



THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

In order to determine how a Christian should live one must ask the right questions. Beware, there are some wrong questions that are often asked resulting in erroneous answers. Here are three frequently asked wrong questions.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?

It is impossible for the Bible to list every action or device conceived in the minds of men throughout all time. Rather than attempt to determine what, if any, harm may ensue, one should ask –

What's right with it?

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### WHAT SCRIPTURE PROHIBITS IT?

The Bible is not an encyclopedia of everything specifically forbidden. How could it? One needs to ask –

***What Scripture authorizes it?***

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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Our thoughts cannot be the basis for beliefs. One's thinking is limited to personal knowledge and experience, and is colored by personal biases. There is no way for one's thoughts to be the means to answer the question.

One must ask --

What does God say?

Only by asking the right questions will one receive the right answers!

Epitome of Hypocrisy

Offend: To cause displeasure, anger, resentment.

'It Offends Me!'

Whenever these words are spoken others rush in to chastise the offender, or to remove what offends. Offenses are something that will not be tolerated. Whether it is some said, done, or implied, the offender is taken to task. Yes, this is the age of toleration, we must not be offensive. But wait, something seems awry. Something reeks with inconsistency. It's not all what appears to be. It depends on who is being offended whether or not the offenders are chastised. As a matter of fact some who say they are offended are told to "get over it." And who might these people be? *People like me!*

'IT OFFENDS ME!'

It offends me when God's name is taken in vain.

It offends me when God's Son is portrayed in a bad light.

It offends me when others are afraid to offend those who condone offending Christians.

(Maybe it is because they know Christians won't use carnal weapons to fight back. Jesus' followers are taught "Never pay back evil for evil to anyone." Romans 12:17)

AND WHAT AM I TOLD?

I'm told to be tolerant of what is disgusting to God. I'm told to be tolerant when people want God dead, but don't want violent criminals dead. I'm told I need to stop whatever I'm doing because others are offended, but I'm told others do not have to stop because I am offended. The word hypocrisy comes to mind. Pretending to be tolerant while refusing to be tolerant of those who differ, is the epitome [i.e., having no equal or match] of hypocrisy.

[A thought: Would those who speak against Christianity be as bold to do so if Christians issued death threats to those who offend? If they desired the deaths of all those who dare to denigrate their leader or beliefs? If they used terror to install fear in their adversaries?]

FEARFUL WORDS

The opponents of Christians may say all sorts of things against them, but in the end they will answer to God.

"In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you; but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead." 1 Peter 4:4-5

COMFORTING WORDS

Christians may be mistreated, but in the end they are blessed.

"Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man. Be glad in that day and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets." Luke 6:22-23

WHAT THEN? TAKE HEART!

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Romans 8:18

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2-3



Pearls from Proverbs



WORD STUDY

enhance your
Bible knowledge

THE PURPOSE OF PROVERBS

The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding, to receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity; to give prudence to the naive, to the youth knowledge and discretion. 1:1-4

REVERENCE

Fear of the Lord

- 9:10 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*
- 14:2 *He who walks in his uprightness fears the Lord, but he who is crooked in his ways despises Him.*
- 10:27 *The fear of the LORD prolongs life, But the years of the wicked will be shortened*
- 28:14 *How blessed is the man who fears always, But he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.*

Jehovah is an awesome God who is to be revered above all. When one grasps the significance of this fact, it opens one's mind to receive knowledge and wisdom from our heavenly Father.

ONE LINE LESSON

God said ... enough said! No gainsaying.

DILIGENCE

Earnest and persistent application to an undertaking; steady effort. Marked by persevering, painstaking effort.
American Heritage Dictionary

~~~~~ PRACTICE IT

*Therefore, brethren, be all the more **diligent** to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things [moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, love], you will never stumble.*

2Peter 1:10

MAINTAIN IT

*Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things [new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells], be **diligent** to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless.*

2 Peter 3:14

SHOW IT

*And we desire that each one of you show the same **diligence** so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

Hebrews 6:11-12

LESSON

Give it your best, always!

Diligence is the driving force behind all achievements.



Ponder This

First Impressions

While walking in the neighborhood one pleasant evening, I heard a commotion overhead. Looking up I saw a large crow being attacked by several mockingbirds. The crow, dodging the much smaller birds, kept flying towards some cypress trees and perched on a drooping branch. The mockingbirds' attack became more intense.

My sympathy was for the crow. Being the object of such harassment must have been distressing.

Next I saw the crow flap its wings and fly to another cypress tree nearby and poke its head in among the tightly grouped branches. Was this an attempt to hide from the savage attackers? If so, it wasn't working. The mockingbirds kept up their assault, diving and pecking away. Why don't they leave the big bird alone? I thought.

Then I saw the crow pull its head back out of the branches and in its beak was a part of a bird's nest—a mockingbird's nest! The crow had raided their nest. He was not the victim, he was the villain. The other birds were only attempting to protect the nest.

Yes, first impressions can be deceiving. Hasty conclusions can be erroneous.

He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him.

Proverbs 18:13

"Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

John 7:24

The Microphone Was Still Hot

More than one well-known person has been embarrassed by what was said when they thought the microphone was turned off. What was said more accurately conveyed their thoughts, than their carefully filtered speech.

"Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and is eliminated? But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man."

Matthew 15:17-18



Rx: HAVE A GOOD AND HONEST HEART

Words spoken first must be formed in the mind. The condition of the heart governs what thoughts are formed. Therefore, it is imperative to have a good and honest heart to avoid those embarrassing moments when the "microphone is still hot."

"The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart."

Luke 6:45



WORDS WORTH HEEDING

Media Interview Training Tip:

Consider the microphone to always be hot!

F.Y.C. is a monthly publication by Ron Adams.

Articles written by others are duly noted.

Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.