



Heirs Together of the Grace of Life Dwight Fuqua

Our marriages are under fire. The pressures of modern society are bombarding our homes. Established moral landmarks are being moved.

The national divorce rate has reached epidemic proportions. Even Christian homes are feeling the strain and some are breaking up. It has touched all of our lives.

Christian couples should have everything going for them. Bible study, prayer, and religious discussions in our homes should be a daily boost to our spirituality. Involvement in the work of the church should give us mutual purpose. Public worship should instruct in and strengthen our commitment to Divine values. Our relationship with God should solidify our relationship with each other.

Our homes should not only be a haven from the storm, but a spiritual launching pad. In their most intimate of relationships, husband and wife can help each other serve the Lord. Adam needed a *"helper comparable to him"* (Genesis 2:18). When God created Eve, He did so with the intent that they help each other in every area of life – especially the spiritual.

The same is true in your marriage. Christian couples should be *"heirs together of the grace of life"* (1 Peter 3:7). This objective requires more than just living together. It requires love, honor, submission, understanding, forgiveness, and hard work. Your marriage is a covenant between the two of you, and the very foundation of your relationship is commitment – your commitment to God and to each other.

Your love for each other is to be like Christ's love for the church (Ephesians 5:22-23). It is to be sacrificial and enduring. Keep your love flowing. Look for (make) opportunities to show your love. Do not allow daily distractions to keep you from expressing your love. Never stop loving and growing and serving together. After all, you are *"Heirs together of the grace of life."*

We are a congregation of the Lord's people looking for you. We desire to love our community and neighbors as our Lord has taught us to do. Please allow us to be an encouragement to you as you are an encouragement to us by visiting with us today.

If you have any questions about anything you see or hear today, please stop someone and ask questions. We are seeking to be New Testament Christians, and as such we desire to share what we have been given. We want to be ready to give you an answer for what we do and say (1 Peter 3:15)

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Thank you for being our Guest today!

No Man Need Be Poor

Cleon Lyles

“No man is poor who has a sterling character and a heart of gold.”

We can all have sterling character and a heart of gold. But they do not come without effort. Neither God nor man can give us a good character or heart of gold unless we are willing to receive them. If we are willing, they are within our grasp.

Have you ever thought about the fact that most of our worries come about as a result of developing the wrong kind of character or the wrong kind of heart? If we could get rid of the worries that come to us as a result of wrong doing we would have our worry problem just about solved. In this way our character would be above reproach. But since it all begins in the heart, perhaps we should find some things the Bible says about it.

We might begin with Psalm 119:1, “They word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” God’s word does not dwell in the heart of the person who insists on sinning. It is not necessary to tell you why the word of God is not in the hearts of many of His people. They have not placed it there. God is not going to put His word into our hearts without any effort on our part. We need to study the word of God and meditate on it that it might dwell in our hearts.

“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life” (Prov. 4:23). We might add to this a statement of Jesus: “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God” (Matt. 5:8). Here is the place where all thoughts originate. From the heart will come all expression, good or bad. This expression may come in the form of words or actions, but they have their beginning in the heart. No wonder he said that out of the heart come the issues of life. Along with these two verses another statement of Jesus should be considered: “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh” (Matt. 12:34). Impure words do not come from a pure heart. The person whose heart is right does not think about unholy things and neither does he think evil thoughts about his fellow man. When you hear a person utter unkind words about another you can be sure that he is corrupt in heart. Pure hearts do not go around imagining ungodly things about others, or giving expression to them. In order to keep our hearts pure in such matters we need to follow the advice of the apostle Paul: “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your heart and minds through Jesus Christ. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Phil. 4:7-8).

The same thought is expressed in a negative way by James: “But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish” (Jas. 3: 14-15). Surely there is no man in all the world as poor as the person whose heart is not right.

But our statement in the beginning said no man was poor who has a sterling character and a heart of gold. Can you think of one richer than a person who possesses these two virtues? That man need not worry about what he has said about another, or done to another, for he has said nothing, nor done anything that is not right. His conscience will not bother him because he has cheated someone, for he has treated his fellow man right in all his dealings. The difficulties that come from a frustrated life he never knows, for the peace of God guards his heart.

Is it not a pity that so many riches are within the reach of all of us, yet so few of us possess them?

Only God is in the position to look down on anyone.

Cents or Sense?

Paul Clements

Did you know you can hold a coin so close to your eye that you can't see anything but the coin? However if you move the coin away from your eye, it becomes much "smaller" and the world around it becomes "larger". It is all a matter of perspective, and *you* determine that perspective.

It is also noteworthy that sometimes things become much too important to us, and we pass on that perspective to those around us (e.g., our children). We even let things come between God and us. Not good! In regard to proper perspective, money and possessions do not need to have first place in our lives. One writer said, "Getting all we can and canning all we get," can become an obsession. Nobody should be rebuked for being industrious and hardworking, but when the making and collecting of money and possessions becomes an ends in itself, rather than a means to serve God and provide for our family, then we are holding the coin too close to our eye. It restricts our vision, our perspective.

The Bible says, "*The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith...*" (I Timothy 6:10). Notice the passage does not say "Money is the root of all kinds of evil," but rather *the love of money* is the problem. One does not have to have a lot of money to love it. Could this qualify as covetousness? Covetousness is the inordinate desire to have something. So yes, the love of money could fall into the category of covetousness. To covet is a sin (Colossians 3:5). Have you ever heard of anyone confessing to be guilty of the sin of covetousness? Rarely, if ever have I heard such. I guess none of us have a problem with this sin.

Yet, we hear children of God who think money, talk money, and live money. We see members of the church who forsake their spiritual responsibilities, forsake the assembly, neglect their families, or destroy their health for money. Yet, nobody has a problem with covetousness, right?

This out to make us think, huh? Remember, "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*" (Matthew 6:21). Take care to beware.

This Week's Q&A

Q: Who is the only person referred to in the Bible as being put into a coffin after his death?

A: Hebron, in Genesis 13:18; 23:1-20, (especially 23:17-20).

Context: Abraham personally owned just this tiny speck of land, the field of Machpelah at Hebron, on which was a cave that became the burial site for his beloved Sarah. However, his descendants, as promised by God in Genesis 15:18-21, would own land from "the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaims, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

To know the strength of the anchor, you need to feel the storm.

Worry? Why Worry?

“Worry? Why worry? What can worry do?

It never keeps a trouble from overtaking you.

It gives you indigestion, and wakeful hours at night,

And fills with gloom the days and weeks,

However fair and bright.

It puts a frown upon the face, and sharpness in tone;

We're unfit to live with others, and unfit to live alone.

Worry? Why Worry? What can worry do?

It never keeps a trouble from overtaking you.

Pray? Why Pray? What can praying do?

Prayer really changes things; arranges life anew.

It's good for your digestion, gives peaceful sleep at night,

And fills the grayest days with rays of glowing light.

It puts a smile upon your face, a love note in your tone.

It makes you fit to live with others, and fit to live alone.

Pray? Why Pray? What can praying do?

It brings God down from heaven to live and work in you.”

Worry is like a darkroom – it develops negatives.

Second Street
Church of Christ

P.O. Box 126
260 Second Street
Belmont, MS 38827
662-454-9429 building

Mail me to
someone
who might
read me!