

WHAT THEN ?

David Sain

On graduation night, a father asked, "Son, what are your plans?"

The boy answered, "Dad, you know I'm going to college."

The dad said, "That's right, but **what then?**"

The boy replied, "Well, I'll want to get a good job, and hopefully get married."

The dad said, "That is also fine, but **what then?**"

The boy answered, "I want to have some kids. Then, after I put the required years on the job, I'll retire."

The father replied, "That's good, but **what then?**"

And the boy said, "Well...uh...I don't know...I guess I'll get old and die."

The dad said, "That's right, **what then?**"

And the boy dropped his head as he realized he had plans for life on earth, but no plans for life beyond this world.

The Bible teaches that it is appointed unto man once to die, and after this the judgement (Hebrews 9:27). **What then?**

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PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE

Jim E. Waldron

The apostle Peter said, "beloved I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul" (I Pet. 2:11). The attitude of parents and educators who encourage young people in the annual prom is that warm bodied high school juniors and seniors **should not** abstain from fleshly lusts but **should** wrap themselves in them.

The Lord Jesus said, "whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matt. 5:28). How can a young, hot blooded American male help lusting in that manner when he wraps his arms around a firm young female body and sways, bumps or grinds with her on the dance floor? Let me admonish you as a parent, guardian or educator to provide an alternative to your young people for the annual prom. Take them on a trip, give them a banquet or other wholesome outlet to their desire to be with other young people.

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"AND SHALL BE JOINED"

Don A. Iverson

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife," Eph. 5:31.

Marriage is the most sacred of all earthly relationships. It is a union made by God, at the request of the bride and groom. The arrangement only has a place for two parties. The parents of the wedded couple should not involve themselves in their offspring's own personal affairs. The husband is to leave his parents and cleave to his wife (Gen.2:24). Likewise the wife is to cleave to her husband. They rely on one another. Their primary support comes from their spouse, not from outside friends. If at all possible their problems should be worked out among themselves, and not among relatives.

The term "*joined*" as used in Acts 5:13; 8:29; 9:26 and other verses, means "to glue or cement together, to unite, to join firmly" (*Vine's Expository Dictionary of NT Words p. 606*). The term used in Ephesians 5:31, as well as the term translated "*cleave*" in Genesis 2:24, has an added emphasis. A prefix is added to the Greek word, which describes an even stronger bond. The husband and wife are not only united, but the prefix makes the joining that of a strengthened form, a form stronger than any other earthly relationship.

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THE DANGER OF LIBERALISM

There is a rising tide of liberalism in the church today. Some liberals are very open about their modernistic beliefs and practices and are avowedly intent on “restructuring” the church. Others are modernistic in their tendencies and sympathies simply because they have let themselves be ruled by subjectivism (which is the spirit of our time) without having thought critically about the issues involved. In this latter category are to be found a great many young people who are highly susceptible to emotionalism...

One of the great dangers of liberalism is its inherent dishonesty! False teachers in generations past would exclude themselves from the fellowship of the faithful people of God and seek to destroy the truth by a frontal assault. But not so with the liberals. They go about their insidious work of destruction from within. They use pulpits, magazines, lectureships, and publishing houses to win people to themselves and their false doctrines.

One of the great dangers of liberalism is its inherent dishonesty!

It is time that Christians generally know what is going on in the church. It is time for the marks of apostasy to be pointed out so that false brethren can be recognized and dealt with according to Scripture.

Rubel Shelly, GOSPEL ADVOCATE, 7/13/72

TEST THE SPIRITS

Jim E. Waldron

BULLETIN BRIEFS

This is a monthly publication by the Dunlap church of Christ. It is sent freely to churches and individuals all over the country. We want to thank those who have used our articles in their bulletins or other publications. We also would like to thank all those who have written to encourage this work.

Others have written against what we are doing and some have asked to be dropped from our mailing list. Yet, I think you will be pleased to know that of all the churches that receive it only 1.3% have rejected it. December 1999 ended our second year. Write to us if you would like to have a copy of all 24 issues.

It is quite apparent that Peter’s prophecy: “but as there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies...” (2 Pet. 2:1) has come to pass in our times. Reports from Alabama, Tennessee, Texas and other places far and wide tell of bold and often not so secret efforts to restructure the churches of Christ into the image of a protestant evangelical community church.

Some brothers are quite willing to adulterate the gospel (See Gal. 1:6-9) by combining instruments of music with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (See Eph. 5:19), Friday (or other) night communion, denominational baptism, the addition of women elders, corrupt doctrines on marriage, divorce and remarriage and other doctrines and practices that are contrary to “the pattern of sound words” (2 Tim. 1:13).

In the face of such an assault on the simplicity and purity of worship and doctrine how are sound congregations to react? In warning saints of the first century against those who were anti-Christ and His doctrine John wrote “beloved, do not believe every spirit (individual), but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (I John 4:1). Local churches in light of this command with or without elders must not fail to test those who desire to fill their pulpits whether fulltime or in a meeting or lecture series.

The Dunlap church in co-operation with many other churches works with eleven schools of preaching in three different countries. In most of these, sound native brethren serve as instructors, but in some cases as in Ukraine or Nepal we must have American preachers go for a month or two to fill the role as instructors. Since the Holy Spirit has said “test the spirits” we have a questionnaire that we send prospective teachers who wish to help us. If you would like to see a copy of this questionnaire please write to our elders at P.O. Box 123, Dunlap, TN 37327

1 Peter 4:3 “For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles – when we walked in licentiousness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.” (NKJ)

CORRUPTING YOUTH MINISTERS

Many of the current efforts by change agents to capture the young people in the church are rooted in the teaching given young preachers in the last two decades of the Twentieth Century. A concrete example of this was the speech given by Jeff Walling at the Campus Ministers Seminar in Memphis, TN in 1995.

This speech has been reviewed in several gospel papers. One of the most comprehensive of these is by Don Blackwell of the Broad St. church in Statesville, NC. In that critique brother Blackwell points out the gross errors and common vulgarity used by Walling as he exhorted the youth ministers to carry on their work with teenagers and young adults. You may get a copy of the review from *Seek The Old Paths*, Editor Garland Robinson, 1801 Cruise St. Corinth, MS 38834-4108. Please send them a \$2 check or money order to cover the cost.

In his review Blackwell says “the bad thing about an article of this type is that you cannot hear the laughter in the auditorium and the silly voices that Walling uses during his presentation.” Nor might I add can you realize the man’s emphasis on a particular word to produce a rude thought. In fact, to get the full impact of Jeff’s assault on the faith once for all delivered to the saints you need a copy of the tape and the manuscript. If you desire a copy of each, send \$3 by check or money order to cover costs to Randall Standefer, P.O. Box 123, Dunlap, TN 37327.

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