

Chapter 4: THE STANDARD'S MERIT

For as long as people have been able to perceive the World around them, they have sought to make sense of existence and Reality. Everyone instinctively yearns for something beyond the 5 basic senses and the realm of time, but many are too occupied with life's pursuits to genuinely pursue knowledge of what lies beyond this realm.

“When and from where did everything begin?” is one of, if not, the most important question anyone can ask, but too few pursue answers. Many who pursue answers notice the accumulation of evidence, yet reject THE STANDARD'S authority to justify a standard which suits their desires- or they overthink the question and allow unknowns to overshadow the significance of known, verified, factual, information, which provides substantial evidence to support the legitimacy of GOD'S STANDARD.

Many try to ignore THE STANDARD while adopting what they believe to be an acceptable code of conduct, so they can be included into a social group where their feelings, interests, and beliefs are perceived to be supported.

People generally conform and adapt to the standard of the majority. However, those belonging to sub-groups will work to influence the tolerance of standards which push the boundaries of social acceptability, so their standards can gain the social standing and support needed to attain legitimacy amongst peers. Sub-groups generally desire dominance, but members often settle for subtle influence, because they normally lack the prowess to overtake a dominant group.

To gain the standing needed for acceptance sub-groups will often portray themselves as vulnerable and harmless (to the dominant group's status) while seeking greater tolerance toward their standard, until they gain the standing and support needed to rival the dominant group. Once the challenging group attains the status of rival, they will work to appeal and solidify the acceptance of their standard as being the new dominant standard, while defaming, denigrating, and dismantling the status of their rival and the unfavored aspects of the standard which established the rival's standing.

In a society where the majority strives for adherence to GOD'S STANDARD, the tendency to assimilate is beneficial, but when people lose sight of Eternity, moral indifference influences a social shift away from Righteousness, until despair influences a shift toward GOD. When the importance of GOD'S STANDARD is appealed and individuals are made consciously aware of consequences beyond the realm of time, an awareness of Eternity and a desire to honor GOD, will have a greater influence over behavior than the temporal path of least resistance, which appeals to the primal nature of man.

When a person is ruled by primal nature, they distance themselves from THE FOUNDATION of REALITY and influence others to accept their standard, so they can gain the support needed to feel more complete, accepted, established, and justified in their rebellion against GOD'S STANDARD. This is problematic for Society, because those ruled by primal nature are motivated to influence others to sin and sin distorts a person's perception of Reality.

In short, GOD’S STANDARD is the only STANDARD capable of sustaining civilization, because adherence to GOD’S STANDARD is the only way to keep the works of the flesh from destroying Humanity.

When GOD’S STANDARD is not appealed, a standard which appeals to the primal nature of man will influence Humanity to lose sight of Eternity and despise what establishes Right Standing with GOD’S STANDARD- as well as those who are in agreement with what GOD establishes as good.

If Humanity hates what GOD establishes as good- what Hope is there for Humanity?

To truly progress in a positive direction, we must recognize and accept that a rational analysis of the documented, verified, factual, information confirms the legitimacy of GOD’S STANDARD and requires us to act accordingly by pursuing and promoting adherence to THE STANDARD which establishes THE FOUNDATION of REALITY.

When we collectively apply our understanding of TRUTH, increased wisdom will lead Humanity to a higher level of collective consciousness, where True Progress will result in a better World- until Humanity (again) diverges from THE STANDARD GOD has provided.

In this chapter, we will briefly cover the most notable branches of philosophy to establish a basis for the secular pursuit of understanding existence, before covering THE STANDARD GOD has established to serve as THE FOUNDATION of REALITY.

Philosophy is a study that seeks to understand existence and reality. The word *philosophy* comes from the Greek word *philosophia*, which means “Love of wisdom”.

There are 5 primary branches of Philosophy

Metaphysics- A study of the fundamental nature of Reality, existence, and the essence of things.

Epistemology- The study of determining the nature, basis, validity, and extent of knowledge.

Logic- The study of the principles and methods of reasoning.

Ethics- The study of Human conduct, character, and values.

Aesthetics- Investigating the creation and principles of art and beauty while exploring the corresponding thoughts, feelings, and attitudes Human Beings experience when seeing, hearing, or reading aesthetic expression.

.....

THE STANDARD That IS THE FOUNDATION OF REALITY

Evaluate THE LEGITIMACY of THE STANDARD'S MERIT on THE MODEL (JESUS) - not imperfect people.

How GOD Wants Us to Live

GOD has provided all of Humanity with the ability to request assistance from THE HOLY SPIRIT, so we can be successful in our efforts to honor GOD.

- **Love GOD (Who made our very existence Reality) with all the effort we can muster...even if grasping THE ESSENCE is difficult...Just do it.**

- **Revere GOD- THE LITERAL & FIGURATIVE ENERGY & ESSENCE of THE WORD containing THE STANDARD, which establishes THE FOUNDATION of REALITY which sustains all that exists**

- **Worship & revere GOD with the upmost respect**

Make no mistake- It's not that GOD needs or benefits from Human adoration.

It's that people benefit when they humble themselves to openly respect and adore GOD, because doing so changes a person's perception of Reality and causes them to value being in Right Standing with GOD.

A desire to be in Right Standing with GOD leads to THE FOUNDATION of REALITY and provides the basis for Unity and social harmony.

- **Love our neighbors as ourselves- treat others the way we want to be treated & be willing to deny ourselves things that may cause some to struggle, so we influence others toward Righteousness instead of sin.**
- **Be willing to work toward perfection as part of a lifelong process, while finding the balance between complacency & self-condemnation.**
- **Be aware of the Reality of a World where GOD'S STANDARD is not respected.**
- **Be willing to contend & promote THE TRUTH of GOD'S WORD- which establishes THE FOUNDATION of REALITY**
- **Be willing to forgive others & ask GOD to forgive our errors, while diligently working to eliminate destructive behaviors from our lives. (Repentance)**

- Be self-controlled & disciplined- in charge of our thoughts & actions
- Have the courage to stand-up & speak-out for what is right- according to GOD'S STANDARD.
- Be willing to sacrifice for the well-being of others
- Be humble & confident- find the balance
- Be merciful- show care & concern for the well-being of others
- Be charitable- mostly in secret
- Be kind, gentle, courteous, & hospitable
- Encourage others to pursue Right Standing
- Serve your role for the betterment of Society- don't be a burden to others when you can contribute
- Recruit, teach, & train others to live by, contend, & promote GOD'S STANDARD
- Love & pray for the enemy- GOD'S WAYS eliminate the fuel for hate
- Be sober

DO NOT BE...

- Drunkards
- A liar
- Hateful toward what GOD deems as good
- Hypocritical- deceitful, phony, or fake
- Cowardly- meekness doesn't mean weakness.
- Sexually immoral- (Anything other than a husband & wife)
- Lazy
- Someone who uses GOD'S NAME for shameful purposes
- Greedy- (Selfishly ambitious)
- Someone who favors the rich & neglects the poor
- Quick to anger & wrath
- Overindulgent
- Engaged in sorcery (Witchcraft, Magic, Mediums, Divination, Drugging, Poisoning)
- Someone who looks upon others lustfully
- Be envious of others
- A murderer
- Lewd
- Someone who harms children
- Heretical- CAUSING problems for others
- Idolaters- Enjoying The Gift of Life without honoring THE GIVER
- Arrogant
- Prideful

HOW TO BE SAVED...

Mark 16:16

He that shall believe and be baptized shall be Saved: but he that will not believe, shall be damned.

Invite and receive THE ENERGY & ESSENCE of GOD to reside within your being- be baptized in THE NAME of JESUS (to be psychologically & spiritually made clean) - then choose to persist in aiming for adherence to GOD'S STANDARD.

Believe the documented, verified, factual, information confirming the legitimacy of JESUS CHRIST is real (because IT IS) & act accordingly.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

EXODUS 20:2-17 & Deuteronomy 5:1-21

- 1 Worship no god but ME.**
- 2 Do not make for yourselves images of anything in Heaven or on Earth or in the water under the Earth (to worship).**

Do not bow down to any idol or worship it, because I AM THE LORD your GOD and I tolerate no rivals. I bring punishment on those who hate ME and on their descendants down to the third and fourth generation. But I show MY LOVE to thousands of generations of those who Love ME and obey MY LAWS.

Why worship or idolize anything other than GOD when GOD IS supreme?

Looking up to a mentor or honorable person who serves as a positive example is not the same as idolizing or worshipping someone.

- 3 Do not use MY NAME for Evil purposes, for I, THE LORD your GOD, will punish anyone who misuses MY NAME.**

Why speak evil of THE ENERGY & ESSENCE which literally holds Reality together?

ON COMMANDMENTS 1-3

If respect and honor are expressions we project toward people we deem worthy, then (for reasons beyond our full comprehension) we must express an even greater degree of respect and honor toward GOD (who is responsible for our very existence) if we are to more properly align our

individual energy and essence with THE ENERGY & ESSENCE OF GOD- which radiates throughout the realm from THE FOUNDATION of REALITY.

4 **Observe the Sabbath and keep it Holy. You have six days in which to do your work, but the seventh day is a day of rest dedicated to ME.** On that day no one is to work—neither you, your children, your slaves, your animals, nor the foreigners who live in your country. In six days I, THE LORD, made the Earth, the sky, the seas, and everything in them, but on the seventh day I rested. **That is why I, THE LORD, blessed the Sabbath and made it Holy.**

This commandment is possibly the most neglected commandment in the modern World. People are so busy working to meet their needs and desires that many have lost sight of their being conditioned to servitude. Imagine if modern society was arranged so people worked 3 days a week to serve Society, 3 days a week on personal pursuits, and then apportioned a day of rest.

I don't think Humanity would be wrong in uniformly resting on Saturdays or another agreed upon day, but I also believe the Age of Grace (time after CHRIST'S Ascension) allows for flexibility (liberty) so people can choose their day of rest according to their own conscience.

Colossians 2:16- Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day-

THINK ABOUT THIS...

Would resting 1 day out of every 7 be wrong, harmful, inappropriate, or beneficial?

5 **Respect your father and your mother,** so that you may live a long time in the land that I AM giving you.

Following GOD'S STANDARD will lead one to a status where even dishonorable parents are honored.

6 **Do not commit murder.**

Self-defense is not murder. Proper Faith will repeal any attack, but GOD understands Human nature as well as the need to protect ourselves and others from those who may act to cause harm. Even the Disciples of CHRIST doubted and lacked Faith at various times.

This is one reason why JESUS told His Disciples to sell their robes and buy swords.

(Luke 22:36-38)

7 Do not commit adultery.

Think of the plague of problems connected to fornication and adultery.

Think about the increased efficiency in a Society where GOD'S STANDARD is honored in this area.

Broken homes and sexually transmitted diseases are preventable when we follow GOD'S STANDARD.

8 Do not steal.

Imagine a World where people Love their neighbors as themselves- where rich, nor poor steal, because their needs are met and people matter more than profit.

9 Do not accuse anyone falsely...do not bear false witness.

Love your neighbor as yourself. Lies have ruined lives.

10 Do not desire another man's house; do not desire his wife, his slaves, his cattle, his donkeys, or anything else that he owns."

Jealousy dulls happiness, scars the soul, & leads to more sin

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

Matthew 22:34-39 GNT

When the Pharisees heard that JESUS had silenced the Sadducees, they came together, and one of them, a teacher of The Law, tried to trap him with a question. "Teacher," he asked, "**which is the greatest commandment in The Law?**"

JESUS answered, "**'Love THE LORD your GOD with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is The Greatest and the most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it: 'Love your neighbor as you Love yourself.' The whole Law of Moses and The Teachings of The Prophets depend on these two Commandments."**

I once woke up at 3 AM, wrestling with how to "Love my neighbor as I Love myself" and **THE SPIRIT of GOD** influenced my mind to see that "To Love my neighbor as I Love myself, means influencing others to seek Right Standing with **GOD** and at times denying myself things which may cause another to fall out of Right Standing, while also treating others how I want to be treated."

*The “Law” refers to Old Testament Law- which are the rules and instructions **GOD** provided to The Hebrew people in order to distinguish them from other ancient cultures and prepare the World to receive **JESUS CHRIST** and Salvation.

Those who do not choose to receive The (free) Gift of Salvation, made available to all through **JESUS CHRIST**, will have their standing with **GOD** judged according to Old Testament Law- a nearly impossible **STANDARD** to uphold.

JOHN 1:1-18 GNT

In The Beginning was THE WORD and THE WORD was with GOD, and THE WORD was GOD. From the very beginning THE WORD was with GOD. Through HIM GOD made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without HIM. THE WORD was THE SOURCE of LIFE, and this LIFE brought LIGHT to people. THE LIGHT shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put THE LIGHT out.

This may be difficult to grasp on the surface, but consider the unseen energy, essence, and power of words- which are essential for communication.

Nothing exists without meaning and meaning cannot be communicated without words.

Think of a situation when someone you care for greatly says, “I Love you- I’m proud of you.” or would angrily say, “Get away from me you worthless piece of garbage. I hate you!”

The attached essence and meaning produces an unseen, immeasurable degree of power that we are all aware of and have too often taken for granted.

JOHN 1:1-18 continued...

GOD sent HIS Messenger, a man named John, who came to tell people about THE LIGHT, so that all should hear the message and believe. He himself was not THE LIGHT; he came to tell about THE LIGHT. This was THE REAL LIGHT—THE LIGHT that comes into the World and shines on all people.

THE WORD was in the World, and though GOD made the World through HIM, yet the World did not recognize HIM. HE came to HIS Own Country, but His Own People did not receive HIM. Some, however, did receive HIM and believed in HIM; so HE gave them The Right to become GOD’S Children. They did not become GOD’S Children by natural means, that is, by being born as the children of a Human father; GOD HIMSELF was their FATHER.

THE WORD became a Human Being and, full of Grace and TRUTH, lived among us. We saw HIS Glory, The Glory which HE received as THE FATHER'S Only SON.

John spoke about HIM. He cried out, “THIS IS THE ONE I was talking about when I said, ‘HE comes after me, but HE IS greater than I am, because HE existed before I was born.’”

Out of the fullness of HIS Grace HE has blessed us all, giving us one blessing after another. **GOD gave The Law through Moses, but Grace and TRUTH came through JESUS CHRIST.** No one has ever seen GOD. THE ONLY SON, who IS THE SAME AS GOD and IS at THE FATHER'S side, HE has made HIM known.

HEBREWS 11:1-3

To have Faith is to be sure of the things we Hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see. It was by their Faith that people of ancient times won GOD’S Approval. It is by Faith that we understand that the universe was created by GOD’S WORD, so that what can be seen was made out of **what cannot be seen.** GNT

Now FAITH is the substance of things Hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Through Faith we understand that the Worlds were framed by THE WORD of GOD, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. **KJV**

Faith in GOD is knowing and trusting THE STANDARD that is THE LITERAL & FIGURATIVE ENERGY, ESSENCE, & MEANING of THE WORD- which IS the chosen expression of GOD.

Example: THE WORD ‘dog’ literally represents the energy, essence, and meaning of the animal and can also be used to figuratively represent a person or a person’s behavior.

Hebrews 11:6

No one can please GOD without Faith, for whoever comes to GOD must have Faith that GOD exists and rewards those who seek HIM. GNT

But without Faith it is impossible to please HIM: for he that cometh to GOD must believe that HE IS, and that HE IS a rewarder of them that diligently seek HIM. KJV

PROVERBS 3:5-8

Trust in THE LORD with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember THE LORD in everything you do, and HE will show you The Right Way. Never let yourself think that you are wiser than you are; **simply obey THE LORD and refuse to do wrong.** If you do, it will be like good medicine, healing your wounds and easing your pains. GNT

Trust in THE LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge HIM, and HE shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear THE LORD, and depart from Evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. **KJV**

PROVERBS 14:12

What you think is the right road may lead to death. **GNT**

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. **KJV**

PROVERBS 16:25

What you think is the right road may lead to death. **GNT**

There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. **KJV**

ISAIAH 5:20

You are doomed! You call Evil good and call good Evil. You turn darkness into light and light into darkness. You make what is bitter sweet, and what is sweet you make bitter. **GNT**

Woe unto them that call Evil good, and good Evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! **KJV**

HOSEA 4:6

MY People are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten The Law of thy GOD, I will also forget thy children. **GNT**

ISAIAH 5:13

Therefore MY People are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honorable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst. **KJV**

JOHN 14:1-26 GNT

“Do not be worried and upset,” JESUS told them. “**Believe in GOD and believe also in ME.** ²There are many rooms in MY FATHER’S House, and I AM going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so. ³And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to MYSELF, so that you will be where I AM. ⁴**You know the way that leads to the place where I AM going.**”

⁵Thomas said to HIM, “LORD, we do not know where YOU are going; so how can we know the way to get there?”

⁶JESUS answered him, “**I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, & THE LIFE; no one goes to THE FATHER except by ME.** ⁷Now that you have known ME,” HE said to them, “you will know MY FATHER also, and from now on you do know HIM and you have seen HIM.”

⁸Philip said to him, “LORD, show us THE FATHER; that is all we need.”

⁹ JESUS answered, “For a long time I have been with you all; yet you do not know ME, Philip? Whoever has seen ME has seen THE FATHER. Why, then, do you say, ‘Show us THE FATHER?’ ¹⁰ Do you not believe, Philip, that I AM in THE FATHER and THE FATHER IS in ME? THE WORDS that I have spoken to you,” JESUS said to HIS Disciples, “do not come from ME. THE FATHER, who remains in ME, does HIS OWN work. ¹¹ Believe ME when I say that I am in THE FATHER and THE FATHER is in ME. If not, believe because of the things I do. ¹² I **AM telling you The Truth: those who believe in ME will do what I do**—yes, they will do even greater things, because I AM going to THE FATHER. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask for in MY NAME, so that THE FATHER'S Glory will be shown through THE SON. ¹⁴ If you ask ME for anything in MY NAME, I will do it.

¹⁵ **“If you Love ME, you will obey MY Commandments.** ¹⁶ I will ask THE FATHER, and HE will give you another HELPER, who will stay with you forever. ¹⁷ HE IS THE SPIRIT, who reveals THE TRUTH about GOD. The World cannot receive HIM, because it cannot see HIM or know HIM. But you know HIM, because HE remains with you and IS in you.

¹⁸ **“When I go, you will not be left all alone; I will come back to you.** ¹⁹ In a little while the World will see ME no more, but you will see ME; and because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ When that day comes, you will know that I AM in MY FATHER and that you are in ME, just as I AM in you.

²¹ **“Those who accept MY Commandments and obey Them are the ones who Love ME. MY FATHER will Love those who Love ME; I too will Love them and reveal MYSELF to them.”**

²² Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “LORD, how can it be that YOU will reveal YOURSELF to us and not to the World?”

²³ JESUS answered him, “Those who Love ME will obey MY Teaching. MY FATHER will Love them, and MY FATHER and I will come to them and live with them. ²⁴ Those who do not Love ME do not obey MY teaching. And the teaching you have heard is not MINE, but comes from THE FATHER, who sent ME.

²⁵ **“I have told you this while I AM still with you. ²⁶ THE HELPER, THE HOLY SPIRIT, whom THE FATHER will send in MY NAME, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you.**

At a most basic level of explanation:

JESUS perfectly modeled GOD’S STANDARD and TRUE REALITY to death, so Humanity could attain Right Standing with GOD.

What is LOVE?

Webster's Dictionary Plus Thesaurus (1994) defines *Love* as an “Intense affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties; a strong feeling of attraction resulting from sexual desire; enthusiasm or fondness.”

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13 GNT

I may be able to speak the languages of Human Beings and even of Angels, but if I have no Love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or a clanging bell. I may have The Gift of Inspired Preaching; I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets; I may have all the Faith needed to move mountains—but if I have no Love, I am nothing. I may give away everything I have, and even give up my body to be burned—but if I have no Love, this does me no good.

Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; Love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; Love does not keep a record of wrongs; Love is not happy with Evil, but is happy with the Truth. Love never gives up; and its Faith, Hope, and patience never fail.

Love is eternal. There are inspired messages, but they are temporary; there are gifts of speaking in strange tongues, but they will cease; there is knowledge, but it will pass. For our gifts of knowledge and of inspired messages are only partial; but when what is perfect comes, then what is partial will disappear.

When I was a child, my speech, feelings, and thinking were all those of a child; now that I am an adult, I have no more use for childish ways. What we see now is like a dim image in a mirror; then we shall see face-to-face. What I know now is only partial; then it will be complete—as complete as GOD'S Knowledge of me.

Meanwhile these three remain: Faith, Hope, and Love; and the greatest of these is Love.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13 KJV

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of Angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have The Gift of Prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all Faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give MY body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no Evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, Hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. **And now abideth Faith, Hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.**

Love (Charity) is patiently and kindly caring about others without an expectation of reward, while hoping for positive results, practicing fairness, celebrating what is good, correcting what is incorrect, and dealing with frustrations by believing for better and acting in Faith.

The ENERGY of LOVE

From the **Vine's Concise Dictionary of The Bible**

Translations to English from Aramaic, Greek, & Hebrew

Ahab/Aheb- Strong emotional attachment to and desire either to possess or to be in the presence of the object; **familial, romantic, or friendship.**

Sometimes ahab/aheb depicts a special strong attachment a servant may have toward a master under whose dominance he wishes to remain- **as with an overtone of family Love similar to the Love a son feels toward his father.**

There are **very few** instances where **ahab/aheb could possibly** signify sexual lust- sexual Love is **predominately represented with "yada,"** which means "to know" or **shakab,** which means "to lie with."

Agapao and the corresponding noun **agape-** Used to describe the attitude of **GOD toward JESUS, the Human race,** to convey **GOD'S Will to HIS Children concerning their attitude toward one another, toward all men,** and to express **THE ESSENTIAL NATURE of GOD.**

GOD'S Love can be known from the actions it prompts and is seen in **THE GIFT of JESUS.** This is **not the Love of complacency or affection-** it was **not drawn out by any excellency in its objects.** **It was an exercise of the Divine Will in deliberate choice,** made without assignable cause, save that which lies in **THE NATURE of GOD HIMSELF.**

Love had its perfect expression among men in THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.
Christian Love is the Fruit of HIS SPIRIT in the Christian. **Christian Love expresses itself through obedience to GOD'S Instructions for Life.**

Christian Love is not an impulse from feelings- it does not always run with natural inclinations or spend itself only on those for whom some affinity is discovered. Love seeks the welfare of all, works no ill to any, and seeks to do good to others- especially other Christians.

Things THE LORD hates and Will Not Tolerate:

PROVERBS 6:16-19 GNT

A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that kill innocent people, a mind that thinks up wicked plans, feet that hurry off to do Evil, a witness who tells one lie after another, and someone who stirs up trouble among friends.

PROVERBS 6:16-19 KJV

A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

- **Arrogance**
- **Lying**
- **Murder**
- **Purposefully planning to harm others**
- **Being quick to act in a way that leads to trouble**
- **Giving false reports**
- **A person who works to create problems for people & populations**

The Fruits of THE SPIRIT & The Works of the Flesh

GALATIANS 5:1-26

Freedom is what we have—CHRIST has set us free! Stand, then, as free people, and do not allow yourselves to become slaves again.

²Listen! I, Paul, tell you that if you allow yourselves to be circumcised, it means that CHRIST is of no use to you at all. ³Once more I warn any man who allows himself to be circumcised that he is obliged to obey The (whole) Law. ⁴**Those of you who try to be put right with GOD by obeying The Law have cut yourselves off from CHRIST. You are outside GOD'S Grace.** ⁵As for us, our Hope is that GOD will put us right with HIM; and this is what we wait for by the power of GOD'S Spirit working through our Faith. ⁶**For when we are In**

Union with CHRIST JESUS, neither circumcision nor the lack of it makes any difference at all; what matters is Faith that works through Love.

⁷ You were doing so well! Who made you stop obeying THE TRUTH? How did he persuade you? ⁸ It was not done by GOD, who calls you. ⁹ “It takes only a little yeast to make the whole batch of dough rise,” as they say. ¹⁰ But I still feel confident about you. Our life in Union with THE LORD makes me confident that you will not take a different view and that whoever is upsetting you will be punished by GOD.

¹¹ But as for me, my friends, if I continue to preach that circumcision is necessary, why am I still being persecuted? If that were true, then my preaching about The Cross of CHRIST would cause no trouble. ¹² I wish that the people who are upsetting you would go all the way; let them go on and castrate themselves!

¹³ As for you, my friends, you were called to be free. But do not let this freedom become an excuse for letting your physical desires control you. Instead, let Love make you serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole Law is summed up in one commandment: “Love your neighbor as you Love yourself.” ¹⁵ But if you act like wild animals, hurting and harming each other, then watch out, or you will completely destroy one another.

¹⁶ What I say is this: let THE SPIRIT direct your lives, and you will not satisfy the desires of the Human nature. ¹⁷ For what our Human nature wants is opposed to what THE SPIRIT wants, and what THE SPIRIT wants is opposed to what our Human nature wants. These two are enemies, and this means that you cannot do what you want to do. ¹⁸ If THE SPIRIT leads you, then you are not subject to The Law.

¹⁹ What Human nature does is quite plain. It shows itself in immoral, filthy, and indecent actions; ²⁰ in worship of idols and witchcraft. People become enemies and they fight; they become jealous, angry, and ambitious. They separate into parties and groups; ²¹ they are envious, get drunk, have orgies, and do other things like these. I warn you now as I have before: those who do these things will not possess THE KINGDOM of GOD.

²² But THE SPIRIT produces Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, Faithfulness, ²³ humility, and self-control. There is no law against such things as these. ²⁴ And those who belong to CHRIST JESUS have put to death their Human nature with all its passions and desires. ²⁵ THE SPIRIT has given us Life; HE must also control our lives. ²⁶ We must not be proud or irritate one another or be jealous of one another. GNT

The same verses in the NKJV

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which CHRIST has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. ² Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, CHRIST will profit you nothing. ³ And I testify again to every man who

becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep The (whole) Law. ⁴ You have become estranged from CHRIST, **you who attempt to be justified by Law**; you have fallen from grace. ⁵ For we through THE SPIRIT eagerly wait for the Hope of Righteousness by Faith. ⁶ **For in CHRIST JESUS neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but Faith working through Love.**

⁷ You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying THE TRUTH? ⁸ This persuasion does not come from HIM who calls you. ⁹ A little leaven leavens the whole lump. ¹⁰ I have confidence in you, in THE LORD that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgement, whoever he is.

¹¹ And I, Brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased. ¹² I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!

¹³ **For you, Brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through Love serve one another.** ¹⁴ **For all The Law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall Love your neighbor as yourself.”** ¹⁵ **But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another.**

¹⁶ I say then: Walk in THE SPIRIT, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ **For the flesh lusts against THE SPIRIT, and THE SPIRIT against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.** ¹⁸ **But if you are led by THE SPIRIT, you are not under The Law.**

¹⁹ **Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, (lasciviousness KJV) ²⁰ idolatry, (witchcraft KJV) sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, (strife KJV) selfish ambitions, dissensions, (seditions KJV) heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like;** of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit THE KINGDOM of GOD.

²² **But the fruit of THE SPIRIT is Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, (patience KJV) kindness, goodness, Faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control.** **Against such there is no law.** ²⁴ And those who are CHRIST’S have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in THE SPIRIT, let us also walk in THE SPIRIT. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

HOW THIS MATTERS

Exchanges of energy between GOD, the spirit of Evil, living creatures, the environment, and Humanity is 100% real.

When we receive The Gift of Salvation, which is made freely available to all, through CHRIST, then **we are made to be in Right Standing with GOD** and Saved by Grace (unearned favor) through Faith (knowing and trusting [GOD] with confidence).

Our Faith in GOD (who is also THE WORD), means **knowing, trusting, and adhering to GOD'S STANDARD**, which establishes **THE FOUNDATION of REALITY**, so **Humanity can effectively support one another and produce a greater degree of harmony than would otherwise be available**.

In order to see the fruits of a more harmonious world, we must aim to properly align our energy with GOD'S STANDARD, so we are better able to receive, connect, and share **THE ENERGY & ESSENCE of GOD** with others.

CONTENTIONS, QUESTIONS, & INSIGHT

Addressing everything in The Bible has been done by many others and could be a book of its own. The topics covered in the rest of this chapter are those where contention, questions, and misunderstandings are common.

It is important to keep our status in mind when seeking to better understand **GOD'S STANDARD**- We are not **THE JUDGE**.

To properly seek a greater understanding of **GOD'S STANDARD**, a person must humbly approach **THE WORD**, mindful of the abundant evidence, which exceedingly meets the burden of proof needed for recognizing the supremacy of **GOD'S STANDARD**.

Humanity is too limited by circumstance to perceive **GOD'S WORD** as being in error. Perceiving **GOD'S WORD** to be in error, negatively skews a person's perception of Reality, forfeits faith in **GOD**, and moves a person's energy, essence, and being away from **THE FOUNDATION OF REALITY**.

"When I disagree with something in GOD'S WORD, I just assume that I'm wrong." -Francis Chan

1 CORINTHIANS 14:40

Everything must be done in a proper and orderly way.

JAMES 4:17

So, then if we do not do the good we know we should do, we are guilty of sin. **GNT**

Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin. **NASB**

Therefore, to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin. **KJK**

Simply- Do what you know is right (In line with **GOD'S STANDARD**) or you're wrong.

SALVATION, BAPTISM, & REDEMPTION

WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH & FAITH PRODUCES ACTIONS IN LINE WITH GOD'S STANDARD

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

For by Grace you have been Saved through Faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is The Gift of GOD; not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

JAMES 4:14:26

¹⁴ What use is it, my brothers *and sisters*, if someone says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith also, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.

¹⁸ But someone may *well* say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." ¹⁹ You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. ²⁰ But are you willing to acknowledge, you foolish person, that faith without works is useless? ²¹ Was our father Abraham not justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ In the same way, was Rahab the prostitute not justified by works also when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶ For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

Simply- The freely given Gift & Favor of GOD (which radiates through space from THE FOUNDATION OF REALITY) leads us to faith and influences Believers to act in accordance with GOD'S STANDARD.

GALATIANS 3:13-14

CHRIST redeemed us from the curse of The Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"—in order that In CHRIST JESUS The Blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of THE SPIRIT through Faith.

1 JOHN 5:1-4

Everyone who believes that JESUS is THE CHRIST has been born of GOD, and everyone who Loves THE FATHER Loves THE CHILD born of HIM. **By this we know that we Love The Children of GOD, when we Love GOD and follow HIS Commandments. For this is the Love of GOD, that we keep HIS Commandments; and HIS Commandments are not burdensome.** For whoever has been born of GOD overcomes the World; and this is The Victory that has overcome the World: our Faith.

JOHN 3:1-21

Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; ² this man came to JESUS at night and said to HIM, “Rabbi, we know that YOU have come from GOD as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that YOU do unless GOD is with HIM.” ³ JESUS responded and said to him, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born again he cannot see THE KINGDOM of GOD.”**

⁴ Nicodemus said to HIM, “How can a person be born when he is old? He cannot enter his mother’s womb a second time and be born, can he?” ⁵ JESUS answered, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born of water and THE SPIRIT, he cannot enter THE KINGDOM of GOD.** ⁶ That which has been born of the flesh is flesh, and that which has been born of THE SPIRIT is spirit. ⁷ Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it is coming from and where it is going; so is everyone who has been born of THE SPIRIT.”

⁹ Nicodemus responded and said to HIM, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ JESUS answered and said to him, **“You are the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”** ¹¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, WE speak of what WE know and testify of what WE have seen, and you people do not accept OUR Testimony. ¹² If I told you Earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you Heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into Heaven, except HE who descended from Heaven: THE SON of MAN. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must THE SON of MAN be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes will have Eternal Life In HIM.

For GOD so Loved the World that HE gave HIS ONLY begotten SON, that whoever believes In HIM should not perish but have Everlasting Life. ¹⁷ For GOD did not send HIS SON into the World to condemn the World, **but that the World through HIM might be Saved.**

¹⁸ **“He who believes In HIM is not condemned;** but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in THE NAME of The Only Begotten SON of GOD. ¹⁹ **And this is the condemnation, that THE LIGHT has come into the World, and men Loved darkness rather than Light, because their deeds were Evil.** ²⁰ **For everyone practicing Evil hates THE LIGHT and does not come to THE LIGHT,**

lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ **But he who does The Truth comes to THE LIGHT, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in GOD.”**

MATTHEW 28:19-20

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all The Nations, baptizing them in THE NAME of THE FATHER and THE SON and THE HOLY SPIRIT, teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I AM with you always, to the end of the age.”

ACTS 2:37-39

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the Apostles, **“Men and Brethren, what shall we do?”**

Then Peter said to them, **“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in THE NAME of JESUS CHRIST for the remission of sins; and you shall receive The Gift of THE HOLY SPIRIT. For The Promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as THE LORD our GOD will call.”**

ROMANS 8:2-17

For The Law of THE SPIRIT of Life in CHRIST JESUS has set you free from The Law of sin and of death. ³ For what The Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, GOD did: sending HIS Own SON in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, HE condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the requirement of The Law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to THE SPIRIT. ⁵ **For those who are in accord with the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are in accord with THE SPIRIT, the things of THE SPIRIT.**

⁶ **For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on THE SPIRIT is Life and peace,** ⁷ **because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward GOD; for it does not subject itself to The Law of GOD, for it is not even able to do so,** ⁸ **and those who are in the flesh cannot please GOD.**

⁹ **However, you are not in the flesh but in THE SPIRIT, if indeed THE SPIRIT of GOD dwells in you.** But if anyone does not have THE SPIRIT of CHRIST, he does not belong to Him. ¹⁰ **If CHRIST is In you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet THE SPIRIT is alive because of Righteousness.** ¹¹ But if THE SPIRIT of HIM who raised JESUS from the dead dwells in you, HE who raised CHRIST JESUS from the dead will also give Life to your mortal bodies through HIS SPIRIT who dwells in you.

¹² **So then, brothers and sisters, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—** ¹³ **for if you are living in accord with the flesh, you are going to die; but if by THE SPIRIT you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will Live.** ¹⁴ For all who are being led by THE SPIRIT of GOD, these are Sons and Daughters of GOD.

¹⁵ For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a SPIRIT of adoption as Sons and Daughters by which we cry out, “ABBA! FATHER!” ¹⁶ **THE SPIRIT HIMSELF testifies with our spirit that we are Children of GOD,** ¹⁷ and if Children, Heirs also, Heirs of GOD and fellow Heirs with CHRIST, if indeed we suffer with HIM so that we may also be glorified with HIM.

Making Judgements...

One of the most influential people in American History (Martin Luther King Jr.) said he **dreamed of the day when his children would be judged** by the content of their character and not the color of their skin- **by traits that matter and attest to a person’s core being, instead of what’s on the surface.** **We judge people every day of our lives.** From determining who we’ll associate with and how we’ll associate with others, to gauging the intentions of an approaching stranger, deciding if someone is worthy of hiring, and countless other scenarios- we instinctually and thoughtfully make judgements regarding other people.

Sinners and sin apologist commonly reference Scriptures on “not judging” others in their efforts to thwart scrutiny, while Believers are often found speaking words of condemnation from a place of frustration and disgust instead of Love. Should Believers never call out behaviors that conflict with **GOD’S STANDARD** or are Believers to rain verbal hellfire and brimstone on all seen sin in their path?

Should Believers simply pray, hope, wish, tolerate, and be silent as they watch others run headstrong toward destruction- or is there a way for Believers to effectively inform, warn, and aid in correction?

What gives?

Is there a balance to be found?

Do the Scriptures apply the way we have been conditioned to view them?

Let’s look at the words **judge** and **judgement** using the *Oxford Illustrated Dictionary*, before evaluating their essence as described in the *Vines Concise Dictionary of The Bible*, so we can assess and address the unfruitful conflicts of understanding surrounding the essence and meaning of these words in greater detail.

JUDGE

Noun

- 1- a public officer appointed to hear and try causes in a court of justice.
- 2- a person appointed to decide a dispute or contest.
- 3- 3a- a person who decides a question

3b- a person regarded in terms of capacity to decide on the merits of a thing or question.

Verb

- 1- 1a- try (a cause) in a court of justice.
1b- pronounce sentence on (a person)
- 2- form an opinion about; estimate, appraise
- 3- act as a judge of (a dispute or contest)
- 4- (often foll. by *to* + infin. Or *that* + clause) conclude, consider, or suppose.
- 5- 5a- form a judgement 5b- act as judge

JUDGEMENT Noun

- 1- the critical faculty; discernment (*an error of judgement*)
- 2- good sense
- 3- an opinion or estimate (*in my judgement*)
- 4- the sentence of a court of justice; a decision by a judge
- 5- often: A misfortune viewed as deserved recompense (*it is a judgement against you for getting up late*)
- 6- criticism

From the Vines Concise Dictionary of The Bible

Translations from Greek, Aramaic, and/or Hebrew into English...

JUDGE

Old Testament Verb

Shapat- “to judge, deliver rule”...In many contexts this root has a **judicial sense**.

Shapat- refers to the activity of a third party who sits over two parties at odds with one another to hear the case against one another and **decide which side is correct as well as what course of action will follow**.

Essentially, hearing a case and rendering judgement

In some cases “judging” means delivering from injustice or oppression.

Mishpat- “judgement; rights.” This word has **two main senses**: 1) **the act of sitting as a judge, hearing a case, and rendering a proper verdict**. 2) **mishpat** can also refer to **the rights belonging to someone**.

Mishpat- can also refer to the “rights” belonging to someone.

New Testament

Krites- (Noun) “a judge” is used (a) of **GOD**, Hebrews 12:23 where the order in the original is “to a **JUDGE who is GOD of all**: ...it suggest that HE who IS THE JUDGE of HIS People is at the same time their GOD; that is the order in 10:30; THE WORD is also used of GOD in James 4:12 (b) of **CHRIST**, Acts 10:42; 2 Timothy 4:8; James 5:9 (c) of a **ruler of Israel** in the time of the Judges, Acts 13:20 (d) of a **Roman procurator**, Acts 24:10 (e) of **those whose conduct provides a standard of “judging”** Matthew 12:27; Luke 12:14; 12:58; 18:2; Acts 18:15 (f) in the forensic sense, of **one who tries and decides a case**, (g) of **one who passes, or arrogates to himself, judgement on anything**, James 2:4

Krino- (Verb) primarily denotes “to separate, select, choose”; hence, “to determine” and so “to judge, pronounce judgement.” The uses of this verb may be analyzed as follows:

(a) to **assume the office of a judge**, Matthew 7:1; John 3:17 (b) to **undergo process of trial**, John 3:18; 16:11; 18:31; James 2:12; (c) to **give sentence**, Acts 15:19; 16:4; 21:25 (d) to **condemn**, John 12:48; Acts 13:27; Romans 2:27 (e) to **execute judgement upon**, 2 Thessalonians 2:12; Acts 7:7 (f) to **be involved in a lawsuit**, whether as plaintiff, Matthew 5:40; 1 Corinthians 6:1; or as a defendant Acts 23:6 (g) to **administer affairs, to govern**, Matthew 19:28 (h) to **form an opinion**, Luke 7:43; John 7:24; Acts 4:19; Romans 14:5 (i) to **make a resolve**, Acts 3:13; 20:16; 1 Corinthians 2:2

Anakrino- (Verb) “to **examine, investigate, question**,” is rendered “judged” in 1 Corinthians 2:14 (also as “**discerned**” in some translations), said of the things of THE SPIRIT of GOD; in verse 15 “judgeth,” said of **the exercise of a discerning “judgement” of all things as to their true value, by one who is spiritual**; in the same verse, “is judged (of no man),” i.e., **the merely natural mind cannot estimate the motives of the spiritual**; in 4:3, “**I should be judged**,” i.e., **as to examining and passing sentence of the fulfillment or nonfulfillment of the Apostle’s stewardship**; so in the same verse, “I judge (not mine own self),” and in verse 4 “(he that judgeth (me is THE LORD))” ; in 14:24 “he is judged (of all),” i.e., the light of the heart searching testimony of the assembly probes the conscience of the unregenerate, sifting him judicially.

Diakrino- (Verb) denotes “to separate throughout” (**dia**, and **krino**) “**discriminate, discern**,” and hence “to decide, to judge” (also “to contend, to hesitate, to doubt”); it is rendered “to judge” in 1 Corinthians 6:5, in the **sense of arbitrating**; in 11:31 (1st part), the RV has “(if we) **discerned (ourselves)**,” KJV “(if we would) judge” (**krino**, is used in the 2nd part); so in 14:29, RV, “**discern**” (KJV, “judge”)

JUDGEMENT

Krisis- primarily denotes “a separating,” then, “a decision, judgement,” most frequently in a forensic sense, and especially of divine “judgement.”

Krima- denotes the **result of the action signified by the verb krino, “to judge”**; it is used (a) **of a decision passed on the faults of others**, Matthew 7:2 (b) **of “judgement” by man upon CHRIST**, Luke 24:20; (c) **of GOD’S Judgement” upon men** e.g., Romans 2:2, 3; 3:8, 5:16; 11:33; 13:2; 1 Corinthians 11:29; Galatians 5:10; Hebrews 6:2; James 3:1; through CHRIST, e.g., John 9:39; (d) **of the right of “judgement,”** Revelation 20:4; (e) **of a lawsuit**, 1 Corinthians 6:7

Hemera- “a day,” is translated **“judgement”** in 1 Corinthians 4:3, where **“man’s judgement”** (lit., “man’s day,” marg.) is used of the present period in which man’s mere “judgement” is exercised, **a period of Human rebellion against GOD**, cf. Revelation 1:10, **“THE LORD’S Day,” a period of divine judgements.**

Gnome- primarily **“a means of knowing”** (akin to ginosko, “to know”), came to denote **“a mind, understanding”**; hence (a) **“a purpose,”** Acts 20:3; (b) **“a royal purpose, a decree,”** Revelation 17:17 (KJV, “will”); (c) **“judgement, opinion,”** 1 Corinthians 1:10, “(in the same) judgement”; Revelation 17:13, “mind”; (d) **“counsel, advice,”** 1 Corinthians 7:25, “(I give my judgement”; 7:40, “(after MY) judgement”; Philemon 14, **“mind.”**

MATTHEW 7:1-5

“Do not judge others, so that GOD will not judge you, for GOD will judge you in the same way you judge others, and HE will apply to you the same rules you apply to others. Why, then, do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the log in your own eye? How dare you say to your brother, ‘Please, let me take that speck out of your eye,’ when you have a log in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will be able to see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.”

If JESUS meant, **“Don’t have an opinion about others and GOD will not have an opinion of you.”** then JESUS would be endorsing neutrality (clearly HE’S not- Revelation 3:14-22; Luke 12:49-53) or possibly using a euphemism to express that if people refuse to engage in Society and form opinions of others (compared to THE STANDARD), it will be like they never existed at all.

Is it even possible to keep from having an opinion of someone you know?

The most sensible context for this passage of Scripture is best rendered like this: **“Don’t make yourself into a judge or GOD will judge you according to The Law- which no man can live up to. You can comprehend what GOD has established as right and wrong, but you can’t effectively assess what other people are doing wrong and help them to do better, unless you have yourself in order. Get yourself in order by obeying GOD’S STANDARD so you can effectively help others do the same.”**

JOHN 3:16-21 NASB

“For GOD so Loved the World, that HE gave HIS Only SON, so that everyone who believes In HIM will not perish, but have Eternal Life. For GOD did not send THE SON into the World to judge the World, but so that the World might be Saved through HIM. The one who believes In HIM is not judged (by GOD because they are redeemed through CHRIST who paid the penalty and took the punishment of judgement for them); the one who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in THE NAME of THE Only SON of GOD.

And this is the judgement, that THE LIGHT has come into the World, and people Loved the darkness rather than THE LIGHT; for their deeds were Evil. **For everyone who does Evil hates THE LIGHT, and does not come to THE LIGHT, so that his deeds will not be exposed. But the one who practices The Truth comes to THE LIGHT, so that his deeds will be revealed as having been performed in GOD.”**

We are not THE JUDGE, but we can comprehend THE JUDGE’S STANDARD to recognize violations and assist in correction. **Establishing oneself as a judge is done when someone deems GOD’S STANDARD to be in error or when someone declares a final judgement on another.** When a person condones actions THE JUDGE has condemned, that person establishes themselves as a judge, forfeits their faith in GOD, and risks being judged according to The Law. When someone asserts themselves as being authoritative and makes a declaration of final judgement (“You’re going to Hell!” as opposed to “If you continue violating THE STANDARD, the consequence is Eternal separation from GOD”) they are establishing themselves as a judge and distorting their perception of Reality.

We are not capable of permitting entry into Heaven or sentencing someone to Hell. Only GOD, who **IS THE JUDGE**, can levy Final Judgement. However, GOD has provided us with able minds, capable of assessing conflicts between a person’s behaviors and THE STANDARD GOD has established. All Believers are responsible for comprehending GOD’S STANDARD, living accordingly, and speaking The Truth in Love when conflict with GOD’S STANDARD is apparent.

After assessing the energy, essence, and meaning of the words *judge* and *judgement*, then applying the understanding of those words to passages of Scripture, a person should be able to grasp GOD’S Intention (as related to this area of contention) with enough accuracy that GOD’S STANDARD can be honored.

LUKE 10:25-37 The Good Samaritan

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up and put HIM to the test, saying, “**Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?**” ²⁶ And HE said to him, “**What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?**” ²⁷ And he answered, “**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.**” ²⁸ And HE said to him, “**You have**

answered correctly; do this and you will live.”²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he said to JESUS, “**And who is my neighbor?**”

³⁰ JESUS replied and said, “**A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he encountered robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead.** ³¹ **And by coincidence a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.** ³² **Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.** ³³ **But a Samaritan who was on a journey came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion,** ³⁴ **and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own animal, and brought him to an inn and took care of him.** ³⁵ **On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return, I will repay you.’** ³⁶ **Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers’ hands?’** ³⁷ And he said, “**The one who showed compassion to him.**” Then JESUS said to him, “**Go and do the same.**”

When willful sin is present in too many lives, Society will collectively lose sight of Eternity, and too few will have the standing needed to effectively speak Truth to sin. As was the case in the *Parable of the Good Samaritan*, it was not those who passed by on opposite sides of the road (and did nothing) who effectively helped a person in need of assistance- help was effectively provided by someone who recognized a man was in need and cared enough to do what needed to be done.

The men who passed by on opposite sides of the road were individually out of balance and unwilling and/or unable to help the man in need, but the “Good Samaritan” was right where he needed to be in order to meet the needs of the man who was beaten and robbed.

ISAIAH 5:20-21

Woe to those who call Evil good, and good Evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!

GALATIANS 4:16-17

So have I become your enemy by telling you the Truth? They eagerly seek you, not in a commendable way, but they want to shut you out so that you will seek them.

JAMES 4:11-12

Do not speak Evil of one another, Brethren. He who speaks Evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks Evil of The Law and judges The Law. But if you judge The Law, you are not a doer of The Law but a judge. **There is ONE Lawgiver**, who is able to Save and to destroy. **Who are you to judge another?**

Evil defined by Webster's Dictionary Plus Thesaurus (1994)-

Morally bad or wrong; causing injury or any other undesirable result; marked by misfortune or distress, low in public esteem. **One Satan**

Evil-minded- Obsessed with vicious or evil thoughts or intentions.

Evil defined by Oxford Illustrated Dictionary (1998)-

Adjective 1) Morally bad; wicked 2) Harmful or tending to harm. 3) Disagreeable (has an evil temper) 4) unlucky; causing misfortune (evil days)

Noun 1) an evil thing; an instance of something evil. 2) Wickedness

Essentially- Do not use words to harm people.

Speaking **The Truth** to help another correct course is not speaking Evil of a brother- **telling someone GOD'S STANDARD is in error by condoning sin IS SPEAKING EVIL.**

Sin distorts our perception of Reality and inhibits our spiritual and psychological balance. If we have willful conflicts with GOD'S STANDARD and THE SPIRIT speaks to correct us, but we refuse to repent, then we are not in a position to help others as efficiently and effectively as we can when we are obedient to THE STANDARD GOD has established.

To be in opposition to GOD'S STANDARD, is to establish oneself as Judge and declare GOD'S STANDARD to be in error- this distorts a person's perception of Reality and significantly impacts an individual's overall state of being. Since GOD IS THE LITERAL ENERGY, ESSENCE, & MEANING of THE WORD- and it is impossible to please GOD without Faith- the person who deems GOD'S STANDARD to be in error, essentially forfeits their Faith in GOD and places their Faith in themselves and the World.

Those who struggle against their flesh and find themselves in conflict with GOD'S STANDARD (while still recognizing GOD'S STANDARD as Supreme), have a distorted perception of Reality, but are still capable of directly contributing to Society in a positive way- although with limited effectiveness. Conversely, the person who establishes themselves as judge and deems GOD'S STANDARD to be in error, remains unable to make a net positive contribution to Society, unless they repent and come to recognize GOD'S STANDARD as Supreme and without error.

If not for GOD'S Grace influencing all things to work together for the good of those who love GOD, (Romans 8:28) the negative impact of *rejectors* would be unfathomably more destructive.

EPHESIANS 4:1-32

Therefore I, the prisoner of THE LORD, urge you to **walk in a manner worthy of The Calling with which you have been Called,** ² with all humility and gentleness, with

patience, bearing with one another in Love, ³ **being diligent to keep the Unity of THE SPIRIT in the bond of peace.** ⁴ There is One Body and One Spirit, just as you also were Called in One Hope of your Calling; ⁵ One LORD, One Faith, One Baptism, ⁶ ONE GOD and FATHER of ALL who IS OVER ALL and THROUGH ALL and IN ALL.

⁷ But to each one of us Grace was given according to the measure of CHRIST'S Gift. ⁸ Therefore it says,

“When HE Ascended on High, HE led captive the captives, and HE gave Gifts to people.”

⁹ (Now this expression, “HE Ascended,” what does it mean except that HE also had descended into the lower parts of the Earth? ¹⁰ HE who descended is HIMSELF also HE who Ascended far above all The Heavens, so that HE might fill all things.) ¹¹ **And HE gave some as Apostles, some as Prophets, some as evangelists, some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the Saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of CHRIST; ¹³ until we all attain to the Unity of The Faith, and of the knowledge of THE SON of GOD, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of CHRIST.**

¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of people, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ **but speaking The Truth in Love, we are to grow up in all aspects into HIM who is The Head, that is, CHRIST, ¹⁶ from whom The (whole) Body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of The Body for the building up of Itself in Love.**

¹⁷ So I say this, and affirm In THE LORD, that **you are to no longer walk just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their minds, ¹⁸ being darkened in their understanding, excluded from The Life of GOD because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; ¹⁹ and they, having become callous, have given themselves up to indecent behavior for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. ²⁰ But you did not learn CHRIST in this way, ²¹ if indeed you have heard HIM and have been taught In HIM, just as TRUTH IS IN JESUS, ²² that, in reference to your former way of life, you are to rid yourselves of the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, ²³ and that you are to be renewed in THE SPIRIT of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, which in the likeness of GOD has been created in Righteousness and holiness of The Truth.**

²⁵ **Therefore, ridding yourselves of falsehood, speak Truth each one of you with his neighbor, because we are parts of one another. ²⁶ Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not give the Devil an opportunity. ²⁸** The one who steals must no longer steal; but rather he must labor, producing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with the one who has need. ²⁹ **Let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth, but if there is any good**

word for edification according to the need of the moment, say that, so that it will give Grace to those who hear. ³⁰ Do not grieve THE HOLY SPIRIT of GOD, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ All bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and slander must be removed from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other, just as GOD in CHRIST also has forgiven you.

1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-13

The Apostle Paul SPEAKS on Immorality in the Church...

Now, it is actually being said that there is sexual immorality among you so terrible that not even the heathen would be guilty of it. I am told that a man is sleeping with his stepmother! ² How, then, can you be proud? On the contrary, you should be filled with sadness, and the man who has done such a thing should be expelled from your fellowship. ³⁻⁴ And even though I am far away from you in body, still I am there with you in spirit; and as though I were there with you, I have in THE NAME of Our LORD JESUS already passed judgement on the man who has done this terrible thing. As you meet together, and I meet with you in my spirit, by The Power of Our LORD JESUS present with us, ⁵ you are to hand this man over to Satan for his body to be destroyed, so that his spirit may be Saved in The Day of THE LORD.

⁶ It is not right for you to be proud! You know the saying, “A little bit of yeast makes the whole batch of dough rise.” ⁷ You must remove the old yeast of sin so that you will be entirely pure. Then you will be like a new batch of dough without any yeast, as indeed I know you actually are. For our Passover Festival is ready, now that CHRIST, Our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ Let us celebrate our Passover, then, not with bread having the old yeast of sin and wickedness, but with the bread that has no yeast, The Bread of Purity and Truth.

⁹ In the letter that I wrote you I told you not to associate with immoral people. ¹⁰ Now I did not mean Pagans who are immoral or greedy or are thieves, or who worship idols. To avoid them you would have to get out of the World completely. ¹¹ What I meant was that you should not associate with a person who calls himself a Believer but is immoral or greedy or worships idols or is a slanderer or a drunkard or a thief. Don't even sit down to eat with such a person.

¹²⁻¹³ After all, it is none of my business to judge outsiders. GOD will judge them. But should you not judge the members of your own fellowship? As the Scripture says, “Remove the Evil person from your group.”

JAMES 2:1-13

My Brothers and Sisters, do not hold your Faith in Our Glorious LORD JESUS CHRIST with an attitude of personal favoritism. ² For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and is dressed in bright clothes, and a poor man in dirty clothes also comes in, ³ and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the bright clothes, and say, “You

sit here in a good place,” and you say to the poor man, “You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,”⁴ **have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with Evil motives?**

⁵ Listen, my beloved Brothers and Sisters: did GOD not choose the poor of this World to be rich in Faith and heirs of THE KINGDOM which HE Promised to those who Love HIM? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? ⁷ Do they not blaspheme The Good Name by which you have been Called?

⁸ If, however, you are fulfilling The Royal Law according to the Scripture, “**You shall Love your neighbor as yourself,**” you are doing well. ⁹ But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by The Law as violators. ¹⁰ **For whoever keeps The (whole) Law, yet stumbles in one point, has become guilty of all.** ¹¹ For HE who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery, but do murder, you have become a violator of The Law. ¹² **So speak, and so act, as those who are to be judged by The Law of Freedom.** ¹³ For judgement will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.

ON MARRIAGE...

MATTHEW 5:31-32

“Furthermore, it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’³² But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.

MATTHEW 19:1-12

Now it came to pass, when JESUS had finished these sayings, *that* HE departed from Galilee and came to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. ² And great multitudes followed HIM, and HE healed them there.

³ The Pharisees also came to HIM, testing HIM, and saying to HIM, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just* any reason?”

⁴ And HE answered and said to them, “**Have you not read that HE who made *them* at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?** ⁶ **So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what GOD has joined together, let not man separate.**”

⁷ They said to HIM, “Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?”

⁸ HE said to them, “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. ⁹ And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”

¹⁰ HIS disciples said to HIM, “If such is the case of the man with *his* wife, it is better not to marry.”

¹¹ But HE said to them, “All cannot accept this saying, but only *those* to whom it has been given: ¹² For there are eunuchs who were born thus from *their* mother’s womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven’s sake. He who is able to accept *it*, let him accept *it*.”

1 CORINTHIANS 7

Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman. ² But because of sexual immoralities, **each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband.** ³ The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise the wife also to her husband. ⁴ **The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise the husband also does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.** ⁵ Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. ⁶ But this I say by way of concession, not of command. ⁷ Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each has his own Gift from GOD, one in this way, and another in that.

⁸ **But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I.** ⁹ **But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.**

¹⁰ But to the married I give instructions, not I, but THE LORD that **the wife is not to leave her husband** ¹¹ **but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband, and that the husband is not to divorce his wife.**

¹² But to the rest I say, not THE LORD, that **if any brother has an unbelieving wife, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her.** ¹³ **And if any woman has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not divorce her husband.** ¹⁴ **For the unbelieving husband is Sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her Believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are Holy.** ¹⁵ **Yet if the unbelieving one is leaving, let him leave; the Brother or the Sister is not under bondage in such cases, but GOD has Called us in peace.** ¹⁶ For how do you know, wife, whether you will Save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will Save your wife?

¹⁷ Only, as THE LORD has assigned to each one, as GOD has Called each, in this way let him walk. And so I direct in all the Churches. ¹⁸ Was any man Called when he was already circumcised? He is not to become uncircumcised. Has anyone been Called in uncircumcision? He is not to be circumcised. ¹⁹ Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but what matters is the keeping of The Commandments of GOD. ²⁰ Each person is to remain in that state in which he was Called.

²¹ Were you Called as a slave? Do not let it concern you. But if you are also able to become free, take advantage of that. ²² For the one who was Called in THE LORD as a slave, is THE LORD'S freed person; likewise the one who was Called as free, is CHRIST'S Slave. ²³ You were bought for a price; do not become slaves of people. ²⁴ Brothers and Sisters, each one is to remain with GOD in that condition in which he was Called.

²⁵ Now concerning virgins, I have no Command of THE LORD, but I am offering direction as one who by The Mercy of THE LORD is trustworthy. ²⁶ I think, then, that this is good in view of the present distress that it is good for a man to remain as he is. ²⁷ **Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife.** ²⁸ **But if you marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned.** Yet such people as yourselves will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you. ²⁹ But this I say, brothers, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none; ³⁰ and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; and those who buy, as though they did not possess; ³¹ and those who use the World, as though they did not make full use of it; for the present form of this World is passing away.

³² **But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of THE LORD, how he may please THE LORD; ³³ but one who is married is concerned about the things of the World, how he may please his wife, ³⁴ and his interests are divided. The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of THE LORD, that she may be Holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the World, how she may please her husband. ³⁵ I say this for your own benefit, not to put a restraint on you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure undistracted devotion to THE LORD.**

³⁶ **But if anyone thinks that he is acting dishonorably toward his virgin, if she is past her youth and it ought to be so, let him do what he wishes, he is not sinning; let them marry.** ³⁷ **But the one who stands firm in his heart, if he is not under constraint, but has authority over his own will, and has decided this in his own heart, to keep his own virgin, he will do well. ³⁸ So then, both the one who gives his own virgin in marriage does well, and the one who does not give her in marriage will do better.**

³⁹ **A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in THE LORD. ⁴⁰ But in my opinion she is happier if she remains as she is; and I think that I also have THE SPIRIT of GOD.**

EPHESIANS 5:21-33

Submit yourselves to one another because of your reverence for CHRIST. ²² Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands as to THE LORD. ²³ For a husband has authority over his wife just as CHRIST has authority over The Church; and CHRIST is HIMSELF The Savior of The Church, HIS Body. ²⁴ And so wives must submit themselves completely to their husbands just as The Church submits Itself to CHRIST.

²⁵ **Husbands, Love your wives just as CHRIST Loved The Church and gave HIS LIFE for It.** ²⁶ HE did this to dedicate The Church to GOD by HIS WORD, after making It clean by washing It in water, ²⁷in order to present The Church to HIMSELF in all Its beauty—pure and faultless, without spot or wrinkle or any other imperfection. ²⁸ **Men ought to Love their wives just as they Love their own bodies. A man who Loves his wife Loves himself.** ²⁹ None of us ever hate our own bodies. Instead, we feed them, and take care of them, just as CHRIST does The Church; ³⁰ for we are members of HIS Body. ³¹As the Scripture says, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife, and the two will become one.” ³² There is a deep secret truth revealed in this Scripture, which I understand as applying to CHRIST and The Church. ³³ But it also applies to you: **every husband must Love his wife as himself, and every wife must respect her husband.**

1 PETER 3:1-5

In the same way you wives must submit yourselves to your husbands, so that if any of them do not believe GOD’S WORD, your conduct will win them over to believe. It will not be necessary for you to say a word, because they will see how pure and reverent your conduct is. You should not use outward aids to make yourselves beautiful, such as the way you fix your hair, or the jewelry you put on, or the dresses you wear. Instead, your beauty should consist of your true inner self, the ageless beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of the greatest value in GOD’S Sight. For the devout women of the past who placed their Hope in GOD used to make themselves beautiful by submitting themselves to their husbands.

MAKE SURE OF YOUR MATCH

2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-18

Do not be mismatched with unbelievers; for what do Righteousness and lawlessness share together, or what does light have in common with darkness? Or what harmony does CHRIST have with Belial, or what does a Believer share with an unbeliever? Or what agreement does The Temple of GOD have with idols? For we are the temple of the living GOD; just as GOD said,

“I will dwell among them and walk among them; and I will be their GOD, and they shall be MY People. Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate,” says THE LORD.

“And do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you. And I will be a FATHER to you, and you shall be Sons and Daughters to ME,” says THE LORD Almighty.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:1-16

Be imitators of me, just as I also am of CHRIST. ² I praise you because you always remember me and follow the teachings that I have handed on to you. ³ **But I want you to understand that CHRIST IS Supreme over every man, the husband is supreme over his wife, and GOD IS Supreme over CHRIST.** ⁴ So a man who prays or proclaims GOD’S Message in public worship with his head covered disgraces CHRIST. ⁵ And any woman who prays or proclaims GOD’S Message in public worship with nothing on her head disgraces her husband; there is no difference between her and a woman whose head has been shaved.

⁶ If the woman does not cover her head, she might as well cut her hair. And since it is a shameful thing for a woman to shave her head or cut her hair, she should cover her head. ⁷ A man has no need to cover his head, because he reflects The Image and Glory of GOD. But woman reflects the glory of man; ⁸ for man was not created from woman, but woman from man. ⁹ Nor was man created for woman's sake, but woman was created for man's sake. ¹⁰ On account of the Angels, then, a woman should have a covering over her head to show that she is under her husband's authority. ¹¹ In our life in THE LORD, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. ¹² For as woman was made from man, in the same way man is born of woman; and it is GOD who brings everything into existence.

¹³ Judge for yourselves whether it is proper for a woman to pray to GOD in public worship with nothing on her head. ¹⁴ Why, nature itself teaches you that long hair on a man is a disgrace, ¹⁵ but on a woman it is a thing of beauty. Her long hair has been given her to serve as a covering. ¹⁶ But if anyone wants to argue about it, all I have to say is that neither we nor the churches of GOD have any other custom in worship.

HEBREWS 13:4-9

Marriage is to be honored by all, and husbands and wives must be Faithful to each other. GOD will judge those who are immoral and those who commit adultery. Keep your lives free from the Love of money and be satisfied with what you have. For GOD has said, “I will never leave you; I will never abandon you.” Let us be bold, then, and say,

“THE LORD is my Helper, I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?”

⁷ Remember your former leaders, who spoke GOD’S Message to you. **Think back on how they lived and died, and imitate their Faith. JESUS CHRIST is the same yesterday, today, and forever.** ⁹ **Do not let all kinds of strange teachings lead you**

from the right way. It is good to receive inner strength from GOD'S Grace, and not by obeying rules about foods; those who obey these rules have not been helped by them.

Questions and thoughts on contentions between the sexes...

Is physical dominance real?

Is the physically strongest woman stronger than the strongest man?

What is the natural order?

If a husband and wife Love one another and trust one another- why would they not submit to one another and abide by GOD'S STANDARD? ...to honor desires which ultimately hinder their cohesion and harmony?

Imagine the stability and environment in a home where the wife is able to handle the needs of the household from within and has the time to learn and discover new ways to contribute to the needs of the home.

Setting aside perceptions of contemporary life - do most women, at their core, desire a good-hearted, strong-protector, who Loves her, provides for her, and appreciates her ability to contribute to the home and society without her needing to work and earn a wage under an authority other than GOD and her husband?

What is the optimal way to live, if not adherence to GOD'S STANDARD?

On what standing can another standard be established- emotions? - temporal desires?

SLAVERY...

The condition of slavery (bondage) has existed for nearly as long as Humanity itself and persists through the modern age in various forms. The Bible addresses a range of perspectives (free, slave, & master) on the condition of slavery without explicitly condemning the practice- instead, The Bible provides Mankind with guidance and a standard of care which has led to a significant reduction in the open practice of slavery over time.

Keep in mind...not all slaves were forcibly sold into slavery, as was the case in the trans-Atlantic slave trade, which serves as the basis for most American's view of the practice. Many (if not most) of those in History, who found themselves as slaves, owed monetary debts, committed criminal offenses, or were acquired when their culture was conquered by another.

LUKE 12:42-48

THE LORD answered, "**Who, then, is the Faithful and wise servant? He is the one that his master will put in charge, to run the household and give the other servants their share of the food at the proper time. How happy that servant is if his master finds him doing this when he comes home! Indeed, I tell you, the master will put that servant in charge of all his property. But if that servant says to himself that his master is taking a long time to**

come back and if he begins to beat the other servants, both the men and the women, and eats and drinks and gets drunk, then the master will come back one day when the servant does not expect him and at a time he does not know. The master will cut him in pieces and make him share the fate of the disobedient.

“The servant who knows what his master wants him to do, but does not get himself ready and do it, will be punished with a heavy whipping. But the servant who does not know what his master wants, and yet does something for which he deserves a whipping, will be punished with a light whipping. **Much is required from the person to whom much is given; much more is required from the person to whom much more is given.**

1 TIMOTHY 6:1-21

Those who are slaves must consider their masters worthy of all respect, so that no one will speak Evil of the name of GOD and of our teaching. ² Slaves belonging to Christian masters must not despise them, for they are Believers too. Instead, **they are to serve them even better**, because those who benefit from their work are Believers whom they Love.

You must teach and preach these things. ³ **Whoever teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the TRUE WORDS of Our LORD JESUS CHRIST and with The Teaching of Our Religion** ⁴ **is swollen with pride and knows nothing.** He has an unhealthy desire to argue and quarrel about words, and this brings on jealousy, disputes, insults, Evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant arguments from people whose minds do not function and who no longer have The Truth. They think that religion is a way to become rich.

⁶ Well, religion does make us very rich, if we are satisfied with what we have. ⁷ What did we bring into the World? Nothing! What can we take out of the World? Nothing! ⁸ So then, if we have food and clothes, that should be enough for us. ⁹ **But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and are caught in the trap of many foolish and harmful desires, which pull them down to ruin and destruction.** ¹⁰ **For the love of money is a source of all kinds of Evil. Some have been so eager to have it that they have wandered away from The Faith and have broken their hearts with many sorrows.**

¹¹ But you, man of GOD, avoid all these things. **Strive for Righteousness, godliness, Faith, Love, endurance, and gentleness.** ¹² **Run your best in the race of Faith, and win Eternal Life for yourself;** for it was to this Life that GOD Called you when you firmly professed your Faith before many witnesses. ¹³ Before GOD, who gives Life to all things, and before CHRIST JESUS, who firmly professed HIS Faith before Pontius Pilate, I command you ¹⁴ to obey your orders and keep them Faithfully until the Day when Our LORD JESUS CHRIST will appear. ¹⁵ His appearing will be brought about at the right time by GOD, The Blessed and Only Ruler, The King of kings and THE LORD of lords. ¹⁶ HE alone is immortal; HE LIVES In THE LIGHT that no one can approach. No one has ever seen HIM; no one can ever see HIM. To HIM be Honor and Eternal Power! Amen.

¹⁷ **Command those who are rich in the things of this life not to be proud, but to place their Hope, not in such an uncertain thing as riches, but In GOD, who generously gives us everything for our enjoyment.** ¹⁸ **Command them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share with others.** ¹⁹ In this way they will store up for themselves a treasure which will be a solid foundation for the future. And then they will be able to win the Life which is True Life.

²⁰ Timothy, keep safe what has been entrusted to your care. Avoid the profane talk and foolish arguments of what some people wrongly call “Knowledge.” ²¹ For some have claimed to possess it, and as a result they have lost The Way of Faith.

GOD’S Grace be with you all.

COLOSSIANS 4:1-6

Masters, be fair and just in the way you treat your slaves. Remember that you too have a Master in Heaven. Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to GOD. At the same time pray also for us, so that GOD will give us a good opportunity to preach HIS Message about the secret of CHRIST. For that is why I am now in prison. Pray, then, that I may speak, as I should, in such a way as to make it clear.

Be wise in the way you act toward those who are not Believers, making good use of every opportunity you have. Your speech should always be pleasant and interesting, and you should know how to give the right answer to everyone.

EPHESIANS 6:5-9

Slaves, obey your Human masters with fear and trembling; and do it with a sincere heart, as though you were serving CHRIST. Do this not only when they are watching you, because you want to gain their approval; but with all your heart do what GOD wants, as slaves of CHRIST. **Do your work as slaves cheerfully, as though you served THE LORD, and not merely Human Beings.** Remember that THE LORD will reward each of us, whether slave or free, for the good work we do.

Masters, behave in the same way toward your slaves and stop using threats. Remember that you and your slaves belong to the same MASTER In Heaven, who judges everyone by THE (same) STANDARD.

1 CORINTHIANS 7:20-24

Each person is to remain in that state in which he was Called. **Were you called as a slave?** Do not let it concern you. **But if you are also able to become free, take advantage of that. For the one who was Called in THE LORD as a slave, is THE LORD’s freed person; likewise the one who was Called as free, is CHRIST’s slave.** You were bought for a price; **do not become slaves of people.** Brothers and sisters, each one is to remain with GOD in that condition in which he was called.

PROVERBS 22:7 “Poor people are slaves of the rich. Borrow money and you are the lender’s slave.”

PROVERBS 22:2 “The rich and the poor have this in common: THE LORD made them both.”

Further Perspective on Slavery...

THINGS TO CONSIDER

Slavery has been and continues to be practiced on every settled continent of Earth.

If slavery was explicitly condemned in The Bible, the World would look unrecognizably different. What would the World be like if slavery never happened in North America... Africa...Asia...Europe...South America...or Australia?

If peoples were not brought to the America’s and forced into slavery, how many of their descendants would be in The United States today? Would those descendants have increased opportunities for upward mobility in the region where their ancestors lived prior to arriving in the America’s?

How would the ruling Authorities have reacted to slavery being condemned by an already despised minority group living in a Roman occupied nation?

Would slave masters have embraced a standard that DIRECTLY condemned slavery?

Would slave masters have accepted and allowed a standard which condemned slavery to reach their slaves?

If a standard condemning slavery would have motivated upright slave owners to release their slaves, what would have kept those who rejected such a standard from taking the released slaves as their own?

Has the condition of forced servitude been eradicated from Earth?

Who is truly free?

How is modern Society not free-range slavery?

How can one Love their neighbor as they Love themselves and keep another in a state of forced servitude?

Would a rebellious slave fair better than a compliant one?

Would directly condemning slavery (which still exists) have been a better approach than providing instructions for navigating the condition- especially, considering the pain associated with rebellion against the practice?

Is forced servitude **always** wrong?

Is imprisonment in a cell with limited engagement a better or more humane means of punishment than forced servitude for criminal offenses?

Would compulsory servitude following criminal offenses not:

- Improve society (instead of hinder it)
- Deter repeat offenses
- Improve individual skills, self-esteem, and health

PROVERBS 27:18

Take care of a fig tree and you will have figs to eat. Servants who take care of their master will be honored.

“Be like water making its way through cracks. Do not be assertive, but adjust to the object, and you shall find a way around or through it. If nothing within you stays rigid, outward things will disclose themselves. -Bruce Lee (2)

WOMEN IN CHURCH...

1 TIMOTHY 2:9-15

I also want the women to **be modest and sensible about their clothes and to dress properly**; not with fancy hair styles or with gold ornaments or pearls or expensive dresses, but with good deeds, as is proper for women who claim to be religious. **Women should learn in silence and all humility. I do not allow them to teach or to have authority over men; they must keep quiet.** For Adam was created first, and then Eve. And it was not Adam who was deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and broke GOD’S Law. **But a woman will be Saved through having children, if she perseveres in Faith and Love and Holiness, with modesty.**

Be mindful of the subversive influence that avenues of entertainment have levied against GOD’S STANDARD over the past 100 years- from the seemingly innocent promotion of *Flappers* in the 1920’s, to *Rosie the Riveter* in the 1940’s, the sexual “revolution” of the 1960’s, and forward, to the modern era, where lust is forced to influence, and distorted gender roles have nearly been normalized.

As roles have been manipulated, Society has collectively drifted away from THE FOUNDATION of REALITY and the pursuit of a more perfect Union has been greatly impacted as a result.

The distorted perception of GOD’S STANDARD has influenced many to have a difficult time understanding the necessity of some aspects of THE STANDARD, but this does not mean THE STANDARD is in error- it means The People have been manipulated and tainted in their understanding and perception of THE STANDARD.

Every aspect of GOD’S STANDARD may not make sense upon an initial assessment, but volumes of validation, including the components of THE STANDARD people do understand,

establish a track record of reliability, that demands accepting the legitimacy of all components of THE STANDARD- even those which are difficult to grasp.

When women present themselves in a provocative manner, men cannot help themselves from becoming distracted, because their bodies release hormones which trigger the primal desire for procreation. Yes, men can, and should, (and are instructed to) maintain control over their thoughts and actions. However, not all men do- and many who are able, still battle to maintain control of their thoughts, long past the initial interaction.

Moving forward, is it easier to learn in silence or when distractions are present?

Is learning more likely to occur when someone is arrogant and full of pride- or when someone is humble and willing to receive information with a mind desiring knowledge?

Do students submit to the authority of their teacher?

If students are to submit to their teacher's authority and a wife is to submit to her husband, then GOD'S STANDARD would be in conflict with itself, if a man submitted to the teaching of a woman (IN THE CHURCH) or when being taught Biblical STANDARDS.

Scripture DOES NOT prohibit women from teaching boys. Scripture says, "...women should not teach or have authority over MEN"

Women and men are different creations, with different abilities, and different roles. The Bible does not bar women from learning and pursuing knowledge- or from teaching young people and/or other women. When roles are confused, the reduction in efficacy influences Society to lose sight of Eternity and fall into the traps of nearsightedness.

Feelings are not always reliable- Humanity needs concrete stability- this is why GOD provided and made known THE STANDARD to establish THE FOUNDATION of REALITY.

Just because we may have a difficult time accepting certain components of THE STANDARD, does not mean we should ignore the parts we find to be emotionally unpleasant.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:33-35

As in all The Churches of GOD'S People, **the women should keep quiet in the meetings. They are not allowed to speak; as the Jewish Law says, they must not be in charge.** If they want to find out about something, they should ask their husbands at home. It is a disgraceful thing for a woman to speak in a Church meeting.

If a woman speaks during a Church meeting, she could very easily find herself teaching men- which has been discussed earlier in the segment.

CARING FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE...

THE POOR...THE WIDOWS...THE ORPHANS...

PROVERBS 14:31

He who oppresses the poor reproaches his MAKER, but he who honors HIM has mercy on the needy.

JAMES 1:27

What GOD THE FATHER considers to be pure and genuine religion is this: **to take care of orphans and widows in their suffering and to keep oneself from being corrupted by the World.**

LUKE 4:16-20

And HE came to Nazareth, where HE had been brought up; and as was HIS custom, He entered the synagogue on The Sabbath, and stood up to read. And The Scroll of Isaiah the Prophet was handed to HIM. And HE unrolled The Scroll and found the place where it was written:

“THE SPIRIT of THE LORD is upon ME, Because HE anointed ME to bring Good News to the poor. HE has sent ME to proclaim release to captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable YEAR of THE LORD.”

And HE rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all the people in the synagogue were intently directed at HIM.

MATTHEW 19:16-26

And someone came to HIM and said, “Teacher, what good thing shall I do so that I may obtain eternal life?” And HE said to him, **“Why are you asking ME about what is good? There is only ONE who is good; but if you want to enter Life, keep The Commandments.”** Then he *said to HIM, “Which ones?” And JESUS said, **“You shall not commit murder; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not give false testimony; honor your father and mother; and you shall Love your neighbor as yourself.”**

The young man *said to HIM, “All these I have kept; what am I still lacking?” 21 JESUS said to him, **“If you want to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in Heaven; and come, follow ME.”** But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property.

And JESUS said to HIS Disciples, **“Truly I say to you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter THE KINGDOM of Heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich person to enter THE KINGDOM of GOD.”** When The Disciples heard this, they were very astonished and said, “Then who can be Saved?” And looking at them, JESUS said to them, **“With people this is impossible, but with GOD all things are possible.”**

ON GIVING...

MATTHEW 25:14-46

¹⁴ “For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents immediately went and did business with them and earned five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way the one who had received the two talents earned two more. ¹⁸ But he who received the one talent went away and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹ “Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘**Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have earned five more talents.**’ ²¹ His master said to him, ‘**Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter the joy of your master.**’

²² “Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, ‘**Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have earned two more talents.**’ ²³ His master said to him, ‘**Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter the joy of your master.**’

²⁴ “Now the one who had received the one talent also came up and said, ‘**Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed.** ²⁵ **And I was afraid, so I went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you still have what is yours.**’

²⁶ “But his master answered and said to him, ‘**You worthless, lazy slave! Did you know that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter seed?**’ ²⁷ **Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest.** ²⁸ **Therefore: take the talent away from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.**’

²⁹ “**For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.** ³⁰ **And throw the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

³¹ “But when THE SON of MAN comes in HIS Glory, and all the Angels with HIM, then HE will sit on HIS Glorious Throne. ³² And all The Nations will be gathered before HIM; and HE will separate them from one another, just as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; ³³ and HE will put the sheep on HIS right, but the goats on the left.

³⁴ “Then THE KING will say to those on HIS right, ‘**Come, you who are blessed of MY FATHER, inherit THE KINGDOM prepared for you from the foundation of the World.**’ ³⁵ For I was hungry, and you gave ME something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave ME something

to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited ME in; ³⁶ naked, and you clothed ME; I was sick, and you visited ME; I was in prison, and you came to ME.’ ³⁷ Then the Righteous will answer HIM, ‘LORD, when did we see YOU hungry, and feed YOU, or thirsty, and give YOU something to drink? ³⁸ And when did we see YOU as a stranger, and invite YOU in, or naked, and clothe YOU? ³⁹ And when did we see YOU sick, or in prison, and come to YOU?’ ⁴⁰ **And THE KING will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of MINE, you did it for ME.’**

⁴¹ “Then HE will also say to those on HIS left, **‘Depart from ME, you accursed people, into the Eternal fire which has been prepared for the Devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry, and you gave ME nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave ME nothing to drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger, and you did not invite ME in; naked, and you did not clothe ME; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit ME.’** ⁴⁴ Then they themselves also will answer, ‘LORD, when did we see YOU hungry, or thirsty, or as a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of YOU?’ ⁴⁵ Then HE will answer them, **‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it for one of the least of these, you did not do it for ME, either.’** ⁴⁶ These will go away into Eternal punishment, but the Righteous into Eternal Life.”

Forced giving isn't giving- it's theft, taxation, or both.

Minimally taxed, free people, voluntarily living in accordance to an agreed upon standard (where the terms of cooperation are established and known), can meet the needs of their communities, but excessive, forced taxation is used by desiring despots to stifle generosity, create division, concentrate power, and impede the pursuit of liberty and independence.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

Remember that the person who plants few seeds will have a small crop; the one who plants many seeds will have a large crop. **You should each give, then, as you have decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for GOD Loves the one who gives gladly.** And GOD is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause. As the Scripture says,

“HE gives generously to the needy; HIS kindness lasts forever.”

And GOD, who supplies seed for the sower and bread to eat, will also supply you with all the seed you need and will make it grow and produce a rich harvest from your generosity. HE will always make you rich enough to be generous at all times, so that many will thank GOD for your gifts which they receive from us. For this service you perform not only meets the needs of GOD’S People, but also produces an outpouring of gratitude to GOD. And because of the proof which this service of yours brings, many will give glory to GOD for your loyalty to The Gospel of CHRIST, which you profess, and for your generosity in sharing with them and everyone else. And so with deep affection they will pray for you because of The extraordinary Grace GOD has shown you. Let us thank GOD for HIS Priceless Gift!

2 CORINTHIANS 8:12-15

For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.

For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened; but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack—that there may be equality. As it is written, “He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack.”

ACTS 20:34-35

You yourselves know that I have worked with these hands of mine to provide everything that my companions and I have needed. I have shown you in all things that by working hard in this way we must help the weak, remembering THE WORDS that THE LORD JESUS HIMSELF said, **“There is more happiness in giving than in receiving.”**

PROVERBS 11:25

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

PROVERBS 3:27

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.

MATTHEW 6:1-4

“Take care not to practice your Righteousness in the sight of people, to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your FATHER who is in Heaven.

“So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, so that they will be praised by people. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your charitable giving will be in secret; and your FATHER who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

LUKE 6:30-31

Give to everyone who asks you for something, and when someone takes what is yours, do not ask for it back. Do for others just what you want them to do for you.

ENDURING HARDSHIP...

PHILLIPIANS 4:12-13

I know what it is to be in need and what it is to have more than enough. I have learned this secret, so that anywhere, at any time, I am content, whether I am full or hungry, whether I have too much or too little. I have the strength to face all conditions by The Power that CHRIST gives me.

JAMES 1:2-5

My friends, **consider yourselves fortunate when all kinds of trials come your way**, for you know that when **your Faith succeeds in facing such trials, the result is the ability to endure**. Make sure that your endurance carries you all the way without failing, so that **you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing**. But if any of you lack wisdom, you should pray to GOD, who will give it to you; because GOD gives generously and graciously to all.

JAMES 1:12-15

Happy are those who remain Faithful under trials, because when they succeed in passing such a test, they will receive as their reward the Life which GOD has promised to those who Love HIM. If we are tempted by such trials, we must not say, "This temptation comes from GOD." For GOD cannot be tempted by Evil, and HE HIMSELF tempts no one. **But we are tempted when we are drawn away and trapped by our own Evil desires. Then our Evil desires conceive and give birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.**

ROMANS 8:18-23

I consider that what we suffer at this present time cannot be compared at all with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. All of creation waits with eager longing for GOD to reveal HIS Children.

For Creation was condemned to lose its purpose, not of its own will, but because GOD willed it to be so. Yet there was the hope that Creation itself would one day be set free from its slavery to decay and would share The Glorious Freedom of The Children of GOD. For we know that up to the present time all of Creation groans with pain, like the pain of childbirth.

But it is not just Creation alone which groans; we who have THE SPIRIT as the first of GOD'S Gifts also groan within ourselves as we wait for GOD to make us HIS Children and set our whole being free.

DIVERSITY MADE EQUAL THROUGH CHRIST

GALATIANS 3:26-29

For you are all Sons and Daughters of GOD through Faith in CHRIST JESUS. For all of you who were baptized into CHRIST have clothed yourselves with CHRIST. There is neither Jew

nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for **you are all one in CHRIST JESUS**. And if you belong to CHRIST, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

PRESENTING OURSELVES HONORABLY...

1 CORINTHIANS 11:4-7

Every man who has something on his head while praying or prophesying disgraces his head. But every woman who has her head uncovered while praying or prophesying disgraces her head, for it is one and the same as the woman whose head is shaved. **For if a woman does not cover her head, have her also cut her hair off; however, if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, have her cover her head. For a man should not have his head covered**, since he is the image and glory of GOD; but the woman is the glory of man.

This Scripture does not mean a woman who cuts her hair is outside of Right Standing with GOD, nor does this Scripture require a man to shave his head.

This Scripture simply means women should not cut ALL their hair off (to look like a man) and men shouldn't wear a head covering (a hat) when they pray and prophesy.

1 TIMOTHY 2:9-15

⁸ I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; ⁹ in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, ¹⁰ but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. ¹¹ Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. ¹² And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴ And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. ¹⁵ Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.

1 PETER 2:3-4

Your adornment must not be merely the external braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry, or putting on apparel; but it should be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of GOD.

1 PETER 2:16-17

Act as free people, and do not use your freedom as a covering for Evil, but use it as bond-servants of GOD. **Honor all people**, Love The Brotherhood, fear GOD, and honor the king.

PRAYER...

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-6

First of all, then, **I urge that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made in behalf of all people, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all Godliness and dignity.** This is good and acceptable in the sight of GOD Our Savior, who wants all people to be Saved and to come to the knowledge of The Truth. For there is ONE GOD, and ONE MEDIATOR also between GOD and Mankind, THE MAN CHRIST JESUS, who gave HIMSELF as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

MATTHEW 5:44

“But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

JAMES 5:13-16

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing Psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in THE NAME of THE LORD. And the prayer of Faith will Save the sick, and THE LORD will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. **Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a Righteous man avails much.**

PHILLIPIANS 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to GOD; and The Peace of GOD, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through CHRIST JESUS.

Praying in THE SPIRIT...

ROMANS 8:24-30

For it was by Hope that we were Saved; but if we see what we Hope for, then it is not really Hope. For who of us Hopes for something we see? ²⁵ But if we Hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶ In the same way THE SPIRIT also comes to help us, weak as we are. **For we do not know how we ought to pray; THE SPIRIT himself pleads with GOD for us in groans that words cannot express. ²⁷ And GOD, who sees into our hearts, knows what the thought of THE SPIRIT is; because THE SPIRIT pleads with GOD on behalf of HIS People and in accordance with HIS Will.**

²⁸ We know that in **all things GOD works for good with those who Love HIM**, those whom HE has called according to HIS Purpose. ²⁹ Those whom GOD had already chosen HE also set

apart to become like HIS SON, so that THE SON would be the first among many believers.
³⁰And so those whom GOD set apart, HE Called; and those HE Called, HE put right with HIMSELF, and HE shared HIS Glory with them.

Praying together...

MATTHEW 18:19-20

“Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on Earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by MY FATHER who is in Heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in MY NAME, I AM there in their midst.”

Praying privately...

MATTHEW 6:5-8

“And when you pray, **you are not to be like the hypocrites**; for they Love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners **so that they will be seen by people**. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But as for you, **when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door, and pray to your FATHER who is in secret; and your FATHER who sees what is done in secret will reward you.**

“And when you are praying, **do not use thoughtless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. So do not be like them; for your FATHER knows what you need before you ask HIM.**

THE LORD's Prayer

“Pray, then, in this way:

‘OUR FATHER, who is in Heaven,

Hallowed be YOUR NAME.

YOUR KINGDOM come.

YOUR WILL be done,

On Earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from Evil.’

For THINE is THE KINGDOM, The Power, The Glory. For ever and ever.

Amen.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS...

1 CORINTHIANS 12

Now concerning spiritual gifts, Brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: ²you know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. ³Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by THE SPIRIT of GOD calls JESUS accursed, and no one can say that JESUS is LORD except by THE HOLY SPIRIT.

⁴**There are diversities of Gifts, but the same SPIRIT.** ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same LORD. ⁶And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same GOD who works all in all. ⁷But **the manifestation of THE SPIRIT is given to each one for the profit of All:** ⁸ **for to one is given THE WORD of Wisdom through THE SPIRIT, to another THE WORD of Knowledge through the same SPIRIT, ⁹to another Faith by the same SPIRIT, to another Gifts of healings by the same SPIRIT, ¹⁰to another the Working of Miracles, to another Prophecy, to another Discerning of Spirits, to another Different Kinds of Tongues, to another the Interpretation of Tongues.** ¹¹ **But ONE and the same SPIRIT works all these things, distributing to each one individually as HE Wills.**

¹² **For as The Body is ONE and has many members, but all the members of that ONE Body, being many, are ONE Body, so also is CHRIST.** ¹³ For by ONE SPIRIT we were all baptized into ONE Body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into ONE SPIRIT. ¹⁴ For in fact The Body is not one member but many.

¹⁵ If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? ¹⁸ But now GOD has set the members, each one of them, in The Body just as HE Pleased. ¹⁹ And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

²⁰ **But now indeed there are many members, yet ONE Body.** ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. ²³ And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, ²⁴ but our presentable parts have no need. But GOD composed The Body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, ²⁵ **that there should be no schism in The Body**, but that **the members should have the same care for one another.** ²⁶ **And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.**

²⁷ **Now you are The Body of CHRIST, and members individually.** ²⁸ **And GOD has appointed these in The Church: first Apostles, second Prophets, third Teachers, after that Miracles, then Gifts of Healings, Helps, Administrations, Varieties of Tongues.**

²⁹ Are all Apostles? Are all Prophets? Are all Teachers? Are all Workers of Miracles? ³⁰ Do all have Gifts of Healings? Do all Speak with Tongues? Do all Interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the best Gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

Speaking In Tongues is DIFFERENT from Praying In Tongues In THE SPIRIT...

1 CORINTHIANS 14:1-25

It is Love, then, that you should strive for. Set your hearts on Spiritual Gifts, especially The Gift of Proclaiming GOD'S Message. ² **Those who speak in strange tongues do not speak to others but to GOD, because no one understands them. They are speaking secret truths by The Power of THE SPIRIT.** ³ But those who proclaim GOD'S Message speak to people and give them help, encouragement, and comfort. ⁴ **Those who speak in strange tongues help only themselves,** but those who proclaim GOD'S Message help The (whole) Church.

⁵ **I would like for all of you to speak in strange tongues; but I would rather that you had The Gift of Proclaiming GOD'S Message.** For the person who proclaims GOD'S Message is of greater value than the one who speaks in strange tongues—**unless there is someone present who can explain what is said, so that the whole church may be helped.** ⁶ **So when I come to you, my friends, what use will I be to you if I speak in strange tongues? Not a bit, unless I bring you some revelation from GOD or some knowledge or some inspired message or some teaching.**

⁷ Take such lifeless musical instruments as the flute or the harp—how will anyone know the tune that is being played unless the notes are sounded distinctly? ⁸ And if the one who plays the bugle does not sound a clear call, who will prepare for battle? ⁹ **In the same way, how will anyone understand what you are talking about if your message given in strange tongues is not clear? Your words will vanish in the air!** ¹⁰ There are many different languages in the World, yet none of them is without meaning. ¹¹ But if I do not know the language being spoken, those who use it will be foreigners to me and I will be a foreigner to them. ¹² Since you are eager to have The Gifts of THE SPIRIT, you must try above everything else to make greater use of those which help to build up the church.

¹³ **The person who speaks in strange tongues, then, must pray for The Gift to explain what is said.** ¹⁴ For if I pray in this way, my spirit prays indeed, but my mind has no part in it. ¹⁵ What should I do, then? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray also with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will sing also with my mind. ¹⁶ When you give thanks to GOD In Spirit only, how can ordinary people taking part in the meeting say "Amen" to your prayer of thanksgiving? They have no way of knowing what you are saying. ¹⁷ Even if your prayer of thanks to GOD is quite good, other people are not helped at all.

¹⁸ I thank GOD that I speak in strange tongues much more than any of you. ¹⁹ But **in Church worship I would rather speak five words that can be understood, in order to teach others, than speak thousands of words in strange tongues.**

²⁰ Do not be like children in your thinking, my friends; be children so far as Evil is concerned, but be grown up in your thinking. ²¹ In the Scriptures it is written,

“By means of people speaking strange languages

I will speak to MY People, says THE LORD.

I will speak through lips of foreigners,

but even then MY People will not listen to ME.”

²² **So then, The Gift of Speaking in Strange Tongues is proof for unbelievers, not for Believers, while The Gift of Proclaiming GOD’S Message is proof for Believers, not for unbelievers.**

²³ **If, then, The (whole) Church meets together and everyone starts speaking in strange tongues—and if some ordinary people or unbelievers come in, won't they say that you are all crazy? ²⁴ But if everyone is proclaiming GOD’S Message when some unbelievers or ordinary people come in, they will be convinced of their sin by what they hear. They will be judged by all they hear, ²⁵ their secret thoughts will be brought into the open, and they will bow down and worship GOD, confessing, “Truly GOD is here among you!”**

²⁶ This is what I mean, my friends. When you meet for worship, one person has a hymn, another a teaching, **another a revelation from GOD, another a message in strange tongues, and still another the explanation of what is said.** Everything must be of help to The Church. ²⁷ **If someone is going to speak in strange tongues, two or three at the most should speak, one after the other, and someone else must explain what is being said.**

²⁸ **But if no one is there who can explain, then the one who speaks in strange tongues must be quiet and speak only to himself and to GOD.** ²⁹ **Two or three who are given GOD’S Message should speak, while the others are to judge what they say. ³⁰ But if someone sitting in the meeting receives a message from GOD, the one who is speaking should stop. ³¹ All of you may proclaim GOD’S Message, one by one, so that everyone will learn and be encouraged. ³² The Gift of Proclaiming GOD’S Message should be under the speaker's control, ³³ because GOD does not want us to be in disorder but in harmony and peace.**

ROMANS 8:24-28

For in Hope we have been Saved, but **Hope that is seen is not Hope; for who Hopes for what he already sees? But if we Hope for what we do not see, through perseverance we wait eagerly for it.**

Now in the same way **THE SPIRIT** also helps our weakness; for we do not know what to pray for as we should, but **THE SPIRIT HIMSELF** intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and **HE** who searches the hearts knows what The Mind of **THE SPIRIT** is, because **HE** intercedes for the Saints according to The Will of **GOD**.

CHURCH ROLES...

MATTHEW 28:16-20 The Great Commission

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which JESUS had appointed for them. When they saw HIM, they worshiped HIM; but some doubted.

And JESUS came and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority has been given to ME in Heaven and on Earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all The Nations, baptizing them in the name of THE FATHER and of THE SON and of THE HOLY SPIRIT, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I AM with you always, even to the end of the age.**” Amen.

EPHESIANS 4:11-16

And HE HIMSELF gave some to be **Apostles**, some **Prophets**, some **Evangelists**, and some **Pastors** and **Teachers**, for the equipping of the Saints for the Work of Ministry, for the edifying of The Body of CHRIST, till we all come to the Unity of The Faith and of the knowledge of THE SON of GOD, to a perfect MAN, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of CHRIST; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking The Truth in Love, may grow up in all things into HIM who is The Head—CHRIST—from whom The (whole) Body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of The Body for the edifying of Itself in Love.

Apostle- A person of strong Faith who works to promote Christian Virtues

Prophet- A faithful steward of Christianity who proclaims a Divine Message

Evangelist- A person who publicly promotes Christian virtues & appeals The Faith

Pastor- A minister in charge of a church or congregation

Teacher- A person who assists others to attain knowledge & effectively apply what is known

Elder/Bishop- Senior overseer of the church

Deacon- Junior overseer of the church

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13

This is a Faithful saying: **If a man desires the position of a Bishop, he desires a good work.** ² **A Bishop** then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; ³ not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; ⁴ **one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence** ⁵ (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of The Church of GOD?); ⁶ **not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the Devil.** ⁷ Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the Devil.

⁸ Likewise **Deacons** must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, ⁹ holding the mystery of the Faith with a pure conscience. ¹⁰ **But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as Deacons, being found blameless.** ¹¹ Likewise, **their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, Faithful in all things.** ¹² Let Deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. ¹³ **For those who have served well as Deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in The Faith which is in CHRIST JESUS.**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-21

And we urge you, Brethren, to **recognize those who labor among you**, and are over you in THE LORD and admonish you, and to **esteem them very highly in Love for their work's sake.** Be at peace among yourselves.

Now we exhort you, Brethren, **warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. See that no one renders Evil for Evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is The Will of GOD in CHRIST JESUS for you.

Do not quench THE SPIRIT. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of Evil.

HEBREWS 13:15-16

Through HIM then, let's continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to GOD, that is, the fruit of lips praising HIS NAME. And **do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices GOD is pleased.**

HANDLING DISPUTES...

IF IN DOUBT, ASSESS the FRUIT & PRAY for INSIGHT...

1 CORINTHIANS 10:23

All things are permitted, but not all things are of benefit. All things are permitted, but not all things build people up.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:40

Let all things be done decently and in order.

COLOSSIANS 2:6-23

Since you have accepted CHRIST JESUS as Lord, live in Union with HIM. ⁷ Keep your roots deep in HIM, build your lives on HIM, and become stronger in your Faith, as you were taught. And be filled with thanksgiving.

⁸ **See to it, then, that no one enslaves you by means of the worthless deceit of Human wisdom, which comes from the teachings handed down by Human Beings and from the ruling spirits of the universe, and not from CHRIST.** ⁹ For the full content of Divine Nature lives in CHRIST, in HIS Humanity, ¹⁰ and you have been given full life in Union with HIM. **HE is supreme over every spiritual ruler and authority.**

¹¹ In Union with CHRIST you were circumcised, not with the circumcision that is made by Human Beings, but with the circumcision made by CHRIST, **which consists of being freed from the power of this sinful self.** ¹² For when you were baptized, you were buried with CHRIST, and in baptism you were also raised with CHRIST through your Faith in the active power of GOD, who raised him from death. ¹³ **You were at one time spiritually dead because of your sins and because you were Gentiles without The Law. But GOD has now brought you to life with CHRIST. GOD forgave us all our sins;** ¹⁴ **he canceled the unfavorable record of our debts with its binding rules and did away with it completely by nailing it to the cross.** ¹⁵ **And on that cross CHRIST freed himself from the power of the spiritual rulers and Authorities ;** he made a public spectacle of them by leading them as captives in his victory procession.

¹⁶ **So let no one make rules about what you eat or drink or about holy days or the New Moon Festival or the Sabbath.** ¹⁷ **All such things are only a shadow of things in the future; the Reality is CHRIST.** ¹⁸ **Do not allow yourselves to be condemned by anyone who claims to be superior because of special visions and who insists on false humility and the worship of Angels.** For no reason at all, such people are all puffed up by their Human way of thinking ¹⁹ and have stopped holding on to CHRIST, who is The Head of The Body. Under CHRIST'S control the whole body is nourished and held together by its joints and ligaments, and it grows as GOD wants it to grow.

²⁰ **You have died with CHRIST and are set free from the ruling spirits of the universe.** Why, then, do you live as though you belonged to this World? **Why do you obey such rules as** ²¹ **“Don't handle this,” “Don't taste that,” “Don't touch the other”?** ²² **All these refer to things which become useless once they are used; they are only Human rules and teachings.** ²³ Of course such rules appear to be based on wisdom in their forced worship of angels, and false humility, and severe treatment of the body; but **they have no real value in controlling physical passions.**

LUKE 6:43-45

“A healthy tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a poor tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴ Every tree is known by the fruit it bears; you do not pick figs from thorn bushes or gather grapes from bramble bushes. ⁴⁵ A good person brings good out of the treasure of good things in his heart; a bad person brings bad out of his treasure of bad things. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.”

2 CORINTHIANS 3:12-18

Because we have this Hope, we are very bold. We are not like Moses, who had to put a veil over his face so that the people of Israel would not see the brightness fade and disappear. **Their minds, indeed, were closed; and to this very day their minds are covered with the same veil as they read the books of The Old Covenant. The veil is removed only when a person is joined to CHRIST.** Even today, whenever they read the Law of Moses, the veil still covers their minds. But it can be removed, as the Scripture says about Moses: “His veil was removed when he turned to THE LORD.” Now, “THE LORD” in this passage is THE SPIRIT; and **where THE SPIRIT of THE LORD is present, there is freedom.** All of us, then, reflect the glory of THE LORD with uncovered faces; and that same glory, coming from THE LORD, who is THE SPIRIT, transforms us into his likeness in an ever greater degree of glory.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-33

If you think you are standing firm you had better be careful that you do not fall. ¹³ Every test that you have experienced is the kind that normally comes to people. But GOD keeps HIS Promise, and HE will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm; at the time you are put to the test, HE will give you the strength to endure it, and so provide you with a way out.

¹⁴ So then, my dear friends, **keep away from the worship of idols.** ¹⁵ I speak to you as sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶ The cup we use In THE LORD'S Supper and for which we give thanks to GOD: when we drink from it, we are sharing in The Blood of CHRIST. And the bread we break: when we eat it, we are sharing in The Body of CHRIST. ¹⁷ Because there is the one loaf of bread, all of us, though many, are ONE Body, for we all share the same loaf.

¹⁸ Consider the people of Israel; those who eat what is offered in sacrifice share in the altar's service to GOD. ¹⁹ Do I imply, then, that an idol or the food offered to it really amounts to

anything?²⁰ No! What I am saying is that **what is sacrificed on Pagan altars is offered to demons, not to GOD.** And I do not want you to be partners with demons.²¹ **You cannot drink from THE LORD's cup and also from the cup of demons; you cannot eat at THE LORD'S table and also at the table of demons.**²² Or do we want to make THE LORD jealous? Do we think that we are stronger than HE?

²³ **“We are allowed to do anything,” so they say. That is true, but not everything is good. “We are allowed to do anything”—but not everything is helpful.**²⁴ **None of you should be looking out for your own interests, but for the interests of others.**

²⁵ You are free to eat anything sold in the meat market, without asking any questions because of your conscience.²⁶ For, as the Scripture says, “The Earth and everything in it belong to THE LORD.”

²⁷ If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you decide to go, eat what is set before you, without asking any questions because of your conscience.²⁸ But if someone tells you, “This food was offered to idols,” then do not eat that food, for the sake of the one who told you and for conscience' sake—²⁹ that is, not your own conscience, but the other person's conscience.

“Well, then,” someone asks, **“why should my freedom to act be limited by another person's conscience?”**³⁰ If I thank GOD for my food, why should anyone criticize me about food for which I give thanks?”

³¹ **Well, whatever you do, whether you eat or drink, do it all for GOD'S Glory.**³² **Live in such a way as to cause no trouble either to Jews or Gentiles or to The Church of GOD.**³³ **Just do as I do; I try to please everyone in all that I do, not thinking of my own good, but of the good of all, so that they might be Saved.**

UNWORTHY CONTENTIONS...

1 TIMOTHY 6:20

Timothy, keep safe what has been entrusted to your care. Avoid the profane talk and foolish arguments of what some people wrongly call “Knowledge.”

2 TIMOTHY 2:23-26

Avoid the passions of youth, and strive for Righteousness, Faith, Love, and peace, together with those who with a pure heart call out to THE LORD for help. **But keep away from foolish and ignorant arguments; you know that they end up in quarrels.** As THE LORD'S Servant, you must not quarrel. **You must be kind toward all, a good and patient teacher, who is gentle as you correct your opponents, for it may be that GOD will give them the opportunity to repent and come to know The Truth.** **And then they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the Devil, who had caught them and made them obey his will.**

TITUS 3:9

But avoid stupid arguments, long lists of ancestors, quarrels, and fights about The Law. They are useless and worthless.

RESOLVING DISPUTES WITH THOSE WHO ARE CLOSE...

MATTHEW 18:15-17

“If your Brother sins against you, **go to him and show him his fault. But do it privately, just between yourselves.** If he listens to you, you have won your brother back. **But if he will not listen to you, take one or two other persons with you, so that ‘every accusation may be upheld by the testimony of two or more witnesses,’** as the Scripture says. **And if he will not listen to them, then tell the whole thing to the church. Finally, if he will not listen to the church, treat him as though he were a Pagan or a tax collector.**

1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-9

Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the Saints? Do you not know that The Saints will judge the World? **And if the World will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?** Do you not know that we shall judge Angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life? **If then you have judgements concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by The Church to judge?**

I say this to your shame. **Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his Brethren?** But Brother goes to law against Brother, and that before unbelievers!

Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated? No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your Brethren! Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit THE KINGDOM of GOD?

DEALING WITH ENEMIES...

LUKE 6:22-23

“Happy are you when people hate you, reject you, insult you, and say that you are Evil, all because of THE SON OF MAN! Be glad when that happens and dance for joy, because a great reward is kept for you in Heaven. For their ancestors did the very same things to The Prophets.

LUKE 6:27-36

“But I tell you who hear ME: **Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,**²⁸ **bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you.**²⁹ **If anyone hits you on one cheek, let him hit the other one too; if someone takes your coat, let him have your shirt as**

well. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you for something, and when someone takes what is yours, do not ask for it back. ³¹ Do for others just what you want them to do for you.

³² “If you Love only the people who Love you, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners Love those who Love them! ³³ And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners do that! ³⁴ And if you lend only to those from whom you hope to get it back, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount! ³⁵ No! Love your enemies and do good to them; lend and expect nothing back. You will then have a great reward, and you will be Children of THE MOST HIGH GOD. For HE IS good to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful just as your FATHER IS merciful.

ROMANS 12:14-21

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another; **do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly.** Do not be wise in your own estimation. **Never repay Evil for Evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all people.**

If possible, so far as it depends on you, **be at peace with all people.** Never take your own revenge, beloved, but **leave room for The Wrath of GOD,** for it is written: “**Vengeance is MINE, I will repay,**” says THE LORD. “**But if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.**” Do not be overcome by Evil, but **overcome Evil with good.**”

TROUBLE MAKERS & DIVISIONS...

ROMANS 16:17-18

I urge you, my friends: **watch out for those who cause divisions and upset people's Faith and go against the teaching which you have received. Keep away from them!** For those who do such things are not serving CHRIST Our LORD, but their own appetites. By their fine words and flattering speech they deceive innocent people.

Those who correct errors and upset the erroneous are NOT the troublemakers- they are the peacemakers from Hebrews 12:14- those who care enough to stand up for GOD'S STANDARD, even when it may be uncomfortable to do so.

HEBREWS 12:11-17

For the moment, all discipline seems not to be pleasant, but painful; yet to those who have been trained by it, **afterward it yields The Peaceful Fruit of Righteousness.**

Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is impaired may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

Pursue peace with all people, and the Holiness without which no one will see THE LORD. See to it that no one comes short of The Grace of GOD; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; that there be no sexually immoral or Godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. For you know that even afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10

Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the name of Our LORD JESUS CHRIST, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgement.

FORGIVENESS...

This DOES NOT mean to BE A PUSHOVER or allow yourself to be abused

MATTHEW 5:24

So, if you are about to offer your gift to GOD at the altar and there you remember that your Brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar, go at once and make peace with your brother, and then come back and offer your gift to GOD.

EPHESIANS 4:32

...be kind and tender-hearted to one another, and forgive one another, as GOD has forgiven you through CHRIST.

MATTHEW 6:14-15

“If you forgive others the wrongs they have done to you, your FATHER in Heaven will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your FATHER will not forgive the wrongs you have done.

COLOSSIANS 3:13

Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must forgive one another just as THE LORD has forgiven you.

MATTHEW 18:21-35

Then Peter came to JESUS and asked, “LORD, if my Brother keeps on sinning against me, how many times do I have to forgive him? Seven times?”

²² **“No, not seven times,” answered JESUS, “but seventy times seven²³ because THE KINGDOM of Heaven is like this.**

Once there was a king who decided to check on his servants' accounts.²⁴ He had just begun to do so when one of them was brought in who owed him millions of dollars.²⁵ The servant did not

have enough to pay his debt, so the king ordered him to be sold as a slave, with his wife and his children and all that he had, in order to pay the debt.²⁶ The servant fell on his knees before the king. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay you everything!'²⁷ The king felt sorry for him, so he forgave him the debt and let him go.

²⁸ "Then the man went out and met one of his fellow servants who owed him a few dollars. He grabbed him and started choking him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he said.²⁹ His fellow servant fell down and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!'³⁰ But he refused; instead, he had him thrown into jail until he should pay the debt.³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were very upset and went to the king and told him everything.³² So he called the servant in. 'You worthless slave!' he said. 'I forgave you the whole amount you owed me, just because you asked me to.'³³ You should have had mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you.'³⁴ The king was very angry, and he sent the servant to jail to be punished until he should pay back the whole amount."

³⁵ And JESUS concluded, "That is how MY FATHER in Heaven will treat every one of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

MISUSING REVERED WORDS- GOD, LOVE, & HOLY

ROMANS 12:2

And do not be conformed to this World, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of GOD is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-9

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,³ unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,⁴ treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of GOD,⁵ holding to a form of Godliness although they have denied its power; avoid such people as these.⁶ For among them are those who slip into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,⁷ always learning and never able to come to The Knowledge of The Truth.⁸ Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose The Truth, men of depraved mind, worthless in regard to The Faith.⁹ But they will not make further progress; for their foolishness will be obvious to all, just as was that also of Jannes and Jambres.

MATTHEW 12:33-37

"Either assume the tree to be good as well as its fruit good, or assume the tree to be bad as well as its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. You offspring of vipers, how can you, being Evil, express any good things? **For the mouth speaks from that which fills the heart.** The good person brings out of his good treasure good things; and the Evil person brings out of his Evil treasure Evil things. **But I tell you that for every careless word that people speak, they**

will give an account of it on The Day of Judgement. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

When proclaiming a Love for ‘things’, a person inadvertently diminishes their appreciation for one of the most important words in all of language. The words GOD, LOVE, and HOLY should only be used when appropriate- not when expressing frustrations or when communicating an appreciation for things we like.

NAVAGATING A FALLEN WORLD...

MATTHEW 10:16-20

“Listen! I am sending you out just like sheep to a pack of wolves. You must be as cautious as snakes and as gentle as doves. Watch out, for there will be those who will arrest you and take you to court, and they will whip you in the synagogues. For MY sake you will be brought to trial before rulers and kings, to tell The Good News to them and to the Gentiles. When they bring you to trial, do not worry about what you are going to say or how you will say it; when the time comes, you will be given what you will say. For THE WORDS you will speak will not be yours; they will come from THE SPIRIT of your FATHER speaking through you.

1 JOHN 4:1-3

My dear friends, do not believe all who claim to have THE SPIRIT, but test them to find out if THE SPIRIT they have comes from GOD. For many false Prophets have gone out everywhere. **This is how you will be able to know whether it is GOD’S SPIRIT: anyone who acknowledges that JESUS CHRIST came as a Human Being has THE SPIRIT who comes from GOD. But anyone who denies this about JESUS does not have THE SPIRIT from GOD.** THE SPIRIT that he has is from the Enemy of CHRIST; you heard that it would come, and now it is here in the World already.

BE AWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS...

MATTHEW 7:15-20

“Beware of false Prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore, by their fruits you will know them.

DON’T BELIEVE IN EVERY FEELING...VERIFY & VALIDATE

1 JOHN 4:1-21

Beloved, **do not believe every spirit**, but **test the spirits to see whether they are from GOD**, because many false Prophets have gone out into the World. ² **By this you know THE SPIRIT of GOD: every Spirit that confesses that JESUS CHRIST has come in the flesh is from GOD;** ³ and **every spirit that does not confess JESUS is not from GOD**; this is The Spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard is coming, and now it is already in the World. ⁴ You are from GOD, little children, and have overcome them; because **greater is HE who is In you than he who is in the World.** ⁵ **They are from the World, therefore they speak as from the World, and the World listens to them.** ⁶ **We are from GOD. The one who knows GOD listens to us; the one who is not from GOD does not listen to us. By this we know THE SPIRIT of Truth and the spirit of error.**

⁷ Beloved, **let's Love one another; for Love is from GOD, and everyone who Loves has been born of GOD and knows GOD.** ⁸ The one who does not Love does not know GOD, because **GOD IS Love.** ⁹ **By this the Love of GOD was revealed in us, that GOD has sent HIS Only SON into the World so that we may Live through HIM.** ¹⁰ In this is Love, not that we Loved GOD, but that **HE Loved us and sent HIS SON to be The Propitiation for our sins.** ¹¹ Beloved, **if GOD so Loved us, we also ought to Love one another.** ¹² No one has ever seen GOD; **if we Love one another, GOD remains in us, and HIS Love is perfected in us.** ¹³ **By this we know that we remain in HIM and HE in us, because HE has given to us of HIS SPIRIT.** ¹⁴ We have seen and testify that THE FATHER has sent THE SON to be THE SAVIOR of the World.

¹⁵ **Whoever confesses that JESUS is THE SON of GOD, GOD remains in HIM and he in GOD.** ¹⁶ **We have come to know and have believed The Love which GOD has for us. GOD is Love, and the one who remains in Love remains in GOD, and GOD remains in him.** ¹⁷ **By this, Love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in The Day of Judgement; because as HE IS, we also are in this World.** ¹⁸ **There is no fear in Love, but perfect Love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in Love.** ¹⁹ **We Love, because HE first Loved us.** ²⁰ If someone says, "I Love GOD," and yet he hates his brother or sister, he is a liar; for the one who does not Love his brother and sister whom he has seen, cannot Love GOD, whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from HIM, that **the one who Loves GOD must also Love his brother and sister.**

COURAGE & COWARDICE...

REVELATION 21:5-8

Then HE who sat on the throne said, "**Behold, I make all things new.**" And HE said to me, "**Write, for these words are True and Faithful.**" And HE said to me, "**It is done! I AM The Alpha and The Omega, The Beginning and The End. I will give of The Fountain of The Water of Life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his GOD and he shall be MY Son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers,**

sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

PROVERBS 28:1

The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the Righteous are bold as a lion.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13

Be watchful, stand firm in Faith, be courageous, be strong.

MATTHEW 10:16-20 & 26-28

“Behold, I AM sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be as wary as serpents, and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷ But be on guard against people, for they will hand you over to the courts and flog you in their synagogues; ¹⁸ and you will even be brought before governors and kings on MY Account, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given you in that hour. ²⁰ For it is not you who are speaking, but it is THE SPIRIT of your FATHER who is speaking in you.

“So do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the darkness, tell in THE LIGHT; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸ And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

For GOD has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, Love, and self-discipline.

1 JOHN 4:18

There is no fear in Love. But perfect Love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in Love.

PHILLIPIANS 4:13

I can do all things through CHRIST who strengthens me.

PHILLIPIANS 1:20

It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always CHRIST will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

GOOD WORKS...

JAMES 2:14-26

My friends, **what good is it for one of you to say that you have Faith if your actions do not prove it? Can that Faith Save you?** ¹⁵ Suppose there are Brothers or Sisters who need clothes and don't have enough to eat. ¹⁶ What good is there in your saying to them, "GOD bless you! Keep warm and eat well!"—if you don't give them the necessities of life? ¹⁷ **So it is with Faith: if it is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead.**

¹⁸ But someone will say, "One person has Faith, another has actions." My answer is, "**Show me how anyone can have Faith without actions. I will show you my Faith by my actions.**" ¹⁹ Do you believe that there is only ONE GOD? Good! The demons also believe—and tremble with fear. ²⁰ You fool! **Do you want to be shown that Faith without actions is useless?** ²¹ How was our ancestor Abraham put right with GOD? It was through his actions, when he offered his son Isaac on the altar.

²² Can't you see? **His Faith and his actions worked together; his Faith was made perfect through his actions.** ²³ And the Scripture came true that said, "Abraham believed GOD, and because of his Faith GOD accepted him as Righteous." And so Abraham was called GOD'S Friend. ²⁴ **You see, then, that it is by our actions that we are put right with GOD, and not by our Faith alone.**

²⁵ It was the same with the prostitute Rahab. She was put right with GOD through her actions, by welcoming the Israelite spies and helping them to escape by a different road. ²⁶ **So then, as the body without THE SPIRIT is dead, also Faith without actions is dead.**

EPHESIANS 2:4-10

But GOD'S Mercy is so abundant, and HIS Love for us is so great, that while we were spiritually dead in our disobedience HE brought us to Life with CHRIST. It is by GOD'S Grace that you have been Saved. In our Union with CHRIST JESUS HE raised us up with HIM to rule with HIM in the Heavenly World. He did this to demonstrate for all time to come the extraordinary greatness of HIS Grace in The Love HE showed us in CHRIST JESUS. **For it is by GOD'S Grace that you have been Saved through Faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but GOD'S Gift, so that no one can boast about it. GOD has made us what we are, and in our Union with CHRIST JESUS HE has created us for a life of good deeds, which HE has already prepared for us to do.**

JAMES 1:22-25

Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to HIS WORD; instead, put it into practice. If you listen to THE WORD, but do not put it into practice you are like people who look in a mirror and see themselves as they are. They take a good look at themselves and then go away and at once forget what they look like. **But if you look closely into The Perfect Law that sets people**

free, and keep on paying attention to it and do not simply listen and then forget it, but put it into practice—you will be blessed by GOD in what you do.

PHILLIPIANS 4:8-9

In conclusion, my friends, **fill your minds with those things that are good** and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honorable. **Put into practice what you learned and received from me, both from my words and from my actions.** And THE GOD who gives us peace will be with you.

SUBMITTING TO AUTHORITY...

The United States is unique in that its charter is one in which The People have authority over elected officials and the standing needed to remove those officials when they violate the terms of their service and/or prove to be inadequate in the carrying out of their duties—which include **upholding The Constitution, working to form a more perfect Union, establishing justice, ensuring domestic tranquility, providing for the common defense, promoting the general welfare, and securing The Blessings of liberty for The People—current and future.**

The following Scripture is often quoted to discredit rebellious actions against tyranny, but those who use this Scripture for that purpose fail to account for the terms on which The United States has been established. The ruling Authorities are allowed to rule, but The People have the power to revoke that privilege when Government officials violate their terms of service.

ROMANS 13:1-8 Good News Translation

Everyone must obey state Authorities, because no authority exists without GOD'S Permission, and the existing Authorities have been put there by GOD.² Whoever opposes the existing authority opposes what GOD has ordered; and anyone who does so will bring judgement on himself.

³For rulers are not to be feared by those who do good, but by those who do Evil. Would you like to be unafraid of those in authority? Then do what is good, and they will praise you,⁴ because they are GOD'S Servants working for your own good. But if you do Evil, then be afraid of them, because their power to punish is real. They are GOD'S Servants and carry out GOD'S Punishment on those who do Evil.

⁵For this reason you must obey the Authorities —not just because of GOD'S Punishment, but also as a matter of conscience.⁶ That is also why you pay taxes, because the Authorities are working for GOD when they fulfill their duties.⁷ Pay, then, what you owe them; pay them your personal and property taxes, and show respect and honor for them all.⁸ Be under obligation to no one— the only obligation you have is to Love one another. Whoever does this has obeyed the law.

King James Version

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of GOD: the powers that be are ordained of GOD. ² Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of GOD: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

³ For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the Evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

⁴ For he is the minister of GOD to thee for good. But if thou do that which is Evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of GOD, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth Evil.

⁵ Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. ⁶ For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are GOD'S Ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

⁷ Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. ⁸ Owe no man anything, but to Love one another: for he that Loveth another hath fulfilled The Law. KJV

New American Standard Bible

Every person is to be **subject** to the governing Authorities. For **there is no authority except from GOD**, and those which exist are established by GOD. ² Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of GOD; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. (Read Ephesians Chapter 6- "The Weapons of Spiritual Warfare")

³ For **rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior**, but for Evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; ⁴ **for it is a servant of GOD to you for good**. But if you do what is Evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a servant of GOD, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices Evil. ⁵ Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of GOD, devoting themselves to this very thing.

⁷ Pay to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; respect to whom respect; honor to whom honor. ⁸ Owe nothing to anyone except to Love one another; for the one who Loves his neighbor has fulfilled The Law.

In The United States, these verses of Scripture apply accordingly:

ROMANS 13:1-7

Everyone must obey **Constitutional Laws and the Authorities who uphold them, because no authority exists without GOD'S Permission. The existing Authorities have been put there by GOD.** (There has to be order in a Society or life will be too chaotic to flourish- the greater degree of self-control, the greater degree of liberty).

²Whoever opposes the **authority of The People** opposes what **GOD** has ordered; and anyone who does so will bring judgement on himself. ³**For The People are not to be feared by those who do what is right, but by those who do Evil.** Would you like to be unafraid of **The People**? Then do what is good, and **The People** will praise you, ⁴because **The People** are **GOD'S** Servants working for the good of all. But **if you do Evil, then be afraid of The People**, because their power to punish is real in The United States of America. **The People are GOD'S Servants and carry out GOD'S Punishment on those who do Evil.**

⁵For this reason you must obey **the Authorities (Constitutional Law and those who uphold them)**—not just because of GOD'S Punishment, but also as a matter of conscience. ⁶People pay taxes, so Government officials and others can fulfill their duties to create a flourishing society. ⁷Pay, what is owed; Do a good job and show respect and honor for THE PEOPLE. **Be free from the burden of an obligation that can be used to bribe or coerce you**- treat others the way you should and honor GOD'S STANDARD.

HEBREWS 13:17

GNT

Obey your leaders and follow their orders. They watch over your souls without resting, since they must give to GOD an account of their service. If you obey them, they will do their work gladly; if not, they will do it with sadness, and that would be of no help to you.

NASB

Obey your leaders and submit to them—for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account—so that they may do this with joy, not groaning; for this would be unhelpful for you.

NKJV

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

IN THE UNITED STATES

Government officials- carry out the will of The People and honor their wishes- they watch out for Society and will all give GOD an account for their actions. Deliver The People reasons to be joyful and not upset, because an upset population isn't good for you- or anyone.

1 PETER 2:13-17

For the sake of THE LORD submit yourselves to every Human authority: to the Emperor, who is the supreme authority, and to the governors, who have been appointed by him to punish the Evildoers and to praise those who do good. For GOD wants you to silence the ignorant talk of

foolish people by the good things you do. **Live as free people; do not, however, use your freedom to cover up any Evil, but live as GOD’S Slaves.** Respect everyone, Love other Believers, honor GOD, and respect the Emperor.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17

Now, “THE LORD” in this passage is THE SPIRIT; and where THE SPIRIT of THE LORD IS present, there is freedom. **GNT**

Now THE LORD is THE SPIRIT: and where THE SPIRIT of THE LORD IS, there is liberty. **NASB**

Now THE LORD is that SPIRIT and where THE SPIRIT of THE LORD IS, there is liberty. **KJV**

LUKE 3:10-14

The people asked him (John the Baptist), “What are we to do, then?” He answered, “Whoever has two shirts must give one to the man who has none, and whoever has food must share it.” Some tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what are we to do?” “**Don't collect more than is legal,**” he told them. Some soldiers also asked him, “What about us? What are we to do?” “He said to them, “**Don't take money from anyone by force or accuse anyone falsely. Be content with your pay.**”

PURSUE PERFECTION- AVOID APATHY & CONDEMNATION...

Words associated with the energy, essence, and meaning of ‘Perfection’ in the Vines Concise Dictionary of The Bible include: **perfect, blameless, sincere, entire, whole, complete, intact, and full.**

In context, ‘perfection’ is fulfilment gained through Right Standing with GOD and serving one’s purpose to benefit Society. **The pursuit of perfection requires effort, but individual effort alone is inadequate.** Everyone chooses the direction of their effort and will either choose THE STANDARD or divergence- perfection or perversion.

MATTHEW 5:48

You must be perfect—just as your FATHER in Heaven is perfect.

2 CORINTHIANS 13:11

Strive for perfection; listen to my appeals; agree with one another; live in peace. And the GOD of Love and peace will be with you.

ROMANS 3:19-26... BECAUSE WE CANNOT BE PERFECT ON OUR OWN

Now we know that everything in The Law applies to those who live under The Law, in order to stop all Human excuses and bring the whole World under GOD'S JUDGEMENT. ²⁰ For no one is put right in GOD'S Sight by doing what The Law requires; what The Law does is to make us know that we have sinned.

²¹ But now GOD'S Way of putting people right with HIMSELF has been revealed. It has nothing to do with Law, even though The Law of Moses and The Prophets gave their witness to it. ²² GOD puts people right through their Faith in JESUS CHRIST. GOD does this to all who believe in CHRIST, because there is no difference at all: ²³ everyone has sinned and is far away from GOD'S Saving Presence. ²⁴ But by The (free) Gift of GOD'S Grace all are put right with HIM through CHRIST JESUS, who sets them free. ²⁵⁻²⁶ GOD offered HIM, so that by HIS Blood HE should become the means by which people's sins are forgiven through their Faith In HIM. GOD did this in order to demonstrate that HE IS Righteous. In the past HE was patient and overlooked people's sins; but in the present time HE deals with their sins, in order to demonstrate his Righteousness. In this way GOD shows that HE HIMSELF is Righteous and that HE puts right everyone who believes in JESUS.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-10

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit THE KINGDOM of GOD? Do not be deceived; neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor those habitually drunk, nor verbal abusers, nor swindlers, will inherit THE KINGDOM of GOD.

ALWAYS BE READY FOR THE RETURN OF JESUS...

MATTHEW 25:1-13

“Then THE KINGDOM of Heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³ Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵ But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

⁶ “And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ ⁷ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

¹¹ “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ ¹² But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’

¹³ “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which THE SON of MAN is coming.

MATTHEW 24:36-44

“No one knows, however, when that day and hour will come—neither the angels in Heaven nor the Son; THE FATHER alone knows.”³⁷ The coming of THE SON of MAN will be like what happened in the time of Noah.³⁸ In the days before The Flood people ate and drank, men and women married, up to the very day Noah went into the boat;³⁹ yet they did not realize what was happening until The Flood came and swept them all away. That is how it will be when THE SON of MAN comes.⁴⁰ At that time two men will be working in a field: one will be taken away, the other will be left behind.⁴¹ Two women will be at a mill grinding meal: one will be taken away, the other will be left behind.⁴² Watch out, then, because **you do not know what day your LORD will come.**⁴³ If the owner of a house knew the time when the thief would come, you can be sure that he would stay awake and not let the thief break into his house.⁴⁴ **So then, you also must always be ready, because THE SON of MAN will come at an hour when you are not expecting him.**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-8

Now as to the periods and times, Brothers and Sisters, you have no need of anything to be written to you. **For you yourselves know full well that The Day of THE LORD is coming just like a thief in the night.** While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction will come upon them like labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, Brothers and Sisters, are not in darkness, so that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all Sons of Light and Sons of Day. We are not of night nor of darkness; **so then, let’s not sleep as others do, but let’s be alert and sober.** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk, get drunk at night. But since we are of the day, **let’s be sober, having put on the breastplate of Faith and Love, and as a helmet, the Hope of Salvation.**

DON’T BE TOO HARD ON YOURSELF...

AND NEVER STOP THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE IN CHRIST!

ROMANS 8:1-17

There is no condemnation now for those who live in Union with CHRIST JESUS.² For **The Law of THE SPIRIT, which brings us Life In Union with CHRIST JESUS, has set me free from The Law of sin and death.**³ What The Law could not do, because Human nature was weak, GOD did. HE condemned sin in Human nature by sending HIS Own SON, who came with a nature like our sinful nature, to do away with sin.

⁴ GOD did this so that the righteous demands of The Law might be fully satisfied in us who Live according to THE SPIRIT, and not according to Human nature.⁵ **Those who live as their Human nature tells them to, have their minds controlled by what Human nature wants.** Those who Live as THE SPIRIT tells them to, have their minds controlled by what THE SPIRIT wants.⁶ **To be controlled by Human nature results in death; to be controlled by THE SPIRIT results in Life and peace.**⁷ And so people become enemies of GOD when they are controlled by

their Human nature; for they do not obey GOD'S Law, and in fact they cannot obey it. ⁸ Those who obey their Human nature cannot please GOD.

⁹ But you do not live as your Human nature tells you to; instead, you live as THE SPIRIT tells you to—if, in fact, GOD'S SPIRIT Lives In you. Whoever does not have THE SPIRIT of CHRIST does not belong to HIM. ¹⁰ But if CHRIST lives in you, THE SPIRIT is Life for you because you have been put right with GOD, even though your bodies are going to die because of sin. ¹¹ **If THE SPIRIT of GOD, who raised JESUS from death, Lives in you, then HE who raised CHRIST from death will also give Life to your mortal bodies by The Presence of HIS SPIRIT in you.**

¹² So then, my friends, we have an obligation, but it is not to live as our Human nature wants us to. ¹³ For if you live according to your Human nature, you are going to die; but if by THE SPIRIT you put to death your sinful actions, you will Live. ¹⁴ Those who are led by GOD'S SPIRIT are GOD'S Children. ¹⁵ For THE SPIRIT that GOD has given you does not make you slaves and cause you to be afraid; instead, THE SPIRIT makes you GOD'S Children, and by THE SPIRIT'S Power we cry out to GOD, "FATHER! MY FATHER!" ¹⁶ GOD'S SPIRIT joins HIMSELF to Our spirits to declare that We are GOD'S Children. ¹⁷ Since We are HIS Children, We will possess The Blessings HE keeps for HIS People, and We will also possess with CHRIST what GOD has kept for HIM; for if We share CHRIST'S suffering, We will also share HIS Glory.

DO NOT LOVE MONEY...

1 TIMOTHY 6:3-19

³ If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, ⁴ he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a sick craving for controversial questions and disputes about words, from which come envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant friction between people of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. ⁶ But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. ⁷ For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it, either. ⁸ If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. ⁹ But **those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge people into ruin and destruction.** ¹⁰ **For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.**

¹¹ But flee from these things, you man of God, and **pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness.** ¹² **Fight the good fight of faith;** take hold of the Eternal Life to which you were called, and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ I direct you in the presence of GOD, who gives life to all things, and of CHRIST JESUS, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, ¹⁴ that you keep the commandment without fault or reproach until the appearing of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, ¹⁵ which HE

will bring about at the proper time—HE who is the blessed and only Sovereign, THE KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS, ¹⁶ who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To HIM be honor and Eternal dominion! Amen.

¹⁷ **Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to set their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on GOD, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.** ¹⁸ Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

HEBREWS 13:5-6

Keep your lives free from the Love of money, and be satisfied with what you have. For GOD has said, “I will never leave you; I will never abandon you.” Let us be bold, then, and say,

“THE LORD is my HELPER, I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?”

AIM FOR HOLINESS...

1 THESSALONIANS 4:3-6

GOD wants you to be Holy and completely free from sexual immorality. Each of you should know how to live with your wife in a Holy and honorable way, not with a lustful desire, like the heathen who do not know GOD. In this matter, then, none of you should do wrong to other Christians or take advantage of them. We have told you this before, and we strongly warned you that THE LORD will punish those who do that. **GOD did not call us to live in immorality, but in Holiness.** So then, whoever rejects This Teaching is not rejecting a Human Being, but GOD, who gives you HIS HOLY SPIRIT.

TAKE CARE OF THOSE WHO CONTEND & ENCOURAGE PROPER LIVING

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-24

We beg you, our friends, to **pay proper respect to those who work among you, who guide and instruct you in the Christian Life.** ¹³ Treat them with the greatest respect and Love because of the work they do. **Be at peace among yourselves.**

¹⁴ We urge you, our friends, to **warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, and be patient with everyone.** ¹⁵ **See that no one pays back wrong for wrong, but at all times make it your aim to do good to one another and to all people.**

¹⁶ **Be joyful always,** ¹⁷ **pray at all times,** ¹⁸ **be thankful in all circumstances.** This is what GOD wants from you in your life In Union with CHRIST JESUS.

¹⁹ **Do not restrain THE HOLY SPIRIT;** ²⁰ **do not despise inspired messages.** ²¹ **Put all things to the test: keep what is good** ²² **and avoid every kind of Evil.**

²³ May THE GOD who gives us peace make you Holy in every way and keep your whole being—spirit, soul, and body—free from every fault at the coming of Our LORD JESUS CHRIST. ²⁴ HE who Calls you will do it, because HE IS Faithful.

COMMIT TO BE WHO GOD HAS MADE WAY FOR YOU TO BE...

COLOSSIANS 3:5

You must **put to death, then, the Earthly desires at work in you, such as sexual immorality, indecency, lust, Evil passions, and greed (for greed is a form of idolatry).**

1 PETER 2:11

I appeal to you, my friends, as strangers and refugees in this World! **Do not give in to bodily passions, which are always at war against the soul.**

GALATIANS 5:19-21

What **Human nature** does **is** quite plain. It shows itself in **immoral, filthy, and indecent actions; in worship of idols and witchcraft. People become enemies and they fight; they become jealous, angry, and ambitious. They separate into parties and groups; they are envious, get drunk, have orgies, and do other things like these.** I warn you now as I have before: **those who do these things will not possess THE KINGDOM of GOD.**

BE PHYSICALLY HEALTHY & IN GOOD CONDITION...

1 CORINTHIANS 6:15-20

Do you not know that **Your Bodies Are Parts of CHRIST**? Shall I then take away The Parts of CHRIST and make them parts of a prostitute? Far from it! ¹⁶ Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For HE says, “The two shall become one flesh.” ¹⁷ **But the one who joins himself to THE LORD is ONE SPIRIT with HIM.** ¹⁸ Flee sexual immorality. Every other sin that a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that **Your Body IS a Temple of THE HOLY SPIRIT within you**, whom you have from GOD, and that You Are Not Your Own? ²⁰ For you have been bought for a price: **therefore glorify GOD In your body.**

3 JOHN 2

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and **be in health**, just as your soul prospers.

Are temples maintained and kept in a respectable condition?

JAMES 4:17

So for one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, for him it is sin.

GOSSIPING & CONTROLLING THE TONGUE...

JAMES 3:1-12

My Brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgement. ² For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. ³ Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. ⁴ Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. ⁵ Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.

See how great a forest a little fire kindles! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. ⁸ But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly Evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless Our GOD and FATHER, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of GOD. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My Brethren, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? ¹² Can a fig tree, my Brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

WE CANNOT TAME OUR TONGUE ON OUR OWN, BUT WE MUST TRY!

PROVERBS 16:28

A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.

PROVERBS 11:13

A gossip betrays confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.

EPHESIANS 4:29

Let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth, but if there is any good word for edification according to the need of the moment, say that, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

PROVERBS 15:4

The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.

GUARD YOUR HEART & MIND

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage battle according to the flesh, ⁴ for the Weapons of Our Warfare are not of the flesh, but Divinely Powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵ We are destroying arguments and all arrogance raised against the knowledge of GOD, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of CHRIST...

EPHESIANS 6:10-17

Finally, be strong in THE LORD and in The Strength of HIS Might. ¹¹ Put on The Full Armor of GOD, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the Devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the World forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the Heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore, take up The Full Armor of GOD, so that you will be able to resist on the Evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand firm therefore, having belted your waist with TRUTH, and having put on The Breastplate of Righteousness, ¹⁵ and having strapped on your feet the preparation of The Gospel of peace; ¹⁶ in addition to all, taking up The Shield of Faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the Evil one. ¹⁷ And take The Helmet of Salvation and The Sword of THE SPIRIT, which is THE WORD of GOD.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14

Be alert, stand firm in the Faith, be brave, be strong. Do all your work in Love.

MATTHEW 7:6

Do not give what is holy to dogs- they will only turn and attack you. Do not throw your pearls in front of pigs- they will only trample them underfoot.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:33

Do not be fooled. "Bad companions ruin good character."

PROVERBS 27:17

People learn from one another, just as iron sharpens iron.

PROVERBS 12:26

The Righteous person is a guide to his friend, but the path of the wicked leads them astray.

MARK 6:11

If you come to a town where people do not welcome you or will not listen to you, leave it and shake the dust off your feet. That will be a warning to them!

Guarding Your Mind in THE REAL WORLD...

Avenues of entertainment play a major role in shaping a person's perception of Reality- their influence should not be downplayed. Think about the feelings associated with music. A song can instantly bring a distant memory into conscious thought or motivate someone to push beyond their physical comfort zone during exercise. Music can move people to tears and lyrics can be recalled even when songs go unheard for years. The energy and essence of music is powerful beyond what most consciously realize and is unmatched in its ability to stimulate such significant, although sometimes subtle, psychological responses.

What a person listens to or watches will undoubtedly influence their perception of Reality and the actions which follow. If someone listens to music where the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21) are expressed favorably, they will be influenced to stay distanced from THE FOUNDATION of REALITY. On the contrary, when someone listens to Christian music, they will draw nearer to THE ENERGY & ESSENCE of GOD to experience a greater manifestation of The Fruits of THE SPIRIT (Galatians 5:22-23).

The energy and essence of music influences a psychological response which produces a physical reaction. People must be mindful of what they allow to influence their perception of Reality and how they open themselves up to be manipulated through the avenues of entertainment they choose.

It is impossible to maintain a sound perception of Reality and honor GOD when a person chooses musical expressions where GOD'S STANDARD is dishonored.

Most contemporary music either honors GOD or it does not- especially lyrical music.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Would the World be a better place if GOD'S STANDARD is accepted, honored, and promoted by the majority?

For what purpose would Authorities want The People separated from THE STANDARD?

What becomes of a Society distanced from THE STANDARD?

Where is the wisdom in distorting The People's perception of THE STANDARD?

Who can effectively dispute THE STANDARD with sound logic and reason without being an Enemy of The People?