



Anchor of the Soul
P.O. Box 401
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Free From Kings and Popes

Adapted from Danny McKibben

This fourth of July will mark the 235th anniversary of the Declaration of independence. I heard a comment one time what that day means. It is a day to celebrate being made "Free From Kings & Popes." Indeed what an apt description of why people left the old world, risking life and limb, leaving family and homeland, going to a undeveloped land for the most part. The main reason for most, was to be "Free From Kings & Popes." How many were persecuted and hindered from worshiping God as they read from the scriptures. People had such a longing for freedom to worship God and practiced what they believed to be right. How many Kings and Popes sought to force people to believe and act certain ways. I'm happy to live in a country, that allows me to practice New Testament Christianity, and not forced to be in the church of England, to be Catholic, or to be in some other denominational church. That is why most came to the new world, was to be "Free From Kings & Popes." People where longing for religious freedom, and they found it here. Later people may have sought to come for economic opportunities and reasons. The land of opportunity, but the main reason many came at first was to be "Free From Kings & Popes." What a blessing it is to live in a land of religious freedom, may we pray for the rulers, to continue to have such freedom, to be, "Free From Kings & Popes." 1 Tim.2:1-4. The desire of men is to have tyranny over others, either politically or religiously. But for me and my house, we desire that the Lord be the ruler over us, to let him have control. This fourth of July, let us remember what this day truly means in the history of our country, a day to celebrate being made "Free From Kings & Popes."

Homosexual Rights

Danny McKibben

Today we hear a lot about homosexuals demanding and asserting their rights. We want to consider the "Homosexual Bill of Rights" that are found in the word of God.

1) They have a right to hear the gospel of Christ, Mk.16:15-16, ICor.6:9-10; Luke 24:47, Mt.28:19.

2) They have right to know that their conduct is sinful before God, ICor.6:9-10; Romans 1:26-27; I Tim.1:10.

3) They have a right to know that God does not regard homosexuality and/or lesbianism as an "alternate life style". Heb.13:4; Rom.1:26-27.

4) They have a right to know that they will suffer in their own bodies & personalities the consequences of their sin, Romans 1:26-27.

5) They have a right to know that the Bible calls them "Dogs" Deut.23:17-18; Rev. 22:15.

6) They have a right to know that their companion (husband/wife) has a God ordained right to put them away because of their sin, Mt.19:9; Jude 7; Gen.19:4-5.

7) They have a right to repent and turn from their sin, Luke 24:47; Acts 2:38; I Cor.6:9-11.

8) They have a right to know that homosexuality is not a disease, nor an alternate gender of life, but a sinful way of life that can be changed by the gospel of Christ, I Cor.6:9-11.

9) They have a right to know that they were not born homosexuals, but through lust fell into this lifestyle, and changed "the natural use into that which is against nature", Rm.1:26-27.

10) They have a right to be accepted and forgiven, when they repent and enter the body of Christ, I Cor.6:9-11; II Cor.2:7-11.

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Honesty

By Byron Smith

Honesty appears to be a fading virtue among many in our society, whereas the practice of lying seems to be an epidemic. While others about you often choose dishonesty, what about yourself? Do you always speak the truth? Speaking the truth just most of the time does not make you an honest person; you have to do it all the time. So be honest with yourself, are you an honest person? Do others trust your word? Can others rely upon you when you say you will do something, to do it? Can they count on you to be somewhere you say that you will be when you say that you will be there? Can they trust that you will follow through with your promises? These are a few questions to help you determine your own level of integrity.

Lying is a choice. Nothing forces one to lie. So why is this vice so prevalent? Some lie to make themselves look good; many will embellish their accomplishments with untrue exaggerations while understating their failures with deceptive gaps in the story. Others lie to avoid responsibility and accountability; perhaps they do not want to pay the price for their mistakes so they attempt to cover them with a lie. Some lie to protect the feelings of another. Still others lie inadvertently, that is, they are irresponsible with what they say they will do and their actual determination to do it. Whatever the surface explanation may be for lying, the primary and root reason for every lie is that the guilty person does not properly value the truth and does not comprehend the consequences of lying.

Is dishonesty a serious flaw in the character of those who possess it? For sure it is! Lying does more harm than liars realize. The cost liars pay and will pay for lying is higher than they comprehend. Not only does lying frustrate the victim and ruin one's reputation at the present, lying has repercussions that reach far into the future. While some

like she lives at the dump" says the thirteen-year old girl.

It's been said that children can be cruel in their dealings with other children. I suppose this is so. Kids will tease, make fun of and generally annoy another child relentlessly. *"He is so nerdy - his dad ought to buy him a dress"* says one classmate of an exceptionally bright boy. His "nerdiness" stems from the fact he doesn't play football.

There is probably no more mean-spirited places on earth than a playground or classroom. Many children begin to withdraw into his or her tiny cocoon because of the unyielding taunts received from other children.

But, wait a minute - these children are not born with DNA that causes them to be cruel. Children are not genetically predisposed to brutal, nasty conduct. This is an acquired (might I say, learned) behavior. Cruelty, bigotry and meanness are traits that are learned by children and all too often they learn these at home.

Children should be warned against criticism, tale-bearing, and gossip. But, sadly, many children not only are **not** warned against such behavior, they hear and see mom and dad engaging in that kind of conduct. *"I can't stand to be around him"* dad says about a brother-in-Christ on the way home from worship. Children should be taught to respect age and disabilities in others, but frequently they hear parents laugh at someone's infirmity. Mom, laughing, asks: *"Whoa, did you see that clubfooted kid at the checkout?"* Or, they hear dad vilifying the "older driver" for going to slow. *"They should not let old buzzards like that have a license."*

Parents are told to bring children up **"in the training and admonition of the Lord"** (Eph 6:4). This would include raising them to be kind; raising them to speak well of all people and never saying anything about another person unless it is something good.

As I See It, not only do children learn what they live, but what they say and do in public are often reflections of what they have heard and seen at home.

What Kind of Town Is This?

JR Bronger

During Pioneer days in America an old man was sitting on the porch of his house on the outskirts of town. One day a family in a covered wagon drove up. *“Mornin’ neighbor”* the driver said to the old man. *“We are heading west and are looking for a town to settle in. What kind of town is this?”* *“What kind of town did you leave?”* asked the old man on the porch. The driver said: *“It was an awful town, filled with gossips and cranks. The people were narrow-minded and snooty – we couldn’t stand them.”* The old man rubbed his head and said: *“We have folks like that here, you may as well move on.”*

A week or so later the old man was on the porch again when another covered wagon drove up. *“Mornin’ neighbor”* the driver said. *“We’re heading west and looking for a town to settle in. What kind of town is this?”* The old man answered: *“What kind of town did you leave?”* The driver said: *“Oh, we left a wonderful town; the people were so kind and helpful. They were so friendly, we just hated to leave them, but we had to move.”* The old man rubbed his head and said: *“We have folks like that here, you may as well settle in.”*

Sound familiar? This is the way many look at local churches. Some can only see the bad while others can’t see anything but good. Usually what we see in others is what we have in ourselves in abundance; **“But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection,”** (Col 3:14).

Observations of Children

JR Bronger

“Oh, he is so yucky. I could never be his friend” said the ten-year-old. *“She’s poor, have you seen her house? It’s*

without hesitation speak what they know to be untrue and others chuckle at the mention of a lie they told when it is found out, the fact is, lying is a great evil! Though men wish to distinguish between an alleged “white” and a “black” lie, or a “big” and a “little” lie, the truth is every lie is a brazen lie and is a sin against God. Furthermore, one does not have to be a chronic liar to be condemned for the sin.

God’s view of lying indicates the seriousness of the sin. His extreme dislike for lying is expressly stated. “These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him...” And among the seven are listed “a lying tongue” and “a false witness who speaks lies” (Prov. 6:16-19; cf. Prov. 12:22). How could it be stated any clearer? Lying is an abhorrence to our holy God “who cannot lie” (Tit. 1:2). As God detests lying so should we (Ps. 119:29, 162). God has always required honesty of His people (Ex. 23:1; Lev. 19:11; Col. 3:9) and condemned lying (Hos. 4:1-2; Nah. 3:1). People who lie are not people of God (cf. Isa. 63:8; Zeph. 3:13; Jn. 8:44).

There is, however, a solution to the problem of lying. It the same solution to every other sin one may be involved in—repentance! God demands change! “Therefore, putting away lying, each one speak truth with his neighbor...” (Eph. 4:25). Resolve to say what you mean and mean what you say. Honesty takes effort, therefore one need to regard their words of promise as commitments and always follow through with them. If you say you will do something, than do it! If you say you will be somewhere, than be there! If you tell your employer that you are sick, than have a fever! You get the point, be honest in every word that you speak. As a closing word of truth, may all be reminded, that “all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone which is the second death” (Rev. 21:8; cf. Rev. 22:15). Honesty is the best policy!

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The Truth Will Set You Free

Danny McKibben

Let us begin our study today by looking at Jesus' statement in John 8:31-32, "*Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" A disciple is a learner, pupil, student of the master or teacher, with a view to following the teaching the disciple receives. A true disciple of Jesus Christ will learn and follow his word, or as Jesus goes on to say the truth. God's word is the truth we must follow, John 17:17, "*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*" Notice that Jesus says that the **truth** shall make you free. He did not say that error shall make us free. He did not say that false doctrine shall make us free. He did not say that ignorance shall make us free. He did not say that the commandments of men shall make us free. He did not say that the decrees of the Pope shall make us free. He did not say that human creed books shall make us free. He did not say that human wisdom shall set us free. He did not say that denominational church manuals shall set us free. No, he said that the **truth** shall make us free! Yes, the truth is what I should love, desire, seek, and pursue after. I am fearful that far too many in our world are satisfied with less than the truth. John records for us in chapter 1, verse 17, "*For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*" Jesus and his word is the truth that we need to be set free from sin. Any thing less than the truth will not set us free from sin. That is why we need to study God's word honestly and carefully, 2 Timothy 2:15 "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" Are you seeking the truth?

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10 Worship With Us! 11 AM & 6:30 PM	11 Dan. 3-5 Rev. 1	12 Dan. 6-8 Rev. 2	13 Study With Us! 7 PM	14 Dan. 9-11 Rev. 3	15 Dan. 12-Hos. 5 Rev. 4-5	16 Hos. 6-11 Rev. 6-7
17 Worship With Us! 11 AM & 6:30 PM	18 Hos. 12-Joel 2 Rev. 8-9	19 Joel 3—Amos 4 Rev. 10-11	20 Study With Us! 7 PM	21 Amos 5-9 Rev. 12	22 Obad. 1—Mic. 1 Rev. 13	23 Mic. 2-7 Rev. 14-15
24 / 31 Worship With Us! 11 AM & 6:30 PM	25 Nah. 1—Hab. 2 Rev. 16	26 Hab. 3-Hag. 1 Rev. 17-18	27 Study With Us! 7 PM	28 Hag. 2—Zech. 5 Rev. 19	29 Zech. 6-11 Rev. 20-21	30 Zech. 12-Mal. 4 Rev. 22