



F.Y.C.

For Your Consideration

VAIN

Definition: Not yielding the desired outcome; fruitless; lacking substance or worth.

Not obtaining the desired result is most disappointing. This is especially true when it involves one's worship. That is why it is so important to make sure one's worship is not in vain.

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:1-2



VAIN ALLEGIANCE

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 7:21

VAIN WORSHIP

"This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far away from me. But in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men."

Matthew 15:8

VAIN RELIGION

"If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless."

James 1:26

VAIN ACTIVITY

"If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing."

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

'UNCONDITIONAL LOVE'

Christians live "in the world, but are not of the world." They must be wary of our trendy society. Often some good sounding concepts become popular. For instance, The popular phrase "unconditional love." What is meant by this? It means just what one chooses it to mean. Most often it is "accept others the way they are." Don't judge. I'm Ok, Your OK. This translates: "God loves you the way you are." Change is not required for acceptance by God? Really?

'UNCONDITIONAL LOVE' DOESN'T TRANSLATE TO APPROVAL

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while **we were yet sinners**, Christ died for us.* Romans 5:8

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him** shall not perish, but have eternal life.* John 3:16

God loves sinners. But He does not accept them "the way they are."
His approval is conditional. (Note: "He that believes in His Son.")

APPROVAL/ACCEPTANCE IS ALWAYS CONDITIONAL

Friends we love may do things that are not acceptable. Church members we love may do things that are unacceptable. Family members we love may do things that are unacceptable. Our love does not require us to approve of their unacceptable actions. It takes a strong love to love someone who does what's unacceptable. [Think: God]

GOD'S STRONG LOVE

God "so loved" mankind He created in His own image.

God loved us first – with a love we did not deserve.

God is willing to save those who love His Son.

God is patient, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

GOD'S CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE

Believe in His Son: Jesus Christ. Be baptized into Him. Become a faithful follower.

We show our love by willingly accepting His offer of salvation by putting our faith in Him.

And live daily as a faithful Christian.

God may love* you and me, but He does not accept us "the way we are." We must be willing to be transformed.

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2

ADMONITION

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. Philippians 4:8

* LOVE (Greek: Agape): active goodwill.



Good Advice

This vintage sign was posted at unprotected railroad crossings in years past (and may still be found in some rural areas.).

STOP

Before proceeding determine if it is safe. Better to avoid problems than to have to clean up the mess afterwards. Will proceeding put me in harms way? Will I be overtaken in a fault?

The naive believes everything, But the prudent man considers his steps.

Proverbs 14:15

LOOK

Observe what is around you. Be aware of what's coming your way. Will proceeding put me in a spiritually inhospitable surrounding?

The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; He who watches his way preserves his life.

Proverbs 16:17

LISTEN

Do you hear any sounds of impending danger? Is your conscience warning you? Are others trying to tell you that it is not best to proceed?

Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, And apply your mind to my knowledge.

Proverbs 22:17

Listen to counsel and accept discipline, that you may be wise the rest of your days.

Proverbs 19:20



Reprove Rebuke Exhort

1 Timothy 4

THE CHARGE :1-2

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

THE PROBLEM :3-4

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

REPROVE

Convict of error, find fault

REBUKE

Strong disapproval

EXHORT

Urge to forsake

GREAT PATIENCE AND INSTRUCTION

Befitting manner

NOTE:

“Reprove, rebuke and exhort” is **not** a formula that specifies preaching content is to be two-thirds negative. Let’s keep the verse in context. What is addressed is how to deal with the tendency of some to forsake sound doctrine.



Ponder This

INTENTIONS

Good intentions that never produce action are worthless.

The smallest deed is better than the grandest intention.

One cannot build a reputation on intentions; it is built on actions.

When actions are not the same as intentions,
the problem can be traced to character!

It's inconsistent to judge yourself by your best intentions
and others by their worst actions.

Judged by Deeds, Not Intentions

The Lord will judge us according to our actions, not our intentions.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5:10

What matters is, not what you would do for the Lord if you had riches, more talent, or more ability, but what you are doing with what you have now.

A Great Example

Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5



SPELL CHECK is handy
GRAMMAR CHECK is useful
TRUTH CHECK is critical



SPELL



GRAMMAR



TRUTH

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