

Sunday, February 25th, 2018

CAN WE SING?

Ephesians 5:14 – “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

This was part of an E_____ H_____ in the early church.

What should cause us to sing praise?

I The S_____ S_____

* Matthew 12: 34 – “For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.”

* Proverbs 23:7 – “For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he.”

* I Samuel 16:7 – “Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

* Psalm 44: 21 – “Would God not discover this? For He knows the secrets of the heart.”

* Jeremiah 17:10 – “I the Lord search the heart.”

In our world today, there is an I_____ O_____ to immoral speech.

“24 hours a day we can feed our lusts. From soft and hard pornography, to movies, to HBO, to social media, to prime-time television – the input is everywhere, both in overt and subtle ways. Even advertising is often based on sensual innuendos, if not outright seduction. Many styles of dress both for men and women feature the shallow appeal of sensual signals.” Joe Stowell

THE BAD

1. O_____ - anything opposed to purity

2. F_____ talk – words that make light of modesty.

3. C_____ joking – lighthearted, sinful speech that is full of double meanings and sexual innuendos.

4. E_____ words – words that make us appear unholy when we speak them, or when we laugh at them, or condone others who are speaking them.

I Peter 2:5 – “**we are a H_____ priesthood.**”

Priests (believers) are:

a. Prepared and anointed for service to God. I Peter 5:5; Exodus 28:42; Psalm 132:9, 16; Leviticus 8:12; I John 2: 20,27

b. Set aside to O_____ - I Peter 2:4; Leviticus 8

c. to K_____ the Word of God – I Peter 2:2; Malachi 2:7

d. to W_____ with God – Malachi 2:6; Galatians 5: 16,25

e. M_____ of God – Matthew 28:19-20; Malachi 2:7

Why are the BAD – so BAD?

- * D_____ us to moral purity
- * D_____ in us a sensual mind set
- * D_____ a lack of self-control
- * D_____ people into thinking we embrace and support an ungodly culture
- * D_____ God of His glory

THE GOOD – THE SONG SPARKERS

1. T_____ words
2. B_____ up words

Ephesians 4:29 – **Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.**

Billy Graham: Forgiveness is one of the most beautiful words in the human vocabulary.

Choose your word, or words, and put them at the beginning of Billy Graham's sentence:

Helpfulness, Kindness, Compassion, Joy, Restoration, Confession, Unity, Prayer, Love, Peace, Patience, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control, Grace, Humility.

M_____ words – Ephesians 5: 19-20 - **addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

- a. Psalms – Early church sang the Psalms
- b. Hymns – songs that focused on Jesus
- c. Spiritual songs – sang of personal testimony
- d. Singing
- e. Making melody – pluck a stringed instrument, instrumental accompaniment to vocal music
(I am indebted to John MacArthur and other scholars for the analysis of these 2 verses)

The Source of Song Sparkers: “with your heart”

You cannot have a T_____ tongue until you have a T_____ heart.

Psalm 51:10 – **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”**