



# F.Y.C.

## For Your Consideration

### Temptation

*Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.*

James 1:13-16

James uses the figure of human reproduction as a simile to explain how one becomes guilty of sin. (He states emphatically that God is not the source of temptation.)

#### **THE SIMILARITIES**

##### **Strong Desire**

The desire within to reproduce the human race draws men and women together.  
The desire within to sin draws a person to temptation.

##### **Union**

When a man and woman come together a baby is conceived.  
When one yields to temptation sin is conceived.

##### **Birth**

A baby is born.  
Sin is "born" (comes alive).

##### **Result**

A baby born results in physical life, ending in death.  
Sin, once alive, results in spiritual death.

\* \* \*

It's imperative to control strong desires.  
When desires are held in check, there is no union, and no offspring.  
How important it is to keep heart and mind pure.

*The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things;  
and the God of peace shall be with you.*

Philippians 4:8-9

# LOVE GOD UNCONDITIONALLY

*"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*

## JOB'S LOVE OF GOD QUESTIONED

Satan said Job "was a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil" because God blessed him abundantly. But if God removed such blessings, Job would turn away from God and curse Him. Job was put to the test. He passed the test!

## CONDITIONAL LOVE

Someone loves God when good things happen, but blames God when bad things happen. Someone serves God in their own way, but rejects serving Him in His way. Someone savors thoughts of a home in heaven, but bristles at obeying His commands.

As long as good things happen? As long as one is able to decide how one worships? As long as a home heaven is assured? Such is "conditional" love. The very accusation Satan leveled against Job. Will such a person pass the test?

## CONDITIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

*When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You get here?" Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled." (John 6:25-26) Jesus then proceeded to speak some hard sayings. Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this said, "This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?" (John 6:60) As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. (John 6:66).*

## CONDITIONAL WORSHIP

"Join the church of your choice." "Shop for a church that offers what you like." There is a virtual buffet available. Here are what some churches offer:

Spiritual but not religious.

BYOR (bring your own religion).

It doesn't matter what you believe along as you are sincere.

Come as you are, God loves you just as you are.

Not all Bible teachings are important.

Bible teachings that change with the times.

Fun, food, and entertainment.

"The Good News" plain and powerful. Unadulterated, unaltered, unabridged.

### **Only the last offering has the power to save.**

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "but the righteous man shall live by faith." Romans 1:16-17*

*"Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell--and great was its fall." Matthew 7:26-27*

***Be a disciple who worships God unconditionally!***



## WORD STUDY

enhance your  
Bible knowledge

# PRECIOUS

**Extremely valuable: very costly, of great price; of high cost or worth.**

Quotations from 1 & 2 Peter

### PRECIOUS FAITH

*That the genuineness of your faith, being much more **precious** than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

1 Peter 1:7

*Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like **precious** faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.*

2 Peter 1:1

### PRECIOUS CORNERSTONE

*Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, **precious**, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." Therefore, to you who believe, He is **precious**; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,"*

1 Peter 2:6-7

### PRECIOUS GENTLE AND QUIET SPIRIT

*Your adornment must not be merely external ...rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very **precious** in the sight of God.*

1 Peter 3:3-4

### PRECIOUS PROMISES

*... seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His **precious** and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.*

2 Peter 1:3-4

## MAXIMS FOR FISHERMEN

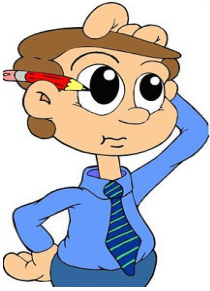
*And walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:18-19*

### OF FISH

Don't expect the fish to jump into the boat. . . . . "Go out into all the world"  
Fish where they're biting. . . . . Paul's extended stay in Ephesus: "open door."  
Can't make the fish take your bait. . . . . Can't make people listen, obey.  
Fish will take the bait when they want to. . . . . Hearers respond only when they are convinced.  
Put up with irritants and hindrances. . . . . Withstand opposition in spreading the Word.  
Fish with plenty of natural food don't bite. . . . . People full of worldly food, usually not interested.  
Fish are not biting? Drop your hook elsewhere. . . . . Shake off the dust; Go elsewhere.

### OF MEN

- Adapted from Maxims



# Ponder This

## Virtue or Vice?

### Virtue

Moral excellence and righteousness.

### Vice

A serious moral failing.

Where is the line between virtue and vice? It's sometimes difficult to determine when a virtue has turned into a vice. However, every virtue must be seasoned with temperance or it may become a vice.

The following partial list is presented to illustrate when the line is crossed.

### Christians should be:

self-reliant—but not self-sufficient  
energetic—but not self-seeking  
firm—but not dogmatic  
steadfast—but not stubborn  
tactful—but not timid  
serious—but not sullen  
loyal—but not sectarian  
tenderhearted—but not touchy  
disciplined—but not cloned  
meek—but not spineless  
humorous—but not a buffoon  
concerned—but not a busybody

## FOUNDATIONS

**The basis on which a thing stands, is founded, or is supported.**

*“Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”*

Matthew 7:26-27

## FAULTY FOUNDATIONS

I think.

Most people believe.

The reverend said.

My church teaches.

The priest says.

It sounds right.

The common denominator of the foundations listed above is the human mind. All are faulty foundations and unable to support.

## A SURE FOUNDATION

The only sure foundation for one who desires to be a disciple of Jesus Christ is the word of God as found in the Bible.

*“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.”*

Matthew 7:24

*For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 3:11

*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*

Romans 1:17

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**Be thoughtful and kind!**

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