



F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ DECEMBER 2018 ❖

PASSION

A powerful emotion, such as love, joy, hatred, or anger; Boundless enthusiasm;
An abandoned display of emotion, especially of anger.

– American Heritage Dictionary

Passion in and of itself is neutral. It can be helpful or it can be harmful. Love and joy certainly are beneficial. Hatred and anger cause much harm. The powerful emotion of passion among Christians can be constructive or destructive.

CONSTRUCTIVE

Passionate about spreading the Good News to a lost and dying world.

Passionate about protecting the church from false teachers.

Passionate about living as a Christian in a hostile world.

Passionate about maintaining brotherly love.

DESTRUCTIVE

Passionate about traditions to the point of tearing up congregations.

Passionate about personal feelings and desires to the point of being overbearing.

Passionate about changing to keep up with the times to the point of dismissing Bible teachings.

Be passionate—but make sure it is constructive, not destructive.

JESUS' PASSION

Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:36

When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.

Matthew 14:14

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.”

Matthew 23:37

And He [Jesus] made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; and to those who were selling the doves He said, “Take these things away; stop making My Father’s house a place of business.” His disciples remembered that it was written, “ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME.”

John 2:15-17

❖ ***Let’s be passionate in serving Him!*** ❖

WITHOUT NEGLECTING

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.”

Matthew 23:23

The scribes and Pharisees were very attentive to their religious obligations. Their attention to minute details in interpreting the Law. Their long prayers in public. Their religious attire. Their exactness in tithing. This gave the appearance that they were the most faithful. Their objective was to “be seen of men.” Outwardly they appeared righteous, but inwardly they were “full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

They neglected justice, mercy, and faithfulness. **Justice:** They treated others unfairly. **Mercy:** They devoured widow’s houses. **Faithfulness:** They made vows that were deemed invalid on a technically.

‘APPEAR RIGHTEOUS’ — ‘FULL OF HYPOCRISY AND LAWLESSNESS.’

“For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence ... you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness ... you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

Matthew 23:25-28

To be called a hypocrite is hard to hear, especially if it’s true. Outward appearance is worn as a cloak to hide one’s true self. Having it removed and being exposed for others to see one’s true character is often met with denial and resistance.

WHAT’S IMPORTANT

Worshiping the living God is important. Living godly is also important. **One is not saved by religious activities alone.** Being careful to attend all religious activities (assembling, praying, singing, contributing) is good, but not enough. **Neither is one saved by goodness alone.** Being thoughtful and kind to others, helping the needy, being a good neighbor, etc., is good, but not enough. A disciple of Jesus who has been washed clean of sin is to worship God **and** to live godly—walking in newness of life.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10

The words Jesus spoke echo the words of the prophet Micah:

*With what shall I come to the LORD and bow myself before the God on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, With yearling calves? Does the LORD take delight in thousands of rams, In ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I present my firstborn for my rebellious acts, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has told you, O man, what is good; **And what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?***

Micah 6:6-8

Famous Hymns



Tell Me the Story of Jesus

[His Birth]

Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word.
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.
Tell how the angels in chorus,
Sang as they welcomed His birth.
"Glory to God in the highest!
Peace and good tidings to earth."

[His Life]

Fasting alone in the desert,
Tell of the days that are past.
How for our sins He was tempted,
Yet was triumphant at last.
Tell of the years of His labor,
Tell of the sorrow He bore.
He was despised and afflicted,
Homeless, rejected, and poor.

[His Death, Burial and Resurrection]

Tell of the cross where they nailed Him,
Writhing in anguish and pain.
Tell of the grave where they laid Him,
Tell how He liveth again.
Love in that story so tender,
Clearer than ever I see.
Stay, let me weep while you whisper,
Love paid the ransom for me.

Chorus

Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word.
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.

- Fanny Crosby

This hymn covers the **whole** story of Jesus.

Listen to His Story!

BEEN THERE — DONE THAT
*Learning from the mistakes
and successes of others.*

And there arose also a dispute among them [the Apostles] as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest. And He [Jesus] said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.' But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant."

Luke 22:24-26

SERVANTS ALL

In the church of Jesus Christ there is not to be competition among disciples. Seeking to be the greatest is wrong and harmful. There is no place for members striving to be preeminent. Elders, deacons, evangelists, preachers, teachers, are all servants. Jesus effectually turned the power pyramid upside down.

Those in positions of leadership need most of all to possess the quality of humility. As our Master humbled Himself to become the servant of all mankind.

GREATNESS

Strive to be a great servant! Great in faithfulness. Great in knowledge of His Word. Great in doing acts of kindness. Great in loving.

Be more like our Master, Jesus our Lord.

In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.

1 Timothy 4:6

**Be great in the kingdom by
being a humble servant!**



Ponder This

Puppies, Kittens, and Babies

Everyone loves puppies, kittens, and babies. But they grow into dogs, cats, and adults. And as such often they are hard to love. This time of year the events surrounding the baby Jesus is on the minds of many. But the baby Jesus grew up a long time ago.

Jesus the Man

He came to His own people and they rejected Him. In His home town they sought to throw him over a cliff. Religious leaders sought to trap Him in His words; failing that they sought to kill Him. His teachings were considered hard, and many followers left.

Some of His teachings that were considered hard are: You will die in sins unless you believe that He is God. One must come to the Father through Him. To be His disciple, one must take up his cross and follow Him.

Today Jesus Is Adored and Ignored

Some relish the fact that He came
but ignore reason He came.

Some adore the baby Jesus (Christ-child)
but not the man (Christ-lord).

Some enjoy visions of baby in manger,
but not a king in heaven.

Some take part in the activities of Christmas,
but not the actions of a Christian.

Some clamor for the spirit of Christmas,
but not the spirit of Christ.

Some pay lip service to Him,
but reject His commandments.



Safe to Proceed?

It's best not to test the waters. Yes, it may look shallow enough to drive through, but is it? Once you proceed you will have to live with the results.

On Life's Road it's best not to test the "waters" to find out if it is safe. Why risk endangering yourself? Choose to heed the warnings of conscience, warnings of others, warnings found in God's word.

"Fools rush in where angels fear to tread."

This line was first written by Alexander Pope in his 1711 poem AN ESSAY ON CRITICISM. The phrase alludes to inexperienced or rash people attempting things that more experienced people avoid.

– Wikipedia

DON'T GO THERE!

Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not proceed in the way of evil men. Avoid it, do not pass by it; turn away from it and pass on.

Proverbs 4:14-15

My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent...do not walk in the way with them. Keep your feet from their path, for their feet run to evil and they hasten to shed blood.

Proverbs 1:10, 15-16

A man who wanders from the way of understanding will rest in the assembly of the dead.

Proverbs 21:1

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