

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2023.11.26

Website: oakgrovecofc.org

Facebook: facebook.com/oakgrovecofc

Sermon recordings

Click or type the short URL, or visit oakgrovecofc.org/Sermons.

Speaker-AM: Josh Vinyard

Title: Anger Management Part 1

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/anger-management-part1

Speaker-PM: Tyler Glidden

Title: Workers In The Vinyard

Recording:

oakgrovecofc.org/sermons/workers-in-the-vineyard

Be angry and do not sin;
do not let the sun go down
on your anger, and give no
opportunity to the devil.

—
EPHESIANS 4:26-27



Talk The Talk, 11/24/2023 By Sam Bunyard

We often discuss that ‘talking the talk’ of Christianity is not enough – that we must walk the walk. But talk is important too! Ephesians 5 details what it means to walk in imitation of God (Ep. 5:1); and our speech is a big part of it!

“Fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which is not fitting, but rather giving of thanks” (Ep. 5:3-4).

The ugliness of sin should not even be talked about by those who are set apart for righteousness! “It is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret” (Ep 5:12). Add foolish talk and coarse jesting to the mix and it seems that the speech being condemned makes light of sin! Sin is no light matter! “For know this, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolator, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God” (Ep. 5:5). How can we claim to “walk in love” (Ep. 1:2), and at the same time gossip and joke about sinners who are bound for hell?

Rather than focusing on the evils around us, our speech should be directed to the blessings which God has given to us and our brethren. Rather than speaking foolishly, we should “walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise...understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Ep 5:16-17). Rather than filthy talk, we should be “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord” (Ep. 5:19). And rather than joking about things that are not fitting, we should be “giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ep 5:20).

Where is the focus and intent of your speech? To imitate God, we must not only ‘walk the walk’, but ‘talk the talk’!



A Plan of God, or Men? 11/19/23 By Sam Bunyard

In the early days of the church the apostles found themselves constant targets of the authorities due to their preaching. Once when the apostles were arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin, the oppressive council heard the advice of wise Gamaliel: “Keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it – lest you even be found to fight against God” (Ac. 5:38-39).

As evidence of his claim, Gamaliel cited the examples of Theudas, who “rose up claiming to be somebody”, and Judas of Galilee, who “drew away many people after him” (Ac 5:36-37). Each of these men perished and their followers scattered. If they were truly of God, it would not be so.

Gamaliel’s advice was wise – and we can use the same litmus test today! How many movements have risen and fallen over the years? The denominations have changed drastically over time! They are not the same institutions today that they once were. The religions of man will always vanish with time – but the ancient truth of the gospel is the same today as it always has been!

Sixty-six books written over 1,500 years by over 40 authors from diverse walks of life and places of origin in three different languages with complete cohesion and no contradictions – yet all tell one story – the story of Jesus!

The more archaeological, historical, scientific, and literary evidence is discovered, the more we see the ancient way of things still holds true today. New religions and denominations are created, but they devolve. Movements of skepticism rise up, but they will die. The word of God remains the same. “If this plan or work is from men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it.”