



# F. Y. C.

**For Your Consideration**

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## Thanksgiving

### **Proclamation by Congress**

Congress set November 28, 1782, as a day of thanksgiving on which Americans were “to testify their gratitude to God for his goodness, by a cheerful obedience to his laws, and by promoting, each in his station, and by his influence, the practice of true and undefiled religion, which is the great foundation of public prosperity and national happiness.”

### **Proclamation by God**

*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.*

Colossians 3:15-17



## TAKING A FIRM STAND

*But Peter and the apostles answered and said, “We must obey God rather than men.”*

Acts 5:29

Standing firm for what is right in the face of opposition will probably result in persecution.

However, when it is endured faithfully it also produces:

**intensified confidence**  
**strengthened faith**  
**satisfaction in the soul**  
**indefatigable spirit**  
**joyful countenance**  
**peace within**  
**peace with God**

*Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.*

1 Corinthians 16:13

*Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

James 1:2-4

## **Three Subjective Thoughts**

Our thought processes can be a boon or a bane: objective thinking is beneficial while subjective thinking can be devastating. When one uses facts to form the basis of his views, he is right on target; but when his emotions are used as the basis, he cannot be relied upon. Our nation's culture is full of subjective thinking, especially when it comes to being politically correct. This current trend has had a great impact on society and many churches. Here are three examples of subjective thinking that are devastating.

### **RIGHTS ARE INHERENT**

“ I have the right!” This thinking fails to realize that rights are not inherent.

Rights are granted by a higher power.

God gives us the right (power) to live, to perform, and to be: that's all!

We didn't control our entrance onto life's stage, nor do we control our exit. 1Ti.6:7, Psa.90:12  
Those in positions of authority grant us rights (or deny rights) to the extent they have the power.

Civil government doesn't have the authority to confer rights God has preempted.

**Churches and religions don't have the power to decide who has the right to the “tree of life.” Only God does.**

### **PUNISHMENT DOESN'T DETER IMPROPER ACTIONS**

Society frowns on punishment. By giving more rights, it is thought that the ills of society can be cured. Thus there is little stigma, let alone punishment, attached to divorce, immorality, sensuality.

God says punishment does serve a useful purpose. Gen.9:6

Instances of Nadab and Abihu and that of Ananias and Sapphira produced “great fear.”

Lev.10:3, Act.5:11

**What makes this thought so dangerous is some professed Christians accept this subjective thinking.**

### **HAPPINESS IS FOUND IN HAVING, DOING**

“If I only had, could do, could be– then I would be happy.”

To be rich and famous is viewed as the epitome of happiness.

Those “content with what they have” are viewed as ignorant. But note Luk.12:15

Some even dare to lay claim to the “right” to be happy.

**Christians must not fall prey to such nonsense.** 1Ti.6:9-10

### **CONCLUSION**

We must not succumb to such foolishness. Eph.5:7-12; Heb.10:26-31

We must not let this subjective thinking discourage us or dissuade us from shouting from the housetops the wonderful Good News, that is good for life here and now, and for eternity.



# Stop Signs Don't Stop Cars!

Of course they don't. Stop signs only indicate where and when a driver is to stop the vehicle. We all have seen vehicles proceed past a stop sign without stopping, while other vehicles stopped. It's the driver who makes the vehicle stop!

**So what's the point?** What is so patently obvious in driving is completely ignored in other areas, especially concerning morals.

Often it is said, "You can't legislate morality. Laws that attempt to regulate morality are an effort in futility. Such laws have never stopped people from doing what they want."

In one sense this statement is true. No matter what laws a society makes concerning morality, some people will not comply. But the argument misses the point entirely. Such reasoning, when put in another context, is ridiculous. "Since laws against murder haven't stop murders, it's foolish to legislate against it." Or, "Since many people steal and rob, it's futile to make laws against such activities."

**Laws, made by God or man, never will stop people from doing what they want.** Laws and rules only spell out what is acceptable behavior and what is not acceptable. Each individual makes up his or her own mind to obey or disobey. Laws outlawing violent behavior against other human beings have not stopped, and never will stop violent behavior. Severe punishment and fines will never stop crime. Stop signs will never stop cars.

Crime will cease when individuals fear punishment to such an extent that they decide against being a violator, or in good conscience, decide to be obedient. The determining force in all actions is the person inside: "me, I." "I" am the one who stops the vehicle; it is "I" who stops violating laws. "I" am the one who determines if I am going to be morally good or immoral.

**It is clear that laws made to govern morality do not stop immorality.** They only

indicate what is considered moral and what is immoral. Laws concerning morality (as found in the Bible) list what is condemned: *But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous man, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.* (1 Timothy 1:8-11) These laws declared such behavior is immoral!

**Mark it down!** Those who say, "You can't legislate morality," don't want their actions condemned by any standard. The "Me" generation has given birth to individuals who know they are immoral, but don't want to feel guilty about it. They want society to condone their conduct. They want laws that approve their lifestyles. They want God out of their lives.

Laws that make immorality acceptable are nothing more than "painkillers" which produce a false sense of well-being. Making violent crimes acceptable may relieve the aggressor of any guilt; removing stop signs will keep people from running through them; making immorality acceptable in our society may cause one to feel good about himself. But such conduct will never be right. The problem remains. The facts haven't been changed. The consequences must be accepted. Condemnation by God remains.

**How foolish it is to call bad "good."** The Scriptures speak of such foolishness: *"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; who substitute bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And clever in their own sight!"*



## Ponder This

“Have a good day” is often expressed as one departs.

### Here’s How to Have a Better Day

Sometimes it is the things that we **don’t do** that make a better day:

- not procrastinating
- not becoming impatient
- not being possessive
- not being anxious to impress others
- not cherishing an inflated opinion of yourself
- not taking advantage of others
- not keeping a record of hurts done to you
- not brooding over yesterday’s events
- not worrying about tomorrow.

**By not doing these things, you will have a better day!**

*Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

## Avoiding Temptation

“You don’t go to a restaurant to smell the food!”

“Temptation often comes in through a door that has been deliberately left open.”

“Temptation is not a sin, it’s an invitation to sin. Don’t accept the invitation.”

Temptations from without have no drawing power unless there is a desire within.

### **FLEE**

**(To run away from trouble or danger.)**

When temptations arise it’s time to remove yourself from the situation as soon as possible.

***Flee immorality.*** *Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.*

1 Corinthians 6:18

*Now **flee from youthful lusts** and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*

2 Timothy 2:22

*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. But **flee from these things**, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.*

1 Timothy 6:10-11

*Therefore, my beloved, **flee from idolatry.***

1 Corinthians 10:14

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Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

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