

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2026.01.18

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Jamie Rinehart

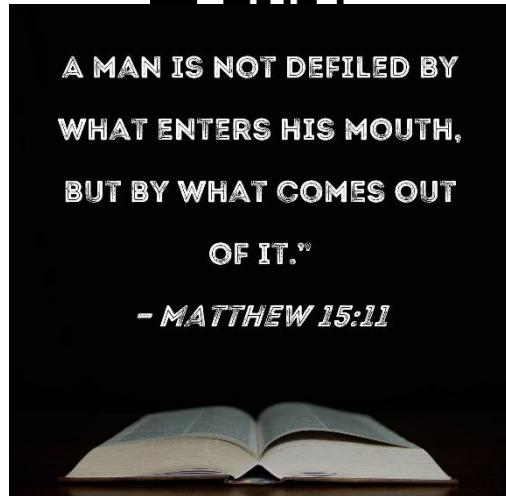
Title: What Defiles A Man?

Recording:



A MAN IS NOT DEFILED BY
WHAT ENTERS HIS MOUTH,
BUT BY WHAT COMES OUT
OF IT."

- MATTHEW 15:11



Speaker-PM: Kraig Benney

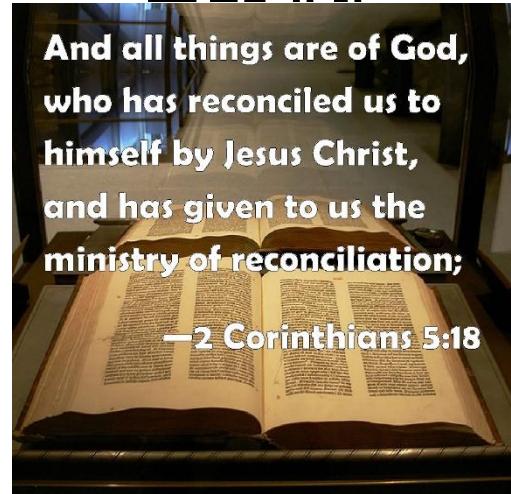
Title: Reconciliation

Recording:



And all things are of God,
who has reconciled us to
himself by Jesus Christ,
and has given to us the
ministry of reconciliation;

—2 Corinthians 5:18



Articles

Be Sober, 1/15/2026 by Terry Wane Benton

Deuteronomy 29:19 says the drunkard cannot be included with the sober. Christians are commanded to "watch and be sober" (I Thessalonians 5:6), and "let us who are of the day be sober" (I Thessalonians 5:8). Instead of relaxing our minds with a little alcoholic beverage or a little weed, we are commanded instead to "gird up the loins of your mind, be sober..." (I Peter 1:13), and "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8).

Romans 13:13-14 says to "walk properly" and lists revelry and drunkenness as ways to walk improperly. He adds, "make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." I can make sure I am sober, alert, and my mind is girded up and watchful by abstaining totally from drinking alcohol. One drink is all it takes to "make provision" for the flesh. One drink and we relax our guard. One drink and alcohol is working on the brain, and clouds the judgment and the guarded stance. This is why men and women go to bars. One drink and the inhibitions are loosened a bit. A sober person is careful and watchful, concerned about protecting his/her morals and character. One drink and those concerns don't seem all that important. Now the guard is down, and the devil sees his opportunity to cash in. To purposely let down your guard enough to let the alcohol in to do its intended work is not good thinking.

Trying to fit in the bar scene because our "friends" do it is not good sober thinking (Corinthians 15:33). They are not sober-minded and are not concerned about morals. Why would you "make provision" for the flesh by trying to fit in such a crowd? Christians have fun in other ways while staying sober at all times. One drink affects the level of sobriety and lets the guard down. We all need the guard up at all times. "Be sober" is not a suggestion. It is a command.

Borderline Christians 1/16/2026 by B. C. Goodpasture

There is a story of a county Superintendent of Education who received three applications for one vacancy among the school bus drivers. He devised this scheme for selecting the proper man.

The superintendent took the first applicant to a sharp curve on a steep grade along the road and asked, "How close can you drive the bus to the edge of the road on the curve without going over the cliff with the children?" The interested driver looked and replied, "I believe I can go within two inches and still be safe." The second person who had applied for the job heard the same proposition. He checked the curve and told the county official, "I believe I can drive within an inch of the edge and not go over the precipice".

When the superintendent took the third driver to the same highway scene and made a similar proposition to him, the applicant immediately asked, "Do you think I'm crazy? I'm not interested in seeing how close I can get to the edge with the bus. I'll be trying to see how far I can keep away from the danger line with the bus." He received the job.

There is a borderline between the church and the world for the Christian. The church means "the called out from the kingdom of sin." John said, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (I John 2:15).

One who seeks to stay as close as possible to the world of sin while still following Christ has the wrong attitude. An individual, as a driver, should stay just as far away from the danger zone as possible. Paul wrote, "Abhor that which cleave to that which is good" (Romans 12:9).