

## ARE YOU LIBERAL OR CONSERVATIVE?

Kyle Campbell

You should answer “Yes” to both.

I want to be liberal in my love, service, and giving to others — like the Israelites giving for God’s temple and the Macedonians who gave for the brethren in Jerusalem (1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 29:6-9; 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 8:1-2).

I want to be conservative enough to realize that some things must be respected and sanctified in my heart, most notably the Word of God (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:13; Jude 3). I “*hold fast*” and “*contend earnestly*” because I can’t allow it to be changed.

Keep in mind that designations are often inherently one dimensional. In reality, a conscientious, faithful Christian has a complexity to their spiritual life, combined with the proper discernment, to allow them to give and share when necessary, while protecting and standing at other times.

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## UNCONFESSSED SIN

Kyle Campbell

I’ve had to deal with a lot of Christians who’ve lied to me. They lie about sins they say they’ve stopped or they refuse to admit they’re doing, even when I know better. It’s not that I want to know every detail of sin in someone’s life. I’d honestly rather not be discouraged and disheartened in that way.

What really bothers me is the fact of unconfessed sin. Proverbs 28:13 says, “*He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.*” We seem to think that sin is okay as long as no one finds out about it, but that’s simply not true.

James wants us to confess sin: “*Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed*” (5:16). Psalm 66:18 adds, “*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear*”.

Unconfessed sin can damage your soul. Unconfessed sin wraps its tentacles around every part of your being and spiritually paralyzes you. A wall goes up between you and God when sin is left unconfessed. Nothing good comes from it, so summon the courage to admit your wrongdoing — and be healed.

## SHOULD WE EXPECT “FRUITS OF REPENTANCE?”

Greg Gwin

It is always a sad circumstance when a brother or sister in Christ falls into sin. As concerned and loving brethren we ought to rush to their aid, and do all we can to bring them to repentance. To ‘look the other way’ or ignore their sin is simply not an option. We love them too much. We care for their eternal well-being. We must “*pull them out of the fire*” (Jude 23).

What exactly are we hoping to achieve? Will it be enough to get a grudging, half-hearted acknowledgement of wrong? Can we accept a mere grunt or nod when we address their error? Would we be in error if we expected to see some evidence of their change of heart?

When the multitudes came to John the Baptist, he urged them to “*bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance.*” When the people asked what these would be, John proceeded to explain: “*He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise. Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages*” (Luke 3:8-14). Do you see it? Their repentance would necessitate some obvious change in conduct. Without that, their words would be shallow and meaningless.

We must be ready and willing to forgive those who sin. But just as God requires repentance, and the associated evidence of repentance, before He forgives, so must we. Jesus taught: “*If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him*” (Luke 17:3).

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## WHEN THE LION ROARS

Nathan Ward

It is said that King James VI was once speaking through one of Robert Bruce’s sermons. Twice, Bruce stopped talking until the king quieted. On the third occasion, he looked at the king and said, “It is said to have been an expression of the wisest of kings: ‘When the lion roars, all the beasts of the field are [quiet];’ the Lion of the Tribe of Judah is now roaring in the voice of his Gospel, and it becomes all the petty kings of the earth to be silent.”

**"WHAT MUST I DO  
TO BE SAVED?"**

**ACTS 16:30**

**LEARN THE GOSPEL**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

**BELIEVE IN CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

**CONFESS CHRIST**

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 3:19; 17:30

**BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF  
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

**HEBREWS 10:24-25**

**SUNDAY**

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard  
Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.  
Members Expected.

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN  
ANY TRESPASS...  
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

**GALATIANS 6:1**

**CONFESS TRESPASSES**

James 5:16; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 8:22

**PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS**

Acts 8:22

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS  
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN  
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

**PROVERBS 25:11**

"The Bible is real. Just don't let liars teach it to you."

– Abanda Edwin

**"WHOLE COUNSEL"**

**ACTS 20:27**

**VOLUME 2, ISSUE 10**

**MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

**DON'T ACT YOUR WAGE**

Bryan Matthew Dockens

A labor trend called "Act Your Wage" is gaining attention. This is the mindset that an employee's effort should correspond directly with compensation. If the person thinks his pay is insufficient for the tasks he is assigned, then he refuses to perform those tasks.

The counsel of God contradicts this mentality. *"Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ"* (Colossians 3:22-24).

Bondservants were addressed, not hired laborers. If even those under the yoke could be told to sincerely obey their masters, then those who apply for a job and agree to remuneration for their work can be expected to do as they're instructed. Such are certainly free to pursue other options if they are convinced better employment is available.

The reason masters can be obeyed heartily, even if they are harsh (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-24) is because the obedience is actually offered up to Jesus. This is true of wives subjecting themselves to their husbands (Ephesians 5:22), of children obeying their parents (Ephesians 6:4), and of all roles requiring submission under the sun. The manager or supervisor is really just a conduit through whom the worker is submitting to the Lord.

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