time that we as holiness people stand up and not be ashamed of true holiness with modest dress standards!

### Clothes Are A Heart Issue

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Through this verse of scripture we see that the heart is the fountain head of the issues of life. This fountain cannot bring forth both sweet and bitter. James 3:11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? A true child of God's heart is disposed to bring forth the sweet (saintly modesty in dress) not the bitter (worldly attire ).

I Samuel 16:7 ...for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. Man looks at one thing and God looks at another. Man observes the outward signals from the heart and God observes the true nature of the heart. Since man sees the outward signals we can readily conclude our need of carefulness in our attire lest he arrive at a wrong conclusion as to the nature of our heart. Clothes often times open a window on the heart revealing its true nature. If we dress worldly, it simply means we have a worldly heart and this is the conclusion to which the observer will arrive. Likewise, if we dress saintly in modest attire the observer will conclude saintliness of heart. We might add at this point that dress standards without real meekness of spirit are repulsive to sinner and saint alike.

Godly dress standards are not just a preferential matter, but a real conviction of the heart even as the keeping of the Christian Sabbath. A preference is a head matter, while a conviction is a heart matter. (It is great to have the head right, but it is far more important to have the heart right. When the heart is right the head will not be far behind.) Preferences fall into the gray area. Convictions are matters of black and white. The resolute saint of God does not just prefer to dress rightly, but he does so because it is a conviction of the heart based upon the revelation of God's Word by the Holy Spirit. We jealously guard our convictions of dress as a much coveted gift from an all-wise, loving Heavenly Father!

### Clothes Are An Associational Issue

I Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil. Abstinence from the wearing of clothes which would cause us to appear to be associated with evil should and will be avoided by the child of God. We do not want to send the wrong signals which would be demeaning to the cause of Christ in any way.

Association can be defined thus: A connection in the mind. Our clothes are a connecting link or associate us with certain groups, organizations, etc. in the minds of individuals. Let us notice some connections: If one wears a military uniform he is connected with the military. If one wears a law enforcement uniform he is connected with law enforcement. If one wears cowboy boots and hat he is connected with the cowboy lifestyle. If one wears seductive attire she is connected with harlotry. Common sense makes these connections.

God's holy people desire to be associated with the family of God; therefore, we wear the attire that readily makes the connection between us and the family. We desire to have the family likeness in every area including dress.

### Clothes Are A Historical Issue

Clothes are as old as history itself. Adam and Eve through transgression fell and lost their covering of glory and discovered their nakedness to their own shame and set about to make themselves substitutionary clothing which was unacceptable to God. Genesis 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. God made Adam and Eve coats of skin thus becoming the first designer and producer of clothing. Genesis 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Down through the ages clothing has taken many twists and turns as time has rushed humanity along. The various cultures and sub-cultures of different historical periods have invented every imaginable and unimaginable form of dress. Most of what man has produced has been unacceptable to God as was the case with Adam and Eve's fig leaf aprons. The reason for this is that man in his unregenerate state cares little about God's holy requirements in dress. Mankind's eyes, minds, and hearts have been blinded by sin and Satan. Man's moral level is often times lower than that of the brute beasts.(Read Romans 1:18-32) Is it any wonder that man is continually producing the bizarre, the degrading, and the shameful in his crude concoctions which he dubiously calls clothing!

There have been occasions in history when a revival of religion has transformed the cultural landscape resulting in godly attire acceptable and well pleasing to God, but these occasions have been few and far between. Even when there is a revival of godly attire, the results must be carefully and diligently guarded lest time insidiously erodes the positive results and men's attitudes change. The following chart will shed significant light upon how men's attitudes are reshaped over time in the matter of dress:

Indecent ----- 10 years before its time  
Shameless ---- 5 years before its time  
Daring ----- 1 year before its time

Smart -----	Current
Dowdy -----	1 year after its time
Hideous -----	10 years after its time
Ridiculous ---	20 years after its time
Amusing ----	30 years after its time
Quaint -----	50 years after its time
Charming ----	70 years after its time
Romantic ----	100 years after its time
Beautiful -----	150 years after its time

Chart by: James Laver

Regardless of man's attitude, his culture, or any given time period of history God's Word transcends all and it is still "thus saith the Lord" concerning dress and not what man saith.

The history of clothes is still unfolding for good or ill. We as a holiness people are writing our own history. Will it be a history of modest, saintly attire or will it be a history of lukewarmness toward the same. Revelation 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Realistically, the holiness movement has blurred the clear lines of demarcation between the world and the church in matters of dress until there is more of a blending with the world rather than a separation from it. II Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

### Clothes Are A Modesty Issue

Definitions of modesty in this day and age are about as elusive at the legendary pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. It seems there are so few that will dare stick our their ecclesiastical necks and give the subject of modesty some clear defining principles. To do so is taboo, and heads will roll. So be it; God's truth abideth still' are the memorable words found in Martin Luther's "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."

We do not arrive at our definitions of modesty by a general consensus of the people, but our definitions are based upon God's truth. God's truth is immutable, non-negotiable, irrevocable, and is forever firmly ensconced in God's great omniscieny. This writer does not purport to have full knowledge of all the truth concerning modesty in dress, nor will I endeavor to cover the many aspects regarding this issue, for to do so would take many volumes and would still be dolefully incomplete. We so desperately need the blessed Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: We trust that the readers of this article are in a quest for truth in regards to modesty in dress. Let God through the Holy Spirit teach you. Psalm 32:8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

Seemingly modesty is defined in this day by means of a sliding scale from one to ten. One can adjust the scale to suit his or her own tastes and preferences. This sliding scale is kept in near perpetual motion as people move it up and down to keep current with the fads and fashions of the



world and fellow conservative holiness folk. As soon as some new style arrives on the scene, a mad dash is made to quickly adjust the scale. The scale is devolutionary in nature because of the carnal hearts that are making the adjustments rather than a heart filled and led by the Holy Spirit.

Few there are who have some absolutes from God. Few there are who pray and get the mind of the Spirit and dress accordingly. Even though there are few who are practicing modest attire, this does not negate the necessity thereof. Modesty is a Biblical issue; therefore, it is an issue for God's people. I Timothy 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in MODEST apparel...

Does the dictionary shed any light on the subject of modesty? The American Heritage Dictionary defines modest this way: Observing conventional proprieties in dress. This definition is unacceptable to God's people because it is based on conventional wisdom which is a consensus of the people at any given point in time or in any particular culture. It is the sliding scale principle easily adjusted by the whims of a rudderless people and not based on the eternal wisdom of God.

Does God's Word have anything to say about modesty? Yes, and we refer you to numerous scripture passages in this article that will verify our affirmation.

Modesty defined: Dressing in such a manner as to not draw any undue attention to our person. The true saint of God does not desire to send out any signals to others that we are anything more or less than God's true, holy, humble people. We desire to bear His likeness. We do not want to be identified with anything that is less than holy. We are repulsed at the thought of being poured into the mold of worldly dress. Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: Our clothing and accompanying accessories do speak a language all their own, thus speaking for us. Let us make sure it is a modest language.

### Clothes Are A People Issue

Matthew 5:14-16 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. The way we dress either shines a light for true holiness to a lost world, or darkens the world even more by our unrighteous attire. We are people affecting other people by our dress.

Ladies, when your attire yourselves in a dress that has a low neckline, is sleeveless, and has an abbreviated hemline; you are suggesting to men that you are a half-opened gift, inviting them to imagine what lies beneath. When you combine spiked heels, shaven legs, sheer hose, and short skirts you invite the attention of girl watchers to affix their lustful gaze upon the ankle and then venture upward with the eyes. If you wear clothes that are too thin, are suggestively designed such as splits in the hemline you are exposing yourself. This type of dress is to be classified as the attire of harlots and you will be guilty of aiding lustful man in his sin. Why not dress as holy women of old and have a chaste, righteous influence on your sons, your daughters, and mankind? Nothing speaks of true holiness to a lost world more than a godly woman dressed in modest attire. I Peter 3:3-5 -- Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of

gold, 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. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves... A woman dressed in attire with full length sleeves, close fitting neck lines, and calf covering hemlines; free from the trappings of flashy-splashy, attention-grabbing colors, jewelry, Egyptian hairstyles, and cosmetics is indeed a true beacon of light to fallen humanity and a holy rebuke to all that is sensual.

Gentlemen, when you attire yourselves in tight hip hugging pants and unbuttoned shirts you are suggesting to the world that you are a macho man. When you put on those cowboy boots, that ten gallon hat, that big brass buckled belt, and that sequined jacket you are telling the world you are a rhine-stone cowboy ready to chug-a-mug of beer, hug your babe, and let the good times roll. Men, we are to abstain from all appearance of evil I Thessalonians 5:22. Why not dress as men of holy character radiating an influence upon younger men who will follow in your path. The clothing you wear should speak of seriousness, soberness, sincerity, and sacrifice. Holy men are not game for the fads and fashions of this godless, end-time society in which we live. On the contrary, you find them asking for the old-paths (of dress) wherein is the good way. Jeremiah 6:16.

Parents, do not dress up your little daughters in all the frills, ruffles, and bows that will only gender pride in their little carnal hearts. Do not dress your sons in such a superfluous manner as will make them feel like strutting around like a bantam rooster. Bring your children up in long sleeves from day one. It is far easier to bring them up never having known any different than to try to change their sleeve lengths later. You will most likely find you have a job equivalent to bronco busting. Put long stockings on your little girls so they will be protected from the gaze of little boys. Ephesians 6:4 reads, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Above all parents, set a godly standard of dress before your children, yourselves.

### Clothes Are A God Issue

I Corinthians 6:19-20 ...and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. Yes, God has every moral right to our very being. We were created by Him and the purchase price for our redemption has been paid in blood by our blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Since God can claim rightful ownership of us, He has every right to instruct us in the manner we should attire ourselves. The scriptures say, "...and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice." John 10:4 God is speaking to His sheep concerning the matters of life, including dress standards. The question is, are we listening? If we are truly sheep, we are all ears to the Master's voice, even in matters of dress, and we are more than willing to lovingly follow His directions with no desire to go astray.

### Conclusion

People wear clothes and the clothes they wear make a statement. There truly is a Language of Clothes. It does matter how we dress lest we send the wrong signals, grieve the blessed Holy Spirit, and lose our souls in Hell!

\* \* \* \* \*

## Article 8 THE PROLIFERATION OF RELIGIONS

### Introduction

True heart-felt salvation is suffering a cataclysmic decline while religion is experiencing a phenomenal proliferation. Much ado is being made about world-wide revival, but upon examination we see no evidence of such, only a proliferation of religion without Christ. Religion seems to have little in its path to hinder. In fact, it is desirable and even popular to be identified with some religious organization. If one desires to be an adherent of some religion, he need not look far. A veritable smorgasbord of religions exists today laden with delicacies from around the world from which to choose. Just look at the selection: everything from Adventists to Apostolics, from Baptists to Buddhists, from Catholics to Congregationalists, from Friends to Fire Baptized, from Methodists to Moravians, from Pentecostals to Presbyterians, from Shamanists to Shintoists; ad infinitum. Be sure, a religion is there for even the most discerning tastes.

In this article we will not endeavor to explain why genuine salvation is in decline, but why religious organizations are proliferating, and the conservative holiness movements proximity to them.

### I. Organization

Religions of our day have fine-tuned organizational structure designed to efficiently support and further their cause. Leadership is strategically located to oversee the various branches of the structure. Affiliated educational institutions are geared to turn out those that are well trained and well versed in the doctrines, traditions, and methods of their religion. Seminars, conventions, and retreats are regularly resorted to in order to hype their agenda and promote the proper image. The local congregation with its loyal attendees is the cow that is milked of money and men to sustain the momentum of religious organizations.

Organization is an absolute essential for the smooth operation of any religion. The religions of our day fully realize this and spare not to insure they are well organized. Some religions in the past have even organized armies and inquisitions to advance their cause. Present day religions are now working toward the greatest organizational feat ever - the ONE WORLD CHURCH!

### II. Finance

Zeal may abound, loyalty may be rock solid, doctrine may be rooted and grounded, and plans may be carefully laid, but money most all religions would come to an abrupt halt. Much energy is expended to assure a steady and sufficient flow into their coffers. They resort to every radical method imaginable, not all of them Biblical, to get more and more of the precious stuff: acquisition of properties, selling of indulgences, the blackmail of the confessional, selling videos, bingo, raffles, car washes, bake sales, craft fairs, and quilting bees just to name a few. Men change the truth of God into a lie, assassinate their consciences, bow to the demands of the crowd, play

favorites to men of means, and join the ranks of the apostates all for filthy lucre. MONEY truly is the mother's milk of religion!

### III. Mobilization

Religions of today are not sitting still. They are swiftly girdling the globe with their rapid deployment forces! Virtually every tribe, ethnic group, and nationality has come in contact with the manipulative, maneuvering, mobile machine of religion.

From the sands of the Sahara to the tundra of Siberia, from the Australian outback to the Argentine pampas, and from the crowded concrete canyons of Manhattan to the gargantuan ghettos of Mexico City men are marching to make converts to their particular brand of religion. The desire of religions is to draw as many as quickly and as efficiently as possible into their webs of deceit and destruction and, not surprisingly, they are succeeding!

### IV. Technology

Never in history has there existed such a vast array of technological tools from which to draw in man's pursuit of business, education, industry, merchandising military, pleasure, politics, and RELIGION! Our primary purpose in dealing with technology, is not to show which is good or evil, but to identify those technologies being utilized by religion. Airplanes whisk priests and preachers alike around the world in luxuriant ease and in minimum time.

Communication systems interconnect even the most far-flung adherents to denominational headquarters with mind-boggling speed. Cell phone, E-mail, fax., pager, and satellite are now familiar terms in religious circles!

Computers track men and money, design periodicals, connect different religions into the Internet, and make information on various religions easily accessible via the world-wide-web with only the stroke of a few keys or the click of a mouse!

Electronic media reaches out to the teeming masses. Television and radio send out a steady stream of religious propaganda day and night. The video and the CD are some of the latest additions available in the media mix.

The printed page, though around for centuries, is being churned out more rapidly, and with greater eye-appeal than ever before thanks to technology. Religious groups are spending millions in this area alone.

Technology and religion have wedded!

### V. Charisma

An absolute prerequisite for religious leaders is to exude copious amounts of carefully, cultivated charisma. Charismatic leaders have that special something that incites people to

enthusiastic loyalty and support. Some, leaders even have an ability to instill into their following a fatalistic fanaticism.

Charismatic leaders work tirelessly to insure that everything dovetails to convey the proper image of themselves to their constituents. Their clothing, coiffures, colognes, and compliments are all carefully coordinated to leave a favorable impression. Their sermonic endeavors are well prepared, professionally articulated, and powerful in presentation to sway the people in the proper direction. They have pleasing personalities and know how to mix it up with the crowd. Behind closed doors their manipulative powers are awesome.

Most all religious movements have these type of leaders who are the proverbial pied-pipers playing their charismatic melodies while the hypnotized troops follow them down the crooked path to perdition!

## VII. Entertainment

Religious organizations do not play second fiddle when it comes to entertainment. In fact, it has emerged as the favorite method used to get and to hold people! If one prefers the entertainment of the robed choir, the pageantry of the pompous processions of holy days, or the pious pronouncements of the venerable bishop, his preferences can be met!

If one seeks for the entertainment??? of extreme asceticism of the monastic order, fanatical holy wars, or the keeping of a myriad of ritualistic traditions, he need not search any longer! If one thirsts for sports, theatricals, christian rock (so-called), puppet shows, and hay rides., all he need do is tip the cup and slake his thirst.

If one appreciates the entertainment of architectural beauty: there are crystal cathedrals, ancient churches replete with massive columns, flying buttresses, and superb ornamentation; and gold-domed mosques all just waiting for him to affix his appreciative gaze!

If one hungers for culinary cuisine, there is everything from fabulous feasting in the banquet room, coffee and doughnuts during Sunday School, to pizza blasts for the youth. "Just come and dine," the pastor calleth. "No reason for anyone to leave with an empty tummy!"

## VII. Glossalalia

Bro. Daniel Stafford in his booklet *Speaking "In Unknown Tongues" Is A Misnomer* characterizes the unknown tongues movement as the GLOSSALALIA SWEEP. Glossalalia comes from the Greek word glossa, from which we derive the word tongue or language. The Glossalalia Sweep is literally sweeping the religious world with its highly emotional appeal, its false teaching that speaking in an unknown tongue is the evidence of the Holy Ghost's presence, and with its threat of blasphemy if you attribute unknown tongues to anything other than a manifestation of the Holy Ghost!

The Glossalalia Sweep has traveled with the fury of a wild-fire (which it is), has leapt religious and denominational boundaries, and is drawing large numbers of new adherents into the fold of religion!

Our discussion of the Glossalalia Sweep will receive further attention in our ninth point of consideration.

### VIII. Evangelization

Evangelistic outreach has always been an effective tool in making converts to religion and continues to be used with great fervor. Evangelism takes on many forms depending on the religion. Let us notice some of the many forms:

1. Ministries to the indigent , sick, and disabled.
2. Bible studies, Sunday School, and Vacation Bible Schools.
3. Prison, jail, and institutional ministries.
4. Child, youth, and senior citizen ministries.
5. Protracted campaigns, street meetings, and literature distribution.
6. Even the perverted evangelism of persecutions, wars, and inquisitions as previously mentioned.
7. Missionary endeavors.

### IX. Ecumenicalism

Religious organizations around the globe are letting down the bars. Traditional, doctrinal, theological, and creedal barriers are crumbling as a world-wide fence-straddling gains momentum. Come and join hands and hearts, all roads lead to heaven, unity in diversity, and a global revival is upon us are The much ballyhooed rally cries ascending in these last. days.

Everyone is welcome to become a ingredient in the ecumenical soup kettle. The soup is quite flavorful??? with such variety. We find the Promise Keepers with bearded faces, pony tails, and golden earrings. We find Indian medicine men replete with feathers and face paint. We find the black-robed bishops of the old-line protestant churches. There is no demand to keep the soup pure, clean, and holy; therefore many new followers of ecumenical religions are jumping in head first as the Devil gleefully stirs his unsavory soup into a seething froth that stinks to high heaven!

**CHARISMATICS + CALVINISTS + CULTISTS + CATHOLICS = ECUMENICALISM**

Could it be we need to add CONSERVATIVES to the above equation? Recently we read a quote by a conservative holiness leader in a conservative holiness periodical which stated, "Unity

in diversity, is the most pressing need of the conservative holiness movement." He was simply chanting a favorite mantra of the ecumenicists. Unity in diversity is an erroneous concept and nothing could be further from the truth!

Bosnia has just experienced a horrendous blood-letting due, in large, to religious diversity Catholic, Islam, and Orthodox. A pseudo-unity is being enforced but will ultimately fail. The Republicans are endeavoring to forge their unity concept known as the 'Big Tent' which supposedly has room for socioeconomic diversity, but we may soon witness a fractured party. One can take the diverse minerals of charcoal, potassium nitrate, and sulfur and achieve a unified mix, but it is the stuff of which explosions erupt and wars are fought--GUNPOWDER!

Unity in diversity may be achieved, but it is nothing less than COOPERATIVE COMPROMISE and the inevitable end result is ecumenicalism!

## X. Deception

In II Timothy 3:13 we read, "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." This may seem strange, but multitudes are being deceived into religion.

One classic example of deception in religion is found in the Jehovah's Witness Church. They persistently pursue unsuspecting souls and weave a web of deceit around them by their erroneous use of scriptures.

All around the globe people are wresting the scriptures to their own destruction and being blown into false religions by every wind of doctrine. True child of God be on your guard! Don't let Satan and his myriad of false religions deceive you!

## XI. Allowance For Sin

In our study of the proliferation of religions we have given attention to ten key contributing factors to this latter day phenomenon. All of them play a decisive role, but none of them even come close to the role that ALLOWANCE FOR SIN plays!

Every religion that we know anything about, other than the true Bible religion of HEART HOLINESS, makes an allowance for sin whether actual, inherited, or both. Is it any wonder that religions are proliferating when one can have some sort of religious profession and still practice sin in Word, Thought, and Deed! When people are allowed to hang on to their sin they can be persuaded to do most anything for religion. Religionists know the best way to grow a religion is to make allowance for sin.

The Scriptures are replete with clear truth about sin: Romans 6:12 says, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" I John 3:8 reads, "He that committeth sin is of the devil..." Matthew 1:21 tells us, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." Praise the name of Jesus for deliverance from sin! When one is

truly saved, he quits sinning! When one is truly sanctified, the inherent sin nature or carnality is eradicated, not suppressed!

It does not matter how emotional, strict, plain, tradition bound, attractive, wealthy, liberal, or large a religion may be; if it makes an allowance for sin in whatever form, it is false and was hatched in Hell!

## Conclusion

In our introductory remarks we stated we would give consideration to the conservative holiness movement's proximity to the proliferating religious organizations. It seems that the above movement is enchanted by the men, means, and methods of false religions. There was a time when God's true holy people kept their distance from false religions. They would not court, much less lay their heads in the lap of worldly, sinning, ecumenical religions and have their locks of holiness shorn! Sad to say, we are already seeing the conservative holiness movement making eyes at and extending her formerly pure white hand to world religions and it won't be long until we find her in the middle of the ecumenical bedroom committing spiritual adultery!

Some of the afore-mentioned reasons for the proliferation of religions, we as holiness people should use to the fullest advantage in the bounds of true holiness beliefs and standards. Some of them we should avoid as we would a rattlesnake, such as television, video, and deception; and make no allowance for sin!

E. E. Shellhammer put it succinctly when he said, "Yours for a clean work rather than a large."

\* \* \* \* \*

## Article 9 UNITY IN DIVERSITY

### Introduction

So much is transpiring in the religious arena one could easily lose his spiritual equilibrium. Hardly a day goes by but we hear or observe the absurd, the bazaar, the strange, the unbelievable, and the abominable among those who adhere to some form of religion. Doomsday cults abound, such as Aum Shinrikyo led by guru Shoko Asahara, which killed twelve and injured 5,000 in Tokyo's subway system. Asahara's loyalists were so enchanted by him they would pay money for the dubious privilege of drinking his bath water. The "Jesus Man," David Koresh, perished along with many others in his own prophesied, blazing, apocalyptic inferno. Pope John Paul II is courting Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, animists, and anything else in this world's vast religious potpourri that will extend him a hand. Chuck Colson, James Dobson, Billy Graham, and others are kowtowing to Catholics. Recently at the Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington D.C. where President and Mrs. Clinton occasionally attend, a homosexual symposium was held in which the keynote speaker, an Episcopalian bishop, ridiculed the Christian nativity story, praised homosexual marriage, and declared the Ten Commandments immoral; while



homosexuals hugged and kissed in the pews. In these days one can even book reservations at so-called Christian nudist camps. Can it be that out of such a depraved, deplorable, diverse mixture there will arise a unified body? Is there a possibility that holiness people of today will become so blinded, they too will become an ingredient in the unified mix? Who will maintain their spiritual equilibrium in such a day as this when all we hold dear is being called into question, the foundations are being destroyed, the faith of our fathers is deemed to be nothing more than the absurd and antiquated fancies of ignorant men., and a tremendous tidal wave of deception is inundating the spiritual landscape? Let us face reality for a few moments with tear filled eyes and broken hearts as we view the ultimate lie of the end time --- "Unity In Diversity."

## I. The Call For Unity In Diversity

The call for Unity in Diversity began faintly, then steadily increased in intensity until it is now a deafening roar reverberating around the globe! There seems to be an eerie, demonic power unleashed upon men compelling them to align themselves with those calling for Unity in Diversity. The call has reached a fever pitch. It is being trumpeted from the pulpits of Protestantism, from the platform of the "Promise Keepers," from the Pope at Saint Peters , and from the printed pages of religious periodicals.

Recently, we read a quote by an eminent leader in the conservative holiness movement which stated, "Unity in Diversity is the most pressing need of the conservative holiness movement." Is this not a call? We are sure there are those who will speedily arise and protest that we dare equate this leader's call with the broader global call for Unity in Diversity. We are sure we will hear them say, "His call is for those of Wesleyan-Armenian persuasion to lay aside petty differences which have resulted in fractured fellowship and unite for the advancement of scriptural holiness in this late hour. Sounds good???" Oh, dear friends, the seed has been sown, is sprouting, and will flourish in a soil that is nourished by those that put aside so-called petty differences This conservative holiness planting will ultimately lead to a full-grown plant whose branches will be so intertwined and entangled in the broader ecumenical garden it can never be extracted. Whether the call for Unity in Diversity emanates from the elite global ecumenicists or from the higher echelons of the conservative holiness movement makes little difference and must be analyzed, repudiated, and avoided because it is a deadly dangerous philosophy! Yes, the favorite mantra of the ecumenicists, Unity in Diversity, is being chanted in rhythmic harmony, and even conservative holiness people are being charmed by its mesmerizing power, are lapsing into a zombie-like state, and are being led at will into the land of no return!

## II: The Concept Of Unity In Diversity

Unity in Diversity is an erroneous concept and nothing could be farther from the truth. Unity and Diversity are two terms that stand in stark contradiction to one another. One negates the other. Diversity will brazenly devour unity. Unity will not cohabit with diversity. Men everywhere are trying to apply the erroneous concept of Unity in Diversity to everything. Politicians, power brokers, preachers, and popes are using their particular fields of endeavor as their experimental laboratories. Their deceived minds somehow feel this concept is the ultimate cure-all for the ills of mankind, but in reality it is the ultimate death-knell to mankind. Let us notice how this concept is being applied in a couple of areas: Republicans are endeavoring to forge their unity concept

known as the "Big Tent" which supposedly has plenty of room for socioeconomic diversity, but we may soon witness a fractured party. Bosnia has just experienced a horrendous bloodletting due, in large, to religious diversity: Catholic, Moslem, and Orthodox. A pseudo-unity is being enforced, but ultimately fail.

In our discussion (the religious realm), unity is defined as a condition of harmony. Diversity is defined as a condition of being different. Strange bedfellows indeed! When harmony and difference are mixed you get a kind of religious quicksand, and when built upon as a foundation, it will not only cause the superstructure to collapse, but will eventually swallow it up. Nothing succeeds in dividing and destroying like diversity. Some argue that America's greatness lies in her diversity. Oh, no! Her greatness lies in her God, but she has almost completely left her God, and her diversity is the very thing that is dividing her. Ethnicity, socioeconomic strata, religion, and languages (a class warfare if you please) are all wedges which are splitting and splintering her, and are tools being used by the powers that be to topple her into the New World Order. So it is with religion. Religious diversity divides even in the conservative holiness movement. Diversity of doctrine, standards, and principles are all wedges that are being used by the Devil to split and splinter the conservative holiness movement, and will eventually topple her into the One World Church.

When Nimrod and his unified, secular, humanistic following desired to exalt themselves above God by constructing the "Tower of Babel," what did God do? He simply diversified their language and their grandest scheme came to an abrupt halt. Genesis 11:1-9. The diversity in the conservative holiness movement is the very thing hindering unity and thus causing our efforts of spreading scriptural holiness around the globe to come to a near stand still! Why so much discord, dissension, disharmony, disruption, dissolution, and disunity in the conservative holiness ranks? Lay the blame at the feet of the real trouble-maker-- a giant named DIVERSITY!

### III. The Creed Of Unity In Diversity

A creed is a brief formula of religious belief. Most all religions have formulated their basic beliefs into brief creedal statements. We have formulated a creedal and objectives statement that basically covers the thinking of those who hold to the Unity in Diversity concept.

#### Unity In Diversity

We believe:

1. In unity at any cost.
2. In commingling among the various branches of religion.
3. In the universal acceptance of religions regardless of their creedal statements.
4. That all roads lead to heaven and as long as one worships some god, he is worthy of acceptance and fellowship.

5. In expending all energies in bringing about the eventual reality of a one world church.

6. That we should hear no evil, speak no evil, and see no evil in those who are in agreement, but it is acceptable to do everything possible to demonize and destroy those who dare cry out against our cause. 7. In loading universities, denominations, etc. with those who are of our persuasion. 8. In organizing ecumenical gatherings, ministerial associations, symposiums, and retreats to break down resistance and barriers. 9. In delegating authority to high profile ecumenicists, and in the eventual realization of one who will be the titular, functional, and all-powerful head of the unified, albeit diverse, mix of a one world church. The conservative holiness movement is subtly being creedally positioned and is gradually being assimilated into the global mix, and will eventually be swept into oblivion by the great ecumenical juggernaut of Unity in Diversity.

#### IV. The Cultivation of Unity In Diversity

Fostering the success of Unity in Diversity seems to be the all-consuming desire of its proponents. A carefully orchestrated cultivation is underway to ensure its success at all costs. We look out over the great ecumenical field and a host of religious horticulturists are plowing, hoeing, weeding, fertilizing, and watering the diverse plants in order to reap a great unified harvest. The cultivation process is in progress from the grass-roots local level all the way to the global level. Unity meetings between local churches are underway. Preachers of diverse doctrine are members of ministerial associations. Charismatics, Calvinists, Catholics, and Conservatives are trotting off to " Promise Keepers." Neuhaus the Catholic and Colson the Protestant have locked arms. The pope is relentlessly pursuing his number one priority of Unity in Diversity by carefully cultivating diverse religions by his continual globe-trotting.

A careful cultivation process is underway among the diverse elements of the conservative holiness movement. Some of the most vigorous efforts at cultivating are taking place at the Inter-Church Holiness Convention, God's Bible School, Hobe Sound Bible College, and like places. They are cultivating their relationship between the diverse elements in the holiness movement, even though to do so will mean to compromise on issues such as television., adultery, Sunday work, and video. They are cultivating their relationship with Wesleyans and Nazarenes. If you don't believe this, look at some of the conservative evangelists' slates. They hold more meetings in these groups than anywhere else, and if they preached much at all, they would not be called to these churches. They are cultivating their relationship with Dr. James Dobson and the like. They are cultivating their relationship with accreditation organizations. Some of the missionary organizations of the conservative holiness movement are even cultivating Pentecostals and Baptists in Russia instead of digging a work out on their own.

#### V. The Compromise of Unity In Diversity

"A chorus of voices keeps harping the unity tune. What they are saying is Christians of all doctrinal shades and beliefs must come together in one visible organization, regardless.... Unite, unite! Such teaching is false, reckless, and dangerous. Truth alone must determine our alignments. Truth comes before unity. Unity without truth is hazardous. Our Lord's prayer in John 17 must be

read in its full context. Only those sanctified through the Word can be one in Christ. To teach otherwise is to betray the gospel."

The above quotation by Charles H. Spurgeon says it well. We must not compromise the truth and standards of God's Word for a disingenuous unity. We hear much about agreeing to disagree, we cannot expect to see eye to eye on everything, and like talk, but these are sly attempts to bring about unity at the expense of truth.

We in the conservative holiness movement dare not work with, cooperate with, nor can we unite with the apostates, for if we do we are guilty of cooperative compromise. (See our article "Compromise Examined" in the March-April edition of the "Voice of the Nazarene")

## VI. The Culmination of Unity In Diversity

No doubt the rapture and the culmination of the church age is near at hand. One reason we feel this way is the last days concept of Unity in Diversity, which is also swiftly coming to a culmination.

We have all heard the old saying, "All roads lead to Rome." How true this statement is in the religious realm. It seems that virtually all religions are devoid of any real spiritual direction in the bleak, barren, and blazing desert of end-time religions. It seems that men are lifting their eyes in desperation, and on the horizon they see the seeming oasis of Rome with its promise of spiritual resuscitation, but it is only a shimmering mirage of deception. It seems as if everyone is headed in that direction, and though it is necessitating arduous effort, mankind will eventually arrive at Rome resulting in the culmination of a one world church under the power of the false prophet and the anti-christ. Great be the jubilation when the tremendous feat and the ultimate triumph of Unity in Diversity has been achieved. It will be greeted with great aplomb, but oh, the terrible consequences that are to follow! What awaits them makes one shudder. The sword of God's wrath is hanging over their heads.

Yes, Unity in Diversity in religion will eventually be achieved just as surely as one can take the diverse minerals of charcoal, potassium nitrate, and sulfur and have a unified mix, but it is the stuff of which explosions erupt and wars are fought ---GUNPOWDER!

## VII. The Counter to Unity in Diversity

Cooperative compromise is the norm in our day It is touted as unity but in essence is a sham unity. It is not genuine and its constituency is made up of those who do not discern and are indifferent to its deception. Many people of our day do not have the spunk to fight and stand up and show their true color, so they just blend into a sort of Rainbow Coalition. In America we hear much about diversity: African-American, Native-American, Irish-American, German-American, Asian-American, and so on. Away with such nonsense! An American is an American! We all have roots, but we are never-the-less Americans. So it is with true Christianity. When we come into Christ's kingdom we become one of His, we are of the same family, we take on the family likeness, we are not a diversified mix unified by some shallow theoretical concept, but in all reality we are a child of the King!

The greatest unifying force there is is the saving and sanctifying power of Jesus Christ which is the true counter to the false concept of Unity in Diversity. Our unity and strength are in our oneness, and like-mindedness in Christ. Our hearts beat as His heart. His paths are our paths. Our affections and aspirations find Him as their focal point. We are not our own little diverse carnal selves dictating our own little paths, but we are in complete submission to His will and His way. Our hearts say, "Yes, Lord, yes." We are not our own, but we are redeemed with the precious blood of Christ. We delight to do His will and His commandments are not grievous. With the true children of God there should be similarity not diversity.

We are aware the Unity in Diversity crowd will crow out their favorite tune, "We all have different ideas, notions, and opinions to justify our diversity," but we would point them to the rock-solid truths of God's word: Amos 3:3 -- Can two walk together, except they be agreed? Psalm 133: 1 - -Behold, how good and how pleasant, it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! John 17:21 -- That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. Romans 12:5 -- So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. I Corinthians 1:10- - Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that we all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. Galatians 3:26-28 -- For ye are all children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

## Conclusion

Unity in Diversity is foundationally inadequate because it is built upon quicksand, while Unity in Christ is foundationally adequate since it is built upon the Solid Rock Christ Jesus! Unity in Diversity is conceptual ambiguity while Unity in Christ is truth chiseled in stone! It would be easier to nail jello to a wall than to achieve real Unity in Diversity, yet at the same time one would be better occupied in trying to do so than endeavoring to refute Unity in Christ. We cast our vote for Unity in Christ because it is grounded in truth, and is ultimate reality!

\* \* \* \* \*

## Article 10

### WHAT THEN SHALL WE SAY TO SIN

#### Introduction

Sin is a well known fact, as related to mankind. Most of mankind would probably agree that there is such a thing as sin. There is, generally speaking, a unified feeling among mankind concerning sin, but differences arise when sin is defined. Different religions, denominations, churches, and cults theorize and equivocate about sin, but the Scriptures define it.

In this article we will not endeavor to show sin's different aspects, results, and consequences (see our article "What Is Sin" in the January February 1996 edition of The Voice Of

The Nazarene), but will view the fact of sin, the teachings of the Scriptures on the subject, different teachings of religions regarding it, the teachings of eternal security, and draw some final conclusions.

## The Fact Of Man's Sin

Sin is a fact. When one begins to take a look at man's life he will definitely encounter what is known as sin. Sin is basically a religious term. The moralist speaks of vice, the law is familiar with crime, theology treats of sin. Mankind's greatest problem is sin and it is the basic source from which all other evil plagues of mankind arise.

Sin is not just a calamity for which man is to be pitied, but an offense for which he is to be blamed. It is not to be looked upon as an unfortunate disability to which we are liable, but a deadly disease, an inbred corruption.

Judaism had certain ceremonies and rituals established in order that men could have the means to deal with sin in their day. In our day we have divine grace operating in mankind's behalf.

There are many things happening in the world today which attest to the reality of sin's existence. Out-broken sin is everywhere which indicates the existence of the inward nature of sin.

As Apostle Paul would list sins, let us list some of the prevalent sins of our day. Alcoholism is not a disease it is a sin! Adultery, whether it be the look, the act, or the state, is a sin! Abortion, for whatever reason, or in whatever trimester, is nothing less than the sin of cruel, calculated, cold-blooded, premeditated murder in the worst degree! To be a part of the drug culture is sin! Fornication is not puppy love, it is sin! Homosexuality is not an alternative lifestyle, it is sin! Pornography is not freedom of speech, it is sin! Temper tantrums in children are not cute, they are sin! Lying is not white, black, nor even gray, it is sin! Much more could be said and many more examples could be give, but the fact remains; sin is a very real, prevalent, and active force in the human race!

## Teachings Of The Scriptures On Sin

The Scriptures have definite teachings on the subject of sin, from Genesis to Revelation.

First of all, sin is seen in the fall of man. There are four main scripture passages associated with the Eden incident. They are Genesis chapter 3 which gives the account of the fall. Romans 5:12-21 tells us that by one man sin entered into the world. This one man was Adam. I Corinthians 15:21-22 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. (Sin results in death). I Timothy 2:13-15 gives another account of the deception of Adam and Eve. The first of these is the Old Testament background passage which gives the record of the fact, while the other three are New Testament scriptures emphasizing the fact and indicating the wider result .

Secondly, sin is seen by the effect on those who fell. They fell away from God, bringing alienation resulting in spiritual and physical death ... For in the day that thou eatest thou shalt

surely die... Genesis 2:17. ...Lest ye die... Genesis 3:3. In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground, for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return; Genesis 3:19. And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died. Genesis 5:5. Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. Romans 5:12. Man fell selfward, This brought condemnation and corruption. The inner nature became defiled Genesis 3:8-11. Man fell Satanward.

Man became a slave. From that day forward, Satan has used all manner of craftiness and subtlety to bring wreck and ruin to the souls of men.

Thirdly, sin is seen in the scriptures by the effect on Adam's posterity. All of Adam's race has been born with this inward depravity, or inherited sin. Ephesians 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

There are some more detailed passages in the Bible that show that sin really exists by the resulting effects:

1. The understanding is darkened -- Ephesians 4:18 and I Corinthians 2:14.
2. The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked -- Jeremiah 17:9-10.
3. The mind and conscience are defiled -- Genesis 6:5 and Titus 1:15.
4. The will is enslaved -- Romans 7:18.
5. The race is in bondage to sin, death, and the Devil -- John 3:31-36; Ephesians 2:3; Hebrews 2:14-15.

The Scriptures not only teach us about sin, they also teach us that there is a remedy for sin. John 3:16-17: For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

#### Teachings Of Original Methodism On Sin

In a letter to Mrs. Elizabeth Bennes on June 16, 1772, the Rev. John Wesley gives a definition which is as follows: "Nothing is sin, strictly speaking, but a voluntary breach of the law of love is sin; and nothing else, if we speak properly. To strain the matter farther is only to make way for Calvinism." What better teaching on sin than by the founder of Methodism himself, John Wesley!

#### Teachings Of Different Churches On Sin

The Conservative Holiness Churches teach that "original sin standeth not in the following of Adam (as the Pelagians do vainly talk), but is the corruption of the nature of every man, that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam, whereby man is wholly gone from original righteousness, and of his own nature inclined to evil, and that continually. Sin after justification not every sin willingly committed after justification is the sin against the Holy Ghost, and unpardonable. Wherefore repentance is not denied to such as fall into sin after justification; after we have received the Holy Ghost we may depart from grace given and fall into sin, and by the grace of God rise again to amend our lives, And therefore, they are to be condemned who say they can nor more sin as long as they live here, or deny the place of forgiveness to such as truly repent."

Roman Catholic -- The Council of Trent -- "Adam, when he had transgressed the commandment of God in Paradise, immediately lost the holiness and justice wherein he had been constituted; and he incurred, through the offense of that prevarication, the wrath and indignation of God, and consequently death, with which God had previously threatened him, and together with death, captivity under his power who thenceforth had the empire of death, that is to say, the devil, and that entire Adam, through the offense of prevarication, was changed, in body and soul, for the worse, this sin of Adam is transfused into all by propagation, not by imitation."

Seventh Day Adventist -- Adam might have formed a righteous character, but he failed to do this, and because of his sin our natures are fallen, and we cannot make ourselves righteous.

Mormonism -- "The gods are constantly begetting children, but these are spirit children, without bodies. It is not quite clear how the first humans, Adam and Eve came to live on this earth, and received bodies, but somehow they did and began the process of human procreation whereby bodies are produced for their spirit children. But at the very beginning of the process of human generation, sin entered necessarily. The earthly bodies of Adam and Eve, no doubt, were intended by the heavenly Father to be immortal tabernacles for their spirits, but was necessary for them to possess through mortality and be redeemed through the sacrifice made by Jesus Christ that the fullness of life might come. Therefore they disobeyed God's commands. Though the fall of man was necessary it became necessary for men to disobey God in order to do His will. Concerning the transmission of sin to Adam's posterity, Mormons take a negative position. We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression. Having rejected the doctrine of the imputation of the guilt of sin, Latter-Day Saints likewise repudiate the transmission of inherent corruption or original sin."

Christian Science -- "There is no sin. This is a consistent deduction and fundamental principle of the system; namely, God is all and God is good. Gilmore argues, 'Could God's handiwork ever become less than perfect, we should have the impossible situation of imperfection from infinite perfection.' Furthermore, he continues, 'Since the real man has never departed from his original state of perfection, he is not in need of salvation. He is saved now and reposing in the bosom of the Father. He has always been saved -- that is, as God's idea of the expression of the mind, man is forever held in the divine consciousness. If sin and evil have no reality it is apparent that Christian Scientists regard all ideas of sin and evil as illusions. They are the product of the mortal mind.' Hence it is a sense of sin which is sinful because of the illusory product of the mortal mind."



## Other Teachings On Sin

Liberalism -- "If sin is any want of conformity unto transgression of the law of God, there can be no sin in liberal theology because there is no such law of God in liberal theology; that is, Liberalism is relativistic, believing that moral codes vary with time, place, and culture, and do not correspond to any fixed will of God, which is somehow revealed to man. Since there is no code which is absolute and authoritative, there can be no violation of it which constitutes the common meaning of sin. Liberals believe that the variable will of God is only gradually being perceived and that as man becomes more enlightened, he becomes more moral. Man's immortality is traceable to ignorance rather than any original corruption. There has been no fall of man in the traditional sense of that expression. All men are like Adam. All are tried and all may fall, but each must be responsible for his own defection and his alone. But, as we have said, the defection itself is due to want of knowledge rather than good will."

New Thought -- "Knows nothing of a representative man by whose sin all men sinned. Nor does it teach that there is any original sin. Indeed, it finds nothing which is of the nature of sin. It speaks of troublesome desire which appear to be natural human impulses which direct men from consciousness to their identity with God, and therefore are troublesome but hardly sinful."

Spiritualists -- "Each person is born able to sin or not to sin and does either as he may be inclined at the moment."

Theosophists -- "All persons have lived and acted before, thenceforth, they transmigrated into this world in exactly the condition their former deeds merited. No one is to blame except ourselves for our birth conditions or character. Our opportunities and abilities for all these things are due to the working out of forces we have set going either in this life or in our former lives."

## Two Basic Views On Sin

Eastern or Greek -- "The line of thought that developed in the Greek church was that of individual freedom. The fact of a defilement and weakness of human nature was accepted, but this was not identified with sin, as it was contended that it did not involve guilt. Corruption, or bias, as the result of Adam's fall was denied. A propagation of physical corruption was admitted, resulting in general mortality, but attached to it, they argued, there was no guilt. The will was not regarded as propagated but created in each individual, and as being free and spontaneous in its action. It was regarded as taking the initiative in regeneration, but not having power in itself to complete it; therefore, divine aid was considered necessary; God's power cooperating with the human will enabling it to turn from evil to God."

Western or Latin -- Mostly taught that sin is an inherited state or condition. This teaching has broken down into several distinct schools of thought which are as follows:

1. Pelagianism -- Teaches that man was born free to choose good or evil. Sin is not inherited.

2. Augustinianism -- Teaches that man is totally depraved, sin is inherited, man is guilty of sin by birth, and sin is the penalty for sin.

3. Semi-Pelagianism -- It repudiated the idea of inherited guilt, insisting that while depravity may be inherited, guilt can be applied only to an individual act willingly committed.

4. Calvinism -- It is Augustinianism pushed farther.

5. Arminianism -- Teaches man is born totally depraved, but this depravity or sin is not voluntary.

### Teachings Of Eternal Security

The teaching of eternal security advocates is very popular. Why, you might ask? Because it is an easy way. Let us explain.

Eternal security teaches that once a person is saved or justified through faith in Jesus, he is always saved. It does not matter what a person does from then on; one can even murder and still make it into Heaven because he is eternally secure. Eternal security advocates assume that the word eternal has relation to its being an eternal possession, by an immutable decree. A favorite passage of this group is: "And give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all, and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand" John 10:28-29. Their usage of this scripture to justify their teaching that salvation is unconditional, and that once an individual is saved they are in for good, is erroneous.

### A Refutation Of Eternal Security

Eternal security as taught by its advocates is an impossibility! There are several reasons why this may be said, and by giving the reasons, eternal security will be refuted, not for some carnal pleasure, but as a real necessity because multitudes are being deceived.

First of all, eternal security destroys free moral agency. One cannot be robbed of his ability to choose whom he will serve, and maintain his free moral agency.

Secondly, it destroys the law of God relative to sin. In a teaching such as this, one can sin and be fine in the eyes of God. But, God doesn't give any place for sin in His word. In Romans chapter six it is continually stating that we are not to continue in sin. In Genesis 2:17 it reads, "...For in the day that thou latest thereof, thou shalt surely die."

Thirdly, it makes all exhortations to faithfulness null and void. What is the use of keeping God's commandments, loving Him and your neighbor, when not doing so will get you to Heaven anyway?

Fourthly, it makes the matter of temptation a meaningless joke. Temptation is used of God to make a person a better Christian, but to the Eternal Security people it can be good for them or

bad, or just and occurrence; it doesn't really matter, the end result will be the same which to them is Heaven.

Fifthly, it ends probation at the wrong end of the warfare of grace. In the Christian walk we are admonished by the Lord to watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation. We are in a battle to win, but it can be lost. Judas, one of the twelve disciples, fell by transgression. We are here to prove ourselves for the life to come. Apostle Paul teaches we are to fight.

Sixthly, it furnishes a false subterfuge, in wrong living. The advocates use this teaching as a scapegoat to sin. No wonder so many go along with this doctrine. In a round about way, it is a license to sin.

Seventhly, it robs Christianity of all its virtue. If I can be a Christian without any moral obligation to myself, and if when I am once saved I can never be unsaved, then all virtue in Christianity vanishes, for I can be a crook and be Christian. I can be dishonest and be a Christian. I can be a liar and be a Christian. In fact, there is no sin that could cause me to forfeit my relation to God; therefore, I can be the vilest of men and still be a child of God. Why not, if when I am once saved I can never be anything else? Surely there is no virtue in being a Christian if I can be anything without interfering with my relation to God.

## Conclusion

Throughout this article we have utilized God's word and many resources in an effort to show man's basic agreement that such a thing as sin exists, that there is great diversity when it comes to the matter of defining sin, and that there are many views on sin. Some of the definitions, teachings, and views on sin are on target and some are absurd.

The question again arises, "What Then Shall We Say To Sin?" The true answers can be found under the following headings: The Fact of Man's Sin', Teachings of the Scriptures on Sin', The Conservative Holiness Churches', Arminianism', and A Refutation of Eternal Security'.

The answer to the problem of sin is the atoning blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God!!!

\* \* \* \* \*

THE END