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## **UNAPOLOGETICALLY BIASED**

We live in a world that pressures those who believe in moral and ethical absolutes to remain "open-minded." That is, we are to consider the feelings and opinions of others and refrain from insisting we are correct regarding controversial matters. However, as a Christian, I must refuse to play this game, and I refuse to apologize for what I believe and practice.

For instance:

I believe God exists. Just because I believe in God and reject evolution does not mean I have not learned and considered the arguments on both sides. I am a product of the public school system, and took a two-semester course in Biology in a public university. I have heard the argument for evolution a number of times. After weighing the evidence, I choose to believe in God and the Six-Day model of creation set forth in Genesis 1-2. My mind is made up on this issue.

I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I have heard many of the arguments that reduce Jesus to everything from a mere historical figure to a myth. I have spent a great amount of time looking at the evidence (John 20:30-31). My mind is made up on this issue.

I believe baptism (immersion in water) is necessary in order for one to be saved (Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21). I used to believe differently. I would not have left my former religious affiliation if I had not been convinced otherwise. I have spent many years studying, preaching, and teaching on this subject. My mind is made up on this issue.

I believe it is not only possible, but it is necessary, to be a non-denominational Christian. Despite the pleas and

arguments of the churches of men, the Lord's true church that we can read about in the New Testament is not a denomination, nor a part of denominationalism. The Lord only built one church (Matthew 16:18) and will only save one church (Ephesians 5:23). My mind is made up on this issue. I have left denominationalism never to return.

I believe homosexuality is a sin and marriage is for one man and one woman for life. I have heard the emotional arguments set forth to the contrary. I have considered this subject from the biblical, social, and biological points of view. My mind is made up on this issue.

Is it possible for me to wrong about my beliefs? Of course it is! Perhaps I have been taught incorrectly. Perhaps I have been taught incompletely (Acts 18:24-26). Perhaps I have not spent enough time studying the Scriptures on a particular topic. If I discover I am wrong about a matter, I need to change my convictions regarding that subject!

However, does it really take all that long to arrive at a correct understanding of the existence of God, the days of creation, the deity of Christ, the necessity of water baptism, the Lord's true church, homosexuality, and marriage? No, it does not. In fact, there are some things we are expected to grasp and understand in a short amount of time (Hebrews 5:14-6:3). These things need to be settled so we can go on towards maturity.

Brethren, do not be ashamed of the fact that you have convictions which are grounded upon the bedrock of eternal truths set forth in the Word of God. Do not fall in the trap of our current society. The Lord intends for His people to understand the truth (Ephesians 5:17) and to take a firm stand in that truth (Ephesians 4:14).

- Heath Rogers

## A WEEKLY PRAYER LIST FOR CHILDREN

Monday: Ask God to place a protective, solid hedge around your children so that Satan cannot reach in and lead them into temptation and so they will be safe from harm (2 Thessalonians 3:3; Psalm 33:20).

Tuesday: Pray that your children would use godly wisdom in selecting friends and peers that will make a positive difference in their lives. Ask God to give each child a discernment of people as well as knowing the difference between



CHALLENGE

**DIRECTIONS:** After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

- 1. This woman married Moses?
- a) Zipporah
- b) Rahab
- c) Jezebel
- d) Michal
- 2. This woman tempted Samson to reveal the secret to his massive strength, which she used to betray him to the Philistines?
- a) Deborah
- b) Jezebel
- c) Delilah
- d) Rebekah
- 3. This brave Israelite woman became queen of Persia and used her influence to protect her people, the Jews.
- a) Naomi
- b) Esther
- c) Rachel
- d) Ruth
- 4. This wicked queen wanted to kill the prophet Elijah.
- a) Jezebel
- b) Michal
- c) Zipporah
- d) Hagar
- 5. This woman gave birth to Moses.
- a) Jochebed
- b) Orpah
- c) Keturah
- d) Merab

- This Egyptian woman was Sarah's handmaiden and bore Ishmael through Abraham.
- a) Gomer
- b) Hagar
- c) Jezebel
- d) Zipporah
- 7. This woman was Ruth's sister-inlaw.
- a) Naomi
- b) Ishmael's wife
- c) Noah's wife
- d) Moses' wife
- 8. The prophet Hosea was commanded to marry this woman, even though she was a harlot.
- a) Rahab
- b) Deborah
- c) Gomer
- d) Bathsheba
- 9. This woman was turned into a pillar of salt because she looked back as Sodom and Gomorrah were being destroyed.
- a) Lot's wife
- b) Ishmael's wife
- c) Noah's wife
- d) Moses' wife
- 10. This woman was given to Jacob as a wife deceitfully before he could marry her younger sister, who he loved.
- a) Dinah
- b) Rachel
- c) Michal
- d) Leah

## LOOK UP THE ANSWERS HERE:

- 1) Exodus 2:21
- 2) Judges 16-18
- 3) Esther 1:1-2:18
- 5) Exodus 2:1-10 6) Genesis 16:15
- 3) LSUIGI 1.1-2.10
- 4) I Kings 19:2

- 7) Ruth 1:114-15
- 8) Hosea 1:2
- 9) Genesis 19:26
- 10) Genesis 29:21-25

right and wrong (Proverbs 1:10; 18:24; Deuteronomy 13:6:8).

Wednesday: Pray that your children would stay pure in their thoughts and deeds (Psalm 24:4-5; Job 17:9).

**Thursday:** Pray that they will be caught if they wander into cheating, lies, or mischief (Hebrews 13:18-19).

Friday: Pray they will be alert and thinking clearly as they attend school and extracurricular activities and as they take exams. Ask God to help them be motivated to do the best they are capable of doing (Colossians 3:17; 1 Corinthians 10:31).

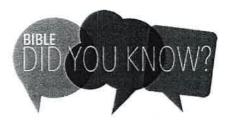
Saturday: Pray for the spouse each child will marry someday. Ask that they will come from godly homes and have an appetite to live the spiritual truth they've learned. Pray also that their goals and purpose will be the same as your own children and their future homes would be godly (Deuteronomy 5:29).

Sunday: Ask God to help them live their lives for Him and that He will use them as a testimony and witness for His glory. Pray that they'll be grown to full spiritual maturity (Psalms 78:1-8, 103:17-1.8; Isaiah 54:13; Ephesians 3:20-21).

Do not leave your children unprotected – that is, vulnerable

to Satan's attack. The greatest shield of protection we as parents can provide for our children is prayer. It's never too late to start (1 Samuel 12:23; James 5:16; Colossians 4:2).

- Author Unknown



There are more than 168,000 Bibles either sold or given away per day in the United States according to the Gideons, Wycliffe International and the Societies.

Chapters were introduced to the Bible in 1238 by Hugo de S. Caro. Verse divisions were not added until 1551 by Robertus Stephanus.

The Bible has been translated into more than 1,200 languages.