

Being Married and Dirty Laundry



by Dawn Reed
Eastern Ky. Columnist

In Titus 2:3-4, the apostle Paul instructed the older women to teach the younger women to love their husbands. I'm one of those "older women" nowadays. One of my favorite things is helping young marrieds know that they can make it-with God's help. Not that I have it all together; I don't. But I know what God can do!

My beloved and I just celebrated our 40th anniversary. If you'd been around back in 1980, you probably wouldn't

have put any money on us. I had so much baggage I could have worked for American Tourister. He had issues, too. We were quite young and ignorant. Didn't have much sense. Didn't have any money, either.

I wish I could tell you that I've always kept my cool over the years. That I took the high road and went to my prayer closet when things were tough. That was something I had to learn. While I know NOW that's the best plan of action, there was one time when I lost my ever-lovin' mind.

I had been at home most of the day. In between dropping off and picking up our kids at school, I was babysitting two other children. They were gone and I was getting supper ready, going over homework and such. There was a ladies' meeting at church I needed to get to ASAP.

After apparently an excruciating day, my beloved came home late from working at KY Power. Long hours and tough customer situations continued to hang over him. He was frustrated, tired and in a terrible mood. Getting out of his truck, it played out like a country music video . . .

When he reached the garage, he saw stuff that didn't belong to him. It all belonged to ME. There was a car seat, boxes and other clutter that just rubbed him the wrong way. He gathered up every single item and parked it right inside the laundry room door. (There was quite a pile.)

I was innocently inside the house with HIS children, oblivious to the mountain that was forming in the other room. "YOUR STUFF IS IN MY WAY!" he barked loudly, closed the door, and went back to his business.

My head started spinning and it felt like my hair was catching on fire. "You did not just do that!" I thought as I quickly walked to his closet. "Two can play that game!" I grumbled and grabbed armfuls of his dirty clothes, walked-no . . . STOMPED, through the house, through the garage to where he stood in the driveway. In a moment that was not like me at all, I THREW HIS CLOTHES IN THE ROAD!!! "Your stuff is in MY way!" I bellowed as I marched back through the garage and into the house.

I hurried to get ready for my ladies' meeting at the church. As quickly as possible I was in the van backing out of the garage . . . right over his clothes! I looked him square in

the eye as I switched gears and then floored it, sending underwear, socks and other clothing flying like bullets. I yelled something stupid out the window like, "I'm not going to be the one to pick it up!" and was gone. I drove the minivan like I had stolen it. What had come over me?!

Meeting over and on the way home, I wondered what I would do if the laundry was still in the road. "I'm NOT picking it up!" I told myself and then repeated it out loud. Pulling into the driveway, I was relieved that it was all gone! Not a sock, pair of underwear, or shirt was to be seen. Whew!

That was 25 years ago and the only time it ever happened! Thank the Lord, we've both grown up plenty over the years! God has been our glue through thick and thin. These days, we try to focus on 1 Corinthians 13: "Love is patient, love is kind" . . . and I try to keep the dirty laundry INSIDE the house!

The devil always fights a good thing. He doesn't want any family to stay together or for homelife to be easy. Newlyweds or oldy-weds, you can do this! Press on and do NOT give up! NOTHING is impossible with God (Luke 1:37)!



Some years ago the cover of Time magazine asked an intriguing question on its cover: "What ever happened to ethics?" The subtitle continued saying that we have been, "Assaulted by sleaze, scandals and hypocrisy, America searches for its moral bearings." There is little doubt that there has been a loss of moral sensitivity and responsibility. That is very obvious. It is difficult to watch television and not be offended by the language or scenes of indecency. A new language has been introduced that has no respect for God or godly principles.

The only way to solve this problem of moral decay or it can be reversed would be through a national revival. If those of us who profess to trust God's

Word and believe in the fact that He will do what He says He will it is not unreasonable that revival will come. A spiritual awakening will visit our nation if we have enough faith, persevere in prayer and regain a sense of the holiness of God.

Psalm 99:1 describes what would happen if we did regain a new sense of the holiness of God. Because "the Lord reigns, let the nations tremble, He sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth tremble."

This awesome picture of God that the Psalmist presents to us describes His holiness, power, might and majesty. This description of God is not one that we are familiar with since our minds have become so "clouded" with the things of this world. Certainly we can blame the producers for the programs we watch, but they would not produce what they do without us watching and enjoying it.

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All the Counsel of God

by BOB CASEY, preacher
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In Acts 20:17-35 is the story of the Apostle Paul meeting with what he thought would be his last time on earth to preach to the elders of the Ephesian Church. Then, as he did, he reminded them of former meetings in the church. He kept back nothing that was profitable unto them; this he did "from house to house, ²¹Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." ²¹⁻²²

Then, he told them that he was "bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: ²³Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me." ²²⁻²³ Then he added, "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more." ²⁴⁻²⁵ So, Paul, firstly, well expected to die there, but still he was determined to go in spite of all the warnings.

So, at this time, he got really personal with them, saying, "Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men." ²⁶ I ask, "How can he say that in truth? Here is his answer in verse 27, "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."

Since Paul wrote thirteen of the New Testament epistles, and nearly all of them were given to advise the churches from conversion to death, neither he, nor we, can in such a short time preach all the counsel of God. He must have had the most important counsel in mind when he spoke with them. Within the main course of Paul's preaching, nearly everywhere he went, he preached the first principles of the Gospel. This subject is mentioned in Hebrews

5:12 and 6:1-2. So, within the verse two he declares what the first principles are, "Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment." Is there a place where we can find this in action in the New Testament? Yes. First in Acts 2:14-47 and in Acts 16:12-15. Lydia of Thyatira heard the preaching, believed it and was baptized. Here it says that she attended to the **things** which were spoken of Paul. Then, just a short time later, the men Paul and Barnabus were thrown in jail on a trumped up charge because they cast a demon out of a slave girl. Nevertheless, they suffered a severe beating and were now in the dungeon fastened in stocks. Then at midnight, Paul and Barnabus, even under these conditions, sang praises unto God. Then as God witnessed the whole thing, he showed his power by letting their restraints fall off, and the doors of the jail opened all the way, done by the effect of an earthquake. The jailer who was asleep in his quarters was awakened and supposing that the prisoners had fled was about to kill himself, but Paul, seeing this through the darkness, yelled out to him, "Do thyself no harm: for we are all here." Acts 16:28 Then the jailer "called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, 30And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Acts 16:29-30 Now notice the first principles of the Gospel in action. First, they challenged him to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Next, to fulfill his request, they spake unto him the Word of the Lord, and to them all. Next, we see the principle of baptism being applied, after he heard all the truth. Next we see that he was rejoicing with all his house.

So, what a change (that) obedience to the first principles will bring to anyone who obeys them. Romans 6:17-18 says, "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. ¹⁸Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."

Friends, there is no other way to be saved! I ask, have you obeyed the first principles? If not, I hope you will very soon.
Sincerely, Bob Casey, 1-859-369-4165

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Ananias in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Micah 7:19, where does God place forgiven sins? Depths of sea, Heathen hearts, Past the stars, Fiery pits
3. In the book of Revelation, Jesus said, "I am

Alpha and ...? Beta, Omega, Eternity, Delta
4. From Psalms 60:8, David said, "Moab is my ..."? Terrier, Washpot, Courier, Warrior

5. What was the home of Peter, Andrew and Philip? Caesarea, Assos, Sardis, Bethsaida

6. On which mount did King Saul die? Sinai, Moriah, Pisgah, Gilboa

Answers on bottom of Page 12
"Test Your Bible Knowledge," with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in bookstores and online.

Stickeler's Puzzle

STICKELERS [sic].
by Terry Stickels

Can you find the missing letter in the last triangle and solve the word game below? There is a certain logic that will point you to the right answer.

A	O	O	E	I	U	L
△	△	△	△	△	△	△
N	C	U	Y	L	S	T
V	S	H	Z	P	E	?

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 12

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."
JOHN 6:35

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Matthew 24:30

Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.

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O	N	U	C	O	G	L	O	R	Y
M	G	G	S	E	L	P	O	E	P
N	O	N	I	S	U	Q	E	H	
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N	H	H	R	M	U	W	A	T	R
E	P	E	T	N	O	M	H	A	A
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A	S	J	W	A	C	P	E	R	N
E	K	O	L	E	P	S	X	G	V
H	A	L	N	A	R	W	I	T	H

Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
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Bible Word Search Answer on Page 12

Americanisms

"Take it from me, elections matter."
— Al Gore