

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

March 24

2024

“Does This Offend You?”

In John 6:61, Jesus, after speaking to His disciples about something that was hard to understand asked, “Does this offend you?” Sadly there were some who were offended by the words Jesus spoke. Therefore, as we see in John 6:66, some went back and walked with Him no more. However, just as there were some in the first century who were offended by the words of Christ, there are likewise some today who become offended by the all inspired word of God. So, with that thought in mind, I now ask...

Does It Offend You That God’s Word Condemns Homosexuality?

You see, God’s word clearly condemns the practice of homosexuality. For, homosexuality is an abomination to God (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13), it is not pleasing to Him, and it is a thing of shame (Romans 1:26-28). Now, although we live in a society that approves of the practice of homosexuality, and although many become offended by the teaching of God’s word on homosexuality, we must always remember that those who practice such, along with those who approve of those who practice such are deserving of death (Romans 1:32). So, I ask, does the teaching of the Scriptures on homosexuality offend you?

Does It Offend You That God’s Word Condemns Fornication?

Friends, not only does God’s word condemn homosexuality, but it also condemns fornication. In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, and in Galatians 5:19-21, we are informed that those who practice fornication will be among those who will not inherit the kingdom of God. However, there are many today who would rather fulfill fleshly lust and practice fornication, rather than be one who obeys God’s will and flee fornication (1 Corinthians 6:18), and when they hear the teaching of God’s word on the subject of fornication they become offended. So, I ask, does the teaching of the Scriptures on fornication offend you?

Does It Offend You That God’s Word Does Not Approve of Divorce and Remarriage For Just Any Reason?

Sadly, there are many today who divorce and remarry for just any

reason. However, a careful examination of Matthew 19:3-9 will show that God does not approve of divorce and remarriage for just any reason, but only for sexual immorality (i.e. fornication). So, I ask, does the teaching of the Scriptures on divorce and remarriage offend you?

Does It Offend You That God’s Word Condemns The Shedding of Innocent Blood?

The shedding of innocent blood is murder, and this is an abomination to God (Proverbs 6:17). However, there are many drive-by shootings, abortions, and such other senseless murders being performed each and every day, and such God hates. So, knowing that God hates the shedding of innocent blood, I ask, do the Scriptures teaching on the condemning of shedding innocent blood offend you?

Does It Offend You That God’s Word Condemns Drunkenness?

We live in a society that diligently promotes the drinking of alcoholic beverages, and many say, “drink all you want, just don’t drink and drive.” However, God’s word says, “Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise” (Proverbs 20:1). You see, drunkenness is a sin, and God’s word condemns drunkards and drunkenness (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21). So, I ask, does the teaching of the Scriptures on drunkenness offend you?

Does It Offend You That God’s Word Teaches One Must Work To Eat?

Many today are lazy, and they are always looking for a free handout. However, did you know that God’s word says, “If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat” (2 Thessalonians 3:10). Think about that, and do not be so lazy that your hands refuse to labor (Proverbs 21:25). Now, I ask, does the teaching of the Scriptures on the need to work offend you?

Does It Offend You That God’s Word Teaches The Necessity of Baptism For Salvation?

There are many today who believe and teach that baptism is not essential for salvation, and when you show them what God’s word says about baptism (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21) they become offended. However, we must always obey Jesus rather than men, and Jesus clearly said, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mark 16:16). So, I ask, does the teaching of the Scriptures on the necessity of baptism offend you?

Once more, there are many today who become offended by the teaching of God’s all inspired word. However, may we never be one who becomes offended by the truth contained with-in God’s word, and may we always be one who puts our trust in the Lord, rather than in men (Psalm 118:8), or in self (Proverbs 14:12).

✍️ Brad Phillips

“It Is For The Best”

Probably all of us have used and/or heard this statement from time to time. When something unpleasant happens, some will say, “It is for the best. . . .” While this can be true at times, it is not always true. For instance, I recently heard this statement being used in reference to children of divorced parents being bounced from one home to the other. The comment was made that they would spend part of their time with one parent (and step-parent), and then part of their time with the other parent (and step-parent). Then one said, “It is for the best.”

Let me ask, for whom is it “for the best”? For those children who are constantly in a state of upheaval as they move from one residence to the other; or is it for the parents who get their conscience soothed in watching their children, but are not actually “tied down” to having them all the time as they would have if the original married couple had stayed together?

Don’t misunderstand, there are times that one can be scripturally divorced from his mate (Matt. 5:32; 19:9). However, in the majority of divorce cases today, where people just get divorced because they “fell out of love,” or “just couldn’t get along,” etc.; how is it “for the best” to put our innocent children through that?

The purpose of this article is not solely about the above case, but to show us that people today are more selfish than we like to admit. Sayings such as “it is for the best” applied to a broken home show just how selfish we can be.

When someone says something like “It is for the best,” find out for whom and why that particular thing is the best! It may be. We might say, “The child’s parents died, so the grandparents are raising him. It is for the best.” We could discuss one’s marital status and say, “They felt that due to Matthew 19:9, they didn’t

have the right to remarry and never did. It is for the best.” Again, “In order to fulfill Ephesians 6:4 in the best way, the father did not accept his promotion at work, which paid more, but required longer hours and a grueling schedule on the family. It is for the best.” Some may have to part with a friend because his rotten character and influence are damaging to the Christian. That parting would be “for the best” (1 Cor. 15:33; 2 Cor. 6:14-17).

In other words, it is always “for the best” when we make decisions based upon God’s will (Col. 3:17; 1 Pet. 4:11). It is never “for the best” when we make decisions to satisfy our selfish desires. God’s way is best, not man’s way (Isa. 55:9)! When we forget this, and justify sinful behavior by saying, “It is for the best,” we are setting ourselves up for a fall, and an eternity not with God, but with Satan and his angels!

Is what you are doing really “for the best”? Examine your actions in light of God’s word and see if God thinks “It is for the best” (1 Thess. 5:21; 2 Cor. 13:5).

Jarrold Jacobs

Belleville church of Christ

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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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