



Pastor's Perspective – Perfect Holiness Out of Reverence for God

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

This past week, one of the weekly Bible studies I'm involved in focused on the theme of moral purity. It was a sobering reminder not only of the fact that God has called us to such a life as believers in Christ and that we must not be indifferent toward it, but also of the fact that Satan's whole purpose is to divert us from that, and that his first and most effective line of attack is in the mind where he plants thoughts that will surely lead to sin if they are not countered by Scripture.

In the study, several excuses for sin were listed along with a corresponding verse of Scripture as a counterpoint. The assignment was to answer, "What does Scripture say to the following excuses for wrong moral behavior?" Below is the completed assignment. I'm providing it that you might benefit from it as much as I. After reading each bulleted excuse, use your open Bible to read the biblical counterpoint and then drive it home by prayerfully reflecting on the teaching and asking God for help in correcting any areas of contamination that you might be pure before Him.

- * "Since everyone does it, it must be alright." **Counterpoint:** Proverbs 14:12. **Teaching:** Life observed through man's eyes alone leads to wrong decisions and the consequences that stem from them.
- * "I only need to discover if this is right for me." **Counterpoint:** Ecclesiastes 11:9. **Teaching:** The real issue is what God says is right since we all ultimately answer to Him.
- * "As long as I don't hurt anybody, it's okay."

...let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit...

2 Corinthians 7:1

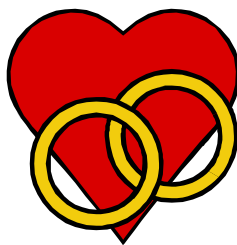
Counterpoint: Leviticus 5:17. **Teaching:** Sin is sin, and God declares the sinner guilty and holds him accountable.

- * "Nobody will ever find out that I did it." **Counterpoint:** Hebrews 4:13. **Teaching:** God is somebody, and nothing escapes His attention.
- * "I'll stop after this one time." **Counterpoint:** Galatians 6:7-8. **Teaching:** If you feed the desire for a snack, it will want a meal.
- * "I didn't really do anything—all I did was think it." **Counterpoint:** Matthew 5:28. **Teaching:** God says that the desire for sin is as much sin as committing the sin itself.

For those believers who follow after moral purity, the Bible holds out the promises of serving God and of enjoying intimate fellowship with God. Rightly understood, these promises are so precious that they alone are incentive enough for such a life: "Since we have such promises, dear friends, let us then purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God" (2 Corinthians 7:1). I pray that you would join me in taking up the challenge to live such lives before Him.

Outreach to Neighbors and Friends Focus of Marriage Seminar

Our church will once again be offering the marriage seminar, "Love and Respect", April 27-28. Hoping that the seminar offered in a shorter time frame will help accommodate the church family, the church is encouraged to use the event as an evangelistic outreach to friends and neighbors. The sessions will take place Friday, 7:00 to 9:00 PM, and Saturday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM with lunch provided. No childcare is available. A sign-up sheet is located in the foyer.



why so many marriages today end in divorce, even in Christian marriages. This seminar shows you from a biblical perspective how to make a good marriage better or a poor marriage good."

The seminar, presented by Emerson Eggerichs, Ph.D., and his wife, is very practical and humorous.

As an evangelism tool, the series offers not only practical advice for marriages, but a clear presentation of the Gospel. Lee Hoggard suggested that it was one of the clearest explanations of salvation he has heard.

"Cesaria and I attended the first 'Love and Respect' marriage seminar and thoroughly enjoyed it," he said. "There are many ways to learn what works in a marriage. You can learn by trial and error, read a book about marriage, watch your parents as you are growing up, or you can learn what the Bible says about what will make a good marriage through the 'Love and Respect' marriage seminar. The majority of the world's advice today on marriage is wrong, which is probably

"If you don't like to laugh," Lee continued, "you will not enjoy this seminar. I don't know when I have laughed so hard and yet gained so much insight. Dr. Eggerichs is so animated and funny as he gives one example after another to illustrate the correct way to communicate in a marriage—again all with the Bible as the authority.

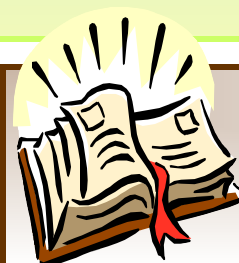
"It does not matter what stage of marriage you may be in, whether you have been married six months or sixty years, you will enjoy the seminar and gain knowledge the easier way, from the experience of someone else. The question is though—will you take advantage of it? You will lose a great opportunity to improve your marriage if you don't take advantage of the 'Love and Respect' seminar."

Patefields Return; Report on Bento Ribeiro Inauguration

Missionaries Nathan and Dawn Patefield and their family will be returning to Virginia later this month, and we will be giving them a “pounding”! This kind of “pounding” is the southern tradition of supplying servants of God with a “pound of this and a pound of that” to help them settle into their temporary home. God has graciously supplied the Patefields with a home for their stay of several months while they are reporting to supporting churches, and we want to help them with food and paper products. We will be collecting the goods the first three Sundays in April—April 1, 8 and 15, and you can place your items in the containers in the foyer. A list of items needed is in the foyer, as well.



While they are here in the States, God’s work in Bento Ribeiro, Brazil, continues! Team missionaries reported that 106 people attended the inauguration of the church building there, with seven of those being from their neighborhood. The Patefields have been having Bible studies in the neighborhood and the Lord provided the building in a high-traffic area.



April Memory Challenge

*Pray continually.
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

April Calendar



April 8	Easter Sunday
April 10	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
April 10	Spring Festival Planning Meeting (7:00 PM)
April 21	Women’s Ministry—Botanic Garden (leave church 11:00 AM)
April 25	Quarterly Business Meeting (7:30 PM)
April 27-28	“Love and Respect” Marriage Seminar

Spring Festival Help Needed

One of the biggest opportunities our church has in reaching its community is the annual Spring Festival, this year held on May 19, from noon to 4:00 PM. And the work on that outreach is beginning already. Lee Hoggard, Deacon for Outreach, will host a planning meeting April 10, at 7:00 PM, at the church. An activity sign-up sheet will be in the foyer, beginning Sunday, April 1.

The festival is filled with games and activities for children and adults, offered freely to the visitors. Along with food, prizes and fun, the great opportunity is also there to tell the guests about the Gospel and our church family. There is a spot for every volunteer: from serving hot dogs or manning a booth, to greeting people and talking about the Good News. Many friendly faces and welcoming hearts are the biggest attraction to the event.

Lee appeals to the body for this need of workers. He says, “A great time will be had by all and it is an opportunity to reach out to our community with the love of Christ. That should be enough to make everyone want to be there.”



Money Matters

March Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,477.81
Budgeted Needs Per Week	\$5,104.70
Budgeted Receipts to Date	\$59,186.63
Budgeted Needs to Date	\$66,361.10

Fellowship Baptist Church

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