

MORE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE THAN SILVER OR GOLD

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Though this is a constant message in the Scriptures there are few people who are interested in actually hearing and accepting this as a fact. We might say that this is one of the most resisted messages in the Scriptures, along with denying self, taking up one's cross, and following Jesus. Even though the Lord said we cannot be His disciples if our focus is otherwise, the overall impression from some is that one can have it both ways (there just has to be a way).

As we attempt to convert people to the Lord, this has to be a primary lesson that they learn. One of the largest issues in the church today is the one where some are trying to have it both ways--a little bit of the world to go along with the Lord. There are young members dressing like the people they see on magazine covers (too revealing and immodest), there are those of us who still seem to think we can say anything using any language, and there are some of us who don't find lasciviousness a problem at all—**but we still all want to go to heaven.**

Heaven will not be accepting of those things, and that should be a good measure to use when we think of our involvement in those areas now. If what we do, say, think, how we dress, and such like, would not be something we could do in Heaven, why carry on with it now? Would God find it offensive for me to (figuratively) walk around on the streets of gold with my pants hanging down revealing my undergarments? Absolutely! And the real question would be why I would want to walk around like that in the first place?

What does it say about me, and my respect for God if I look like (dress like) I'm in a gang (and that's what I want others to think), or I'm dressing like Lady Gag (I know her name!) with little to nothing on in an attempt to look sexy. Maybe I talk like one of the guys on the shift, or laugh at dirty jokes on a company lunch break. There are more important things in life than trying to live like (look like, talk like) worldly people.

“BE YE NOT UNEQUALLY YOKED TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS: FOR WHAT FELLOWSHIP HATH RIGHTEOUSNESS WITH UNRIGHTEOUSNESS? AND WHAT COMMUNION HATH LIGHT WITH DARKNESS? AND WHAT CONCORD HATH CHRIST WITH BELIAL? OR WHAT PART HATH HE THAT BELIEVETH WITH AN INFIDEL? AND WHAT AGREEMENT HATH THE TEMPLE OF GOD WITH IDOLS? FOR YE ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD; AS GOD BATH SAID, I WILL DWELL IN THEM, AND WALK IN THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. WHEREFORE COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, AND BE YE SEPARATE, SAITH THE LORD, AND TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING; AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU” (2 Corinthians 6:14-17, KJV).

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These words are here for a reason:

“THIS I SAY THEREFORE, AND TESTIFY IN THE LORD, THAT YE NO LONGER WALK AS THE GENTILES ALSO WALK, IN THE VANITY OF THEIR MIND, BEING DARKENED IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING, ALIENATED FROM THE LIFE OF GOD, BECAUSE OF THE IGNORANCE THAT IS IN THEM, BECAUSE OF THE HARDENING OF THEIR HEART; WHO BEING PAST FEELING GAVE THEMSELVES UP TO LASCIVIOUSNESS, TO WORK ALL UNCLEANNESS WITH GREEDINESS” (**Ephesians 4:17-19**, ASV)

This is a daunting task today because we are seeing more and more members of the church turning their attention to other things. There is more interest now in unity (doctrine aside), there is more interest in tolerance (doctrine and sin aside), there is more interest in making sure people feel good about themselves (again, sin aside), and there is more interest in hoping people will forget about sins in the past, fellowshiping false teachers, and such like. The lesson we must carry forth is the lesson we received from the Lord – the Gospel, and it only.