

F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ APRIL 2019 ❖

THE GOAL

Defined: The purpose toward which an endeavor is directed; an objective.

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*But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*

1 Timothy 1:5

### **love from a pure heart**

a heart cleansed of impure thoughts and motives with active good will toward God and others.

### **a good conscience**

moral consciousness, not merely intellectual consciousness.

### **a sincere faith**

genuine and unpretentious faith; not a hypocritical and unfruitful faith.

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### **Love in Action**

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”*

Luke 10:27

The goal of spreading the good news (gospel) is to change the hearts and minds of the hearers.

*Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,*

1 Peter 1:22

***May this purpose be fulfilled in you.***

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## **The End Goal**

*I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus,*  
Philippians 3:14

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# PEACE AT ALL COST

The desire to avoid conflict is good. "Let's just all get along" sounds like good advice. But squelching open and honest disagreement and unaddressed grievances gives birth to more conflict. Such issues need to be addressed. And it needs to be done in a loving and caring way. Frivolous ones need to be dismissed.

## HONEST DISAGREEMENT

*But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses." The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter.*

Acts 15:5-6

## SERIOUS GRIEVANCE

*Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. ... "Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task."*

Acts 6:1,3

## FRIVOLOUS CONTROVERSIES

*But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.*

## TRUTH AT ALL COST

*"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."*

John 17:17

*If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.*

1 Timothy 6:3-5

Peace is desirable. But to pursue peace by way of appeasement (the granting of concessions to maintain peace) and disregarding the truth of the gospel only produce further conflict. Here is an old item I found in my files:

### NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

Years ago, in order to have a peaceful and harmonious church, a minister (name not important) practiced the principle, "Truth If Possible, Peace At All Costs." Instead of peace, chaos ensued. And it always will. **"Peace If Possible, Truth At All Costs"** must be the guiding principle. For without truth, love is not possible, and without love all is lost.

\* some attribute this to Martin Luther

## Singing With Understanding



### We're Part of the Family

We're part of the family  
That's been born again  
Part of the family  
Whose love knows no end  
For Jesus has saved us  
And made us His own  
Now we're part of the family  
That's on its way home

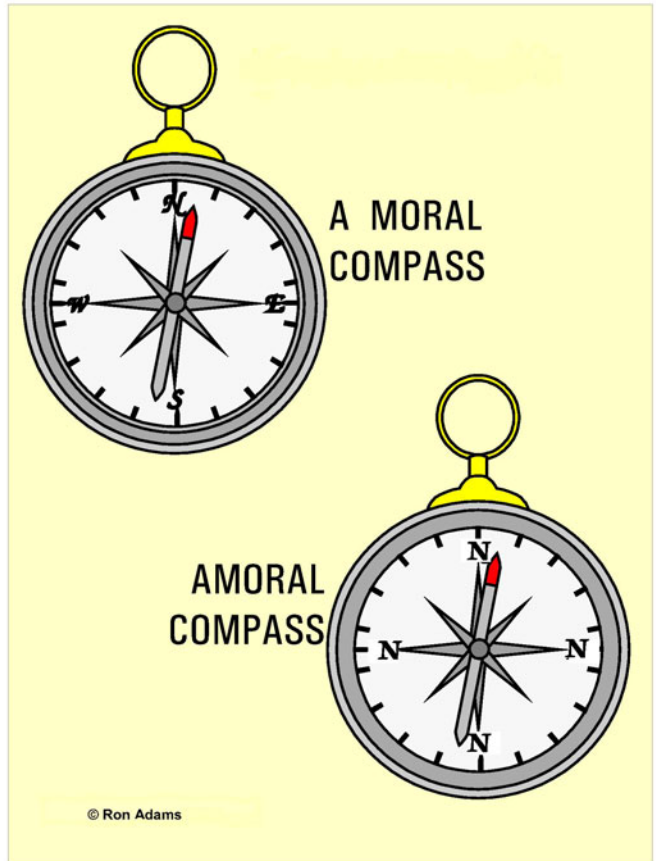
And sometimes we laugh together  
Sometimes we cry  
Sometimes we share together  
Heartaches and sighs  
Sometimes we dream together  
Of how it will be  
When we all get to heaven  
God's family

When a brother meets sorrow  
We all feel his grief  
When he's passed through the valley  
We all feel relief  
Together in sunshine, together in rain  
Together in victory  
Through His precious name

And though some go before us  
We'll all meet again  
Just inside that city  
As we enter in  
There'll be no more parting  
With Jesus we'll be  
Together forever,  
God's family

- The Collingsworth Family

## There Is a BIG Difference



### Calling It By Another Name

How many legs does a dog have if you call the tail a leg? Four! Calling a tail a leg does not make it a leg.

- Abraham Lincoln

### Calling evil good doesn't change what it is.

*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes And clever in their own sight!*

Isaiah 5:20-21



## Ponder This

### Have a Better Day by

#### **ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ACTIONS**

Accept responsibility for what you do. Do not attempt to unload your responsibility onto others. Do not blame circumstances, or any other external element for your inappropriate behavior. Only then will you be able to take the necessary steps to mend relationships with others and with the Lord. The words spoken by the wayward son, “*I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight*” (Luke 15:18) are soul cleansing words.

*So then each one of us will give  
an account of himself to God.*

Romans 14:12



**[A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba]**

*Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.*

Psalm 51:1-4



### **FORKS IN THE ROAD**

Which way to go? The decision one makes is based, not on which way is easier or well traveled, but where it will take you.

Likewise, we often come to forks on Life's Road where we must make a decision. Some choices may only have a minimal or temporary impact on our journey. Other choices may have major and long-lasting consequences.

#### **Major 'Forks' on Life's Road Choices with Eternal Consequences**

**God:** Fear or ignore.

**Jesus:** Believe or disbelieve.

**Disciple:** Follow or go your own way.

**Wisdom:** Rely on heavenly or worldly.

**Friends:** Godly or worldly.

**Lifestyle:** Popular or righteous.

We make our own decisions. And we must live with where they take us.

*“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.”*

Matthew 7:13

#### **A Sobering Thought**

*For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?*

1 Peter 4:17

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