

THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

Church of Christ
371 W. Main Street
Greenwood, IN 46142
(317)888-8288

www.churchofchristatgreenwood.org

VOLUME 9 NO. 32

October 7, 2012

I Am Not Sure – Are You?

By Steve Niemeier

There is so much in this world that is hard to understand. One of those things is man's best friend – the dog! Man treats them well – in some cases better than they would treat another human being. Man has gone so far to have religious services for dogs and other pets. There are some dogs that lead a better life than some of us that are not dogs!

However, one thing I am not sure of is “why they return back to their own vomit” (II Peter 2:22). This just does not make sense does it? The animal that man has chosen as “his best friend” has such a disgusting trait as this! Why?

I do not know the answer to that question – do you? I sometimes wonder if it is to remind us how we look to God after obeying the gospel of His Son and then returning to the

worldly ways we had before we obeyed (Hebrews 6:4-8).

Paul lists many terrible things some in the church in Corinth had been involved in before their sanctification by the washing in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of God (I Corinthians 6:9-11). That should bring such joy to be cleansed of those filthy things. Yet, Paul goes ahead and sternly warns them in verses 12-20 about the ways of the world and how they were to flee those things. Why? They seemed to have the desire to return to the “vomit” of worldliness!

Paul stated in Galatians 2:18 ***“For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.”*** You know what he is saying? He is saying if he returns to the “vomit” of sin he has left then he is a transgressor of God's ways.

While I have never experienced the grotesque seen of a human being returning to their own vomit – I have experienced the Christian

returning to the way of the world. It is just as repulsive!

I do not know why one who is cleansed by the blood of Jesus would discard this and go back to the filthiness of the ways of Satan. Yet, it is done daily and as we see the devastating results of this in an individual all we have to do is look out among us and also see the devastating result it brings to our family and our country.

I am not sure why we can't see this and correct it starting with our own self and then in helping others. Do you know why we can't?

I Am Discouraging Marriage

By John Duval

Being married is one of the hardest challenges you will ever face in life. Marriage is not a walk in the park. Marriage is not a stroll along the beach. Being married takes a lot of work, a great deal of effort, and much attention. If you are thinking about getting married, then stop for just a moment, take a deep breath and think! Are you truly ready for marriage? I have put together a short check list to determine whether or not you are ready to enter into marriage.

Do you think love is all it takes to be ready for marriage? If so, then you are not ready for marriage.

Are you the baby of the family and everyone comes running when you cry? If so, then you are not ready for marriage.

Are you use to your parents waiting on you hand and foot? If so, then you are not ready for marriage.

Are you a whiny and complaining person? If so, then you are not ready for marriage.

Are you insensitive to other people's problems? If so, then you are not ready for marriage.

Do you think marriage contains no accountability? If so, then you are not ready for marriage.

Do you think you can live as a single person when married? If so, then you are not ready for marriage.

Do you think you can change your spouse once you are married? If so, then you are not ready for marriage.

Do you think marriage is all about the big and expensive wedding? If so, then you are not ready for marriage.

Do you think marriage is all about fulfilling your sexual desires? If so, then you are not ready for marriage.

Am I trying to discourage marriage? Absolutely! After twenty-five years of marriage, I am definitely trying to discourage marriage . . . for certain people. Specifically, I am attempting to discourage from marriage those who are not qualified. The truth is, while marriage is wonderful, it requires more effort than many people are willing to put forth. In order for a marriage to succeed, both the husband and the wife must be selfless, hardworking, loving, believing, and trustworthy. There is no room in a marriage for high-maintenance personalities, selfish desires, insensitive attitudes, deceitfulness and laziness. On the contrary, marriage requires humility, selflessness, honesty, and a humble attitude. If you are not willing to put forth the effort to be the godly, caring, and selfless spouse you should be, then yes, I am discouraging you from getting married.

In a godly marriage, both spouses must be willing to put the needs of the other before their own needs. This statement

does not give the right to one spouse to say, "See, you have to tend to my needs." Instead, the spouse should ask, "What can I do to help your needs?" Such loving selflessness infuses the marriage with the necessary care, compassion, concern, and love.

The Bible contains a great passage describing love. While this passage is not talking about marriage, its description of love would apply to the love between a husband and wife. Consider what the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8:

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails .

If you are contemplating marriage, then let me strongly encourage you to honestly compare your capacity to love with Paul's inspired description of love. Is your love able to "suffer long" and be kind? Is your love a love which envies?

Is your love arrogant and boastful? Is your love a selfish love, seeking its own wants and needs? Does your love assume the worst about people? Is your love easily provoked to anger? Does your love think evil thoughts? Does your love rejoice in truth and honesty or is it a deceptive love, trying to deceive other people? Does your love bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things? Is your love strong and unfailing or is your love fragile, falling apart at the least provocation? While marriage is a time for growth, you cannot wait until marriage to find out your love is insufficient. You cannot wait until marriage to learn that you are too selfish to endure a selfless marriage.

Just as the title of this article states, I am discouraging marriage. Marriage is a life time commitment made before God and man. Jesus said, ***“Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”*** (Matthew 19:6) If you are not ready for marriage, then stop and wait until you are able to grow into a person ready for marriage. If you are already married, then your only choice is to work as hard as you can

to make your marriage a lifelong relationship patterned after God’s word.

Invite Night – October 21st
“Am I Really Making a
Difference?”

Our Next Gospel Meeting
March 3-8, 2013 David Lanius