



Seeing What We
believe

Mark 12:24, Jn. 4:22

Mark 12:24 And Jesus answering said unto them,
Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?

Jn. 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: **we know what we worship:** for salvation is of the Jews.

MOUNTAIN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH BYLAWS

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NAME AND PURPOSE

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III. MEMBERSHIP WITH CONVICTION

Membership after conversion should lead to membership with commitment. True commitment should lead to membership with conviction.

Conviction is defined as “a fixed or firm belief” -
<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/conviction>

Three weeks ago we began looking at the section of our Church Covenant as a reflection of how conviction should look for members of our church.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to educate our children in the truth of God's Word; to seek the salvation of our families, acquaintances, and all others; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful to our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid backbiting, excessive anger, and all gossip or secretive meetings regarding personal issues of church members, church leadership or practice; to abstain from such worldly amusements as watching ungodly movies, gambling, rock music, and dancing; to be free from all oath-bound secret societies and partnerships with unbelievers; to abstain from the abuse of drugs and the sale or use of pornography, intoxicating drink or tobacco in any form; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

A. Conviction Regarding Spirituality

“We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to educate our children in the truth of God’s Word; to seek the salvation of our families, acquaintances, and all others...”

B. Conviction Regarding Sanctification

“...to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful to our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid backbiting, excessive anger, and all gossip or secretive meetings regarding personal issues of church members, church leadership or practice...”

- Sanctification begins at salvation and continues to intensify as a believer grows in grace in correlation with the Word of God,

C. Conviction Regarding Separation

“...to abstain from such worldly amusements as watching ungodly movies, gambling, rock music, and dancing; to be free from all oath-bound secret societies and partnerships with unbelievers; to abstain from the abuse of drugs and the sale or use of pornography, intoxicating drink or tobacco in any form; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.”

- A believer's life should identify with the Lord Jesus Christ, not the world → **“...to abstain from such worldly amusements as watching ungodly movies, gambling, rock music, and dancing...”**
 - The believer is “transformed...a new creature” and saved “out of the world;”

Jas. 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, **that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.**

4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, **know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us **lusteth to envy?**

- Worldliness in the life of a believer is evidence of compromise and lust.

Gal. 5:16-21

- Opposite of worldliness is a spirit-filled life which exhibits fruit reflecting Christ:

Gal. 5:22-24

- ❖ A church member should not be yoked with unbelievers in organizations that demand secret loyalty while undermining spiritual truth – “...**to be free from all oath-bound secret societies and partnerships with unbelievers;**”

2 Cor. 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 **Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord**, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,

Reason #1 - The Swearing of Secret Oaths

The fact is that most Christians do not understand and are ignorant about the workings of some organizations but the very fact that one must swear an oath of secrecy and even pronouncing a death curse on one's own self ...should be a strong statement to biblical Christians that something is askew.

In Matthew 5:34-37 Jesus said, ***"But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil."***

Reason #2 – Such a Group is NOT Christian in Creed or in its "god"

"God is equally present with the pious Hindu in the temple, the Jew in the synagogue, the Mohammedan in the mosque, and the Christian in the church."

Reason #3 – Such a Group Espouses Universalism

"The true...is not creed-bound. He realizes with the divine illumination that...his religion must be universal: Christ, Buddha, or Mohammed, the name means little, for he recognizes only the light and not the bearer. He worships at every shrine, bows before every altar, whether in temple, mosque or cathedral, realizing with his truer understanding the oneness of all spiritual truth."

These teachings stand in direct contradiction to Acts 4:12 -

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Tonight, we continue looking at our church covenant regarding "Conviction." When joining our church, we enter into a solemn, mutual agreement to act together in harmony with the precepts of the Word of God. My heart's desire for our church, as your pastor, is to know "WHY" we should do what we do, not merely just the doing of what we do. The primary focus tonight is regarding use of drugs, pornography, and use of tobacco:

- Church members are perpetually engaged in spiritual warfare and must NOT allow themselves to be spiritually impaired – “...**to abstain from the abuse of drugs and the sale or use of pornography, intoxicating drink or tobacco in any form;**”

The Abuse of Drugs

The Drug Problem in the U.S. Is Not What We Think It Is

William R. Kelly Ph.D.

Posted Sep 26, 2018

There are over 22 million individuals in the U.S who have a substance abuse problem (including alcohol). At any given moment, there are about 4.5 million individuals who have a substance use disorder due to the abuse of illicit and prescription drugs.

The public health consequences of substance abuse are staggering. **There were over 70,000 drug overdose deaths in 2017, the majority due to opioids.** This represents a doubling of drug related deaths in just 10 years.

The economic consequences are just as stunning. Recent estimates put the crime, lost productivity and health care costs of abuse of alcohol, illicit drugs, and prescription opioids at **over \$500 billion annually.**

The illicit drug economy is alive and well. Estimates indicate that **Americans spend \$100 billion annually on just four drugs — marijuana, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine.**

The Mexican cartels are one of the primary beneficiaries of this thriving market. The economics of the drug trade paint a compelling picture. A kilogram of cocaine from Colombia can be purchased for **\$2,000**. Once the cartels move it to Mexico, that same kilo increases in value to \$10,000. Once it crosses the U.S. border, its value jumps to \$30,000. When it is broken down into grams and sold on the street, **it can net \$100,000. That is a 4,900 percent increase.**

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/crime-and-punishment/201809/the-drug-problem-in-the-us-is-not-what-we-think-it-is>

Titus 2:6 Young men likewise exhort **to be sober minded.**

1 Pet. 1:13 Wherefore **gird up the loins of your mind, be sober**, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

- A clear mind is an open access to peace and fellowship with God.

Isa. 26:3 Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, ***whose mind is stayed on thee***: because he trusteth in thee.

The Sale Or Use Of Pornography

The famed explicit site Pornhub recently stated that its site received over 30 billion hits in 2018, reports Esquire. Of those hits, the United States was the biggest consumer. Americans stayed on the site longer than any other nationality, and their time spent viewing porn increased from the previous year.

According to Covenant Eyes, an Internet accountability software company, roughly 28,000 users are watching pornography every second. Users are also spending around \$3,000 on porn every second. For mobile Internet users, 1 out of every 5 mobile searches is for porn.

Women aren't excluded from this heavy porn-watching either. Pornhub released information in 2017 that revealed women spending more time watching porn than men, reports anti-porn advocacy group Fight the New Drug. Women were also more likely to search for harder versions of porn than men.

Covenant Eyes states that 56 percent of divorce cases involved a partner's obsessive interest in porn sites. In addition, 64 percent of Christian men and 15 percent of Christian women report watching porn at least once a month. This is a departure from the teachings Christians adhere to in their worship.

<https://www.foxnews.com/health/porn-addiction-why-americans-are-in-more-danger-than-ever>

Job 31:1 **I made a covenant with mine eyes;** why then should I think upon a maid?

- Pornography is a distraction of lust that leads to infidelity, fornication, and perpetual destruction.

The Sale Or Use Of...Tobacco In Any Form;”

Cigarette smoking harms nearly every organ of the body, causes many diseases, and reduces the health of smokers in general.^{1,2}

Quitting smoking lowers your risk for smoking-related diseases and can add years to your life.^{1,2}

Cigarette smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States.¹

- **Cigarette smoking causes more than 480,000 deaths each year in the United States.** This is nearly one in five deaths.^{1,2,3}

More than 10 times as many U.S. citizens have died prematurely from cigarette smoking than have died in all the wars fought by the United States.¹

Smoking causes about 90% (or 9 out of 10) of all lung cancer deaths.^{1,2} More women die from lung cancer each year than from breast cancer.⁵

Smoking causes about 80% (or 8 out of 10) of all deaths from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).¹

Cigarette smoking increases risk for death from all causes in men and women.¹

https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/health_effects/effects_cig_smoking/index.htm#:~:text=%20Smoking%20and%20Death%20%201%20Cigarette%20smoking, Motor%20vehicle%20injuries%207%20Firearm-related%20incidents%20More%20

- Tobacco usage leads to diminishing health and perpetual deterioration of the body unless overcome, by God's grace and personal determination.
- The use of drugs, pornography, and tobacco will weaken spiritual resistance, as well as damage the body:

1 Cor. 6:19 What? **know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?**
20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore **glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**

- The use of drugs, pornography, intoxicating drink and tobacco opens the door for our adversary to gain an advantage over a believer's testimony.

2 Cor. 2:11 **Lest Satan should get an advantage of us:** for we are not ignorant of **his devices.**

Jas. 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. **Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

1 Pet. 5:8 **Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil**, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9 **Whom resist stedfast in the faith**, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Conclusion

1 Pet. 4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves likewise with the same mind:** for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

2 That he **no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.**

3 For **the time past of *our* life** may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

4 Wherein **they think it strange that ye run not with *them*** to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of *you*:

5 **Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.**