



**SERVICE TIMES:**

Sunday: 9:30 AM  
10:30 AM  
5:00 PM  
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

**ELDERS:**

Todd Cox  
Travis Everett  
Jimmy Griffith  
Bryan Tacker  
Paul White

**DEACONS:**

Derek Anderson Ryan Griffith  
Dan Harbin Craig Hecht  
Danny Meek Phil Parker  
Jason Stannard Travis Starling  
Steve Turquette

**EVANGELIST**

Paul White

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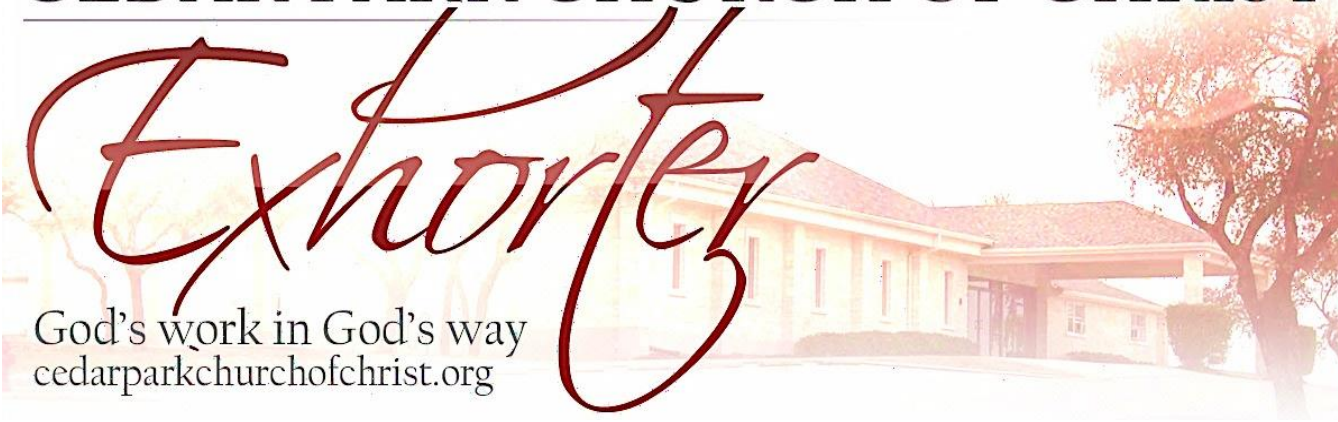


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# CEDAR PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST



August 9, 2020

## Is Sincerity Enough ?

Many people suppose that as long as one is sincere in his religious beliefs and practices, that this is sufficient to guarantee God's approval and acceptance. A careful study of the Bible demonstrates that this is not, and never has been, a valid assumption.

Let's look to see what the scriptures do say about sincerity. It is correct to say that sincerity is enough, provided you are using the word "sincere" with the same meaning as that employed by the apostle Paul:

"And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be SINCERE and without offense till the day of Christ." (Philippians 1:9, 10)

Where the King James Version has the word "sincere," some translations have "pure." The Greek word used by Paul has two possible derivations. Some consider that its original meaning was "tested by the sunlight," indicating that the thing so described has been subjected to careful scrutiny to determine its true character and value. Others believe the original meaning was "sifted by rolling" (in order to remove impurity.) In either case the resulting meaning is the same: that which is genuine and true.

It is also interesting to consider the history of our English word “sincere.” It was derived from a compound Latin word, made up of:

sine (= without) and cera (= wax)

One might wonder what being “without wax” has to do with purity or genuineness. The answer is found in the history of ancient Rome. Artisans would occasionally slip, as they used their chisel to shape precious stones. It was discovered that if the crack in a stone was not too pronounced, a clever worker could cover his mistake by pouring melted wax into the break so as to hide it. In the course of time it became common to require a guarantee from the craftsman that the work he was selling did not have such concealed flaws, that it was “without wax,” and thus of good quality. This explains why in 1611 the King James translators used the word “sincere” to mean: pure, free from impurity, or of genuine character.

As we strive to be holy as God is holy, it is not sufficient to simply be conscientious or well-intentioned. We must endeavor to be free of spiritual defect or blemish.

Let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit,  
perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (2 Corinthians 7:1)

- Leonard White

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### What’s Wrong With “Jesting”?

In Ephesians 5:3-4 the apostle Paul wrote: But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor JESTING, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. (KJV)

The word here translated “jesting” is clearly something which is condemned. Is this a prohibition of all forms of humor?

It is helpful to notice that other versions render this word as “coarse jesting” or “coarse joking.” The Greek word is EUTRAPELIA, from a root meaning “well-turned”. It occurs only here in the New Testament, but is found in secular writing in the sense of “cleverness or versatility in speech.” It did not always refer to something evil, but as used here in Eph 5:4 it denotes witty word play which stoops to vulgarity. For some reason people of all cultures seem to be drawn toward filthiness in their humor.

In the previous chapter Paul exhorts, “Let no corrupt [unwholesome, rotten, worthless] communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good

to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” (Eph 4:29)

It’s obvious that jokes which contain obscene language or vulgar topics would be included in this prohibition, but consider less obvious ways we might be guilty of joking in an unseemly way. Someone has said:

“It’s a poor joke if . . .  
someone is made to blush,  
something sacred is treated as common,  
some heart carries away an ache,  
someone’s infirmity is made fun of,  
everyone can’t join in the laughter.”

Good, clean humor is innocent, and (in my opinion) beneficial. However we need to think before we speak, even when are just “making a joke.”

- Leonard White

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### *For Every Hill*

For every hill I've had to climb,  
For every stone that bruised my feet,  
For all the blood and sweat and grime,  
For blinding storms and burning heat,  
My heart sings but a grateful song -  
These were the things that made me strong.

For all the heartaches and the tears,  
For all the anguish and the pain,  
For gloomy days and fruitless years,  
And for the hopes that lived in vain,  
I do give thanks, for now I know  
These were the things that helped me grow.



*If the mountain was smooth, you couldn't climb it.*

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*Don't worry that children never listen to you;  
worry that they are always watching you.*

- Robert Fulghum