

Women & More

Blameless

29 March 2012

According to a news report, a certain private school in Washington was faced with a unique problem. A number of 12-year-old girls were beginning to use lipstick and would put it on in the bathroom. That was fine, but after they put on their lipstick they would press their lips to the mirror leaving dozens of little lip prints. Every night, the maintenance man would remove them and the next day, the girls would put them back.

Finally the principal decided that something had to be done. She called all the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the maintenance man. She explained that all these lip prints were causing a major problem for the custodian who had to clean the mirrors every night. To demonstrate how difficult it had been to clean the mirrors, she asked the maintenance man to show the girls how much effort was required. He took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it in the toilet, and cleaned the mirror with it. Since then, there have been no lip prints on the mirror!

These young women were committing a *willful* act of wrongdoing...until the demonstration given by the maintenance man caused them to guard their careless ways from that day forward. Why? Because they thought they were ingesting toilet water. They had a self-serving reason for ending their lip-printing activities!

We need to know that when we commit *willful* sin we are putting ‘toilet water’ into our character. We are disobeying our Father—on purpose! We are grieving him, and receiving the cleanup that he has to do and laying ourselves open to committing greater sin. According to God’s Word, the Christian cannot be sinless, but we can be *blameless*—free from willful and deliberate sin!

Psalm 19:13 “**Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then will I be blameless, innocent of great transgression.**”

Romans 6:12-14 “**Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 14For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.**”

2 Corinthians 7:1 “**Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.**”

“It is sadly true, that even a Christian may grow by degrees so callous, that the sin which once startled him does not alarm him in the least,” said Charles

Spurgeon. “By degrees men get familiar with sin. The ear in which the canon has been booming will not notice slight sounds... Beware of light thoughts of sin. Look upon all sin as that which crucified the Savior and you will see it to be ‘exceeding sinful’.”

In his letter to Christians in Galatia, Paul tried to help them understand the inner conflict that all who belong to Christ will experience. This battle is between the ‘flesh’ (our sinful human nature) as it yields to Satan’s influence and the Holy Spirit who lives within us. Galatians 5:16 “*So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*” And a further warning from Paul in 1 Corinthians 5:9-11 to disassociate with believers who are immoral and involved in willful sin—we’re not even to eat with them. 1 Corinthians 15:33 “*Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character.’*” And since our character will dictate our conduct, and our conduct will denote our character, **we must desire to be blameless.**

I. If we do not know Jesus Christ as Savior, then that’s the first thing we need to do. And if *you* are one who has never accepted Christ’s death on the cross as payment for your sin, and therefore you’re not in the family of God, then repent and receive Christ Jesus today! Talk to me...or talk to the pastor.

II. We must submit to God’s will and place ourselves in his Sovereign care—let Christ be *Lord* of our lives—let him rule and reign! **To know God is to obey God.** 1 John 2:3 says, “*We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man (or woman) who says, ‘I know him,’ but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in him.*”

Henry Blackeby, in *Experiencing God*, says, “Knowing and experiencing God is a progressive endeavor that depends on obedience.” We have a natural resistance to rules. But God’s commands are given to enhance our lives rather than restrict them. Instead of weighing us down, they protect us from the burden of sin. As we follow His commands, we experience liberty.

III. We must pursue godliness, obeying what we know God commands. Over and over Scripture exhorts us to be **blameless, holy, pure, upright, faultless, perfect, obedient, spotless, of a clear conscience, and free from willful sin so that we can be innocent of great transgression and at peace with God.** Remember: We only know God as we obey God.

The woman who wants to be blameless needs to spend time with God, meditating on and studying his Word—praising, worshiping, thanking and petitioning him. We need to love the Lord God with all our heart, mind and

soul, *The Great Commandment*, and we need to share our faith in Christ with others—*The Great Commission*. In Psalm 101:2 David says, “*I will be careful to lead a **blameless** life.*” Blameless means no longer slaves to sin. The blameless do not **go where or do what God forbids**; they refrain from **listening** to and **seeing** or **saying** things they should not, and they do not **act** in ways that are outright sinful or suspect, unloving or untrue or are uncharacteristic of the Christian as outlined by God’s Word.

IV. We need to be willing to receive what God has for us. The Holy Spirit will interpret God’s Word to us, and guide us in the right way to live. Some may expect a very long list of dos and don’ts that we follow religiously to become blameless. But we won’t be doing that, because **being and becoming blameless is an attitude, a heart’s desire and a passion**. It’s about having a ‘bent’ toward God, ‘setting our sails’ to knowing God and his commands, wanting to please and obey him, pursuing him.

- **A few examples of people Scripture describes as blameless:**
 - **Noah**—Genesis 6:9 “*Noah was a righteous man, **blameless** among the people of his time, and he walked with God.*”
 - **Job**—Job 1:1 “*In...Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was **blameless** and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.*”
 - Old Testament implicates **Daniel, Joseph & Jonathan** as blameless.
 - **Zechariah and Elizabeth**, the parents of John the Baptist—Luke 1:6 “*Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord’s commandments and regulations **blamelessly.***”
- **God’s exhortation to individuals and nations to be blameless:**
 - **Abraham**—Genesis 17:1 “*When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, ‘I am God Almighty; walk before me and **be blameless.**’*”
 - **God’s command to the Israelites through Moses**—Deuteronomy 18:13 “*You must **be blameless** before the LORD your God.*”
 - **Paul to the Corinthians**—1 Corinthians 1:8 “*so that you will be **blameless** on that day.*”
 - **Paul to the Philippians in 2:15** “*so that you may become **blameless** and pure.*”
 - **Paul to the Thessalonians**—1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 “*May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept **blameless** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.*” Do what? Sanctify you through and through and keep you **blameless**. God will do it!

There are many more references, and a worksheet addendum page 3 includes the verses where **blameless** is used in the NIV. God tells us to be **blameless**, and Scripture describes some precious rewards for the **blameless**:

- 1) They dwell in the LORD's sanctuary and live on his holy hill (ref: Psalm 15:1-2)
- 2) Their days are known to the LORD, and
- 3) Their inheritance will endure forever (ref: Psalm 37:18)..
- 4) They are blessed by God (ref: Psalm 119:1).
- 5) They are shielded by God (ref: Proverbs 2:7).
- 6) They will live in the land of the upright (ref: Proverbs 2:21).
- 7) Their righteousness makes a straight way for them (Proverbs 11:5).
- 8) They receive a good inheritance (ref: Proverbs 28:10).
- 9) They are kept safe (ref: Proverbs 28:18).
- 10) They are righteous, pure, holy and innocent of great sin (ref: many).

It's hard to believe, but some Christians avoid pursuing a **blameless** life because they do not want to be thought of as "holier-than-thou". First off: Being obediently **blameless** and being self-righteous are two ends of a different stick. Self-righteousness, like self-effort and selfish ambition, is sin, and the **blameless** person would not be guilty of that. So where does the charge of "holier-than-thou" come in, when the only *One* truly holier-than-thou or any-of-us is the Lord God Himself!

Will the **blameless** be wrongly accused of being "holier-than-thou"? Yes, yes, and yes! And those who would accuse another of being holier-than-thou are more often than not intimidated by their own lack of blamelessness! We see that borne out in Scripture in the examples where people were charged—wrongly—with being "holier-than-thou" by those who were intimidated by their own lack. They made their charges out of anger, jealousy and envy.

Moses' own brother and sister began to talk against him because of his Cushite wife, and they charged him with being "holier-than-thou". God himself responded to them in Numbers 12:7 *"But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house...."*

Job was charged by his three friends who had come to comfort him, and his response was *"Let God weigh me in honest scales and he will know that I am blameless"* Job 31:6.

In Daniel 6:3-5 the jealous administrators and satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel and they could not. After surviving the lions' den ordeal, Daniel answered the King, *"My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight"* Daniel 6:22.

Satan does not want us to be blameless, to be pure and holy; to be innocent of great transgression. He wants just the opposite, and he will use twisted thinking to get us to go along with him. Do not listen to his lies!

What about when we fail to be blameless? 1 John 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”* 1 John 2:1 *“My dear children, I write this to you **so that you will not sin.** But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.”*

Let the Holy Spirit set our sails daily, by reading and meditating on God’s Word, praying and practicing what the Holy Spirit encourages us to perfect—being blameless! “We so desperately need to want to be pure and **blameless** by the power of God’s Word and through the filling of the Holy Spirit,” says Beth Moore. We need to be free from willful sin—in our thoughts, in our speech and in our actions.

The blameless woman appreciates...**the goodness of God.** She counts her blessings, is truly grateful to God and passes on generosity to others. Psalm 116:12 *“How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me?”*

The blameless woman appreciates...**the patience of God,** and passes it on to others. 2 Corinthians 7:2 *“Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one and we have exploited no one.”*

The blameless woman appreciates...**the discipline of God.** Francois Fenelon: “It is not knowledge of the way that God requires of us, **but practice of the way.**”

When the self-righteous Pharisees asked Jesus the question “*And who is my neighbor?*” He told them the Parable of the Good—**blameless**—Samaritan.

The Duty of the Blameless (*The Upward Path* by Henry van Dyke)

“The Samaritan who rode down from Jerusalem to Jericho had nothing to do in the morning but follow that highway, and take care that his beast did not stumble or hurt itself, or get tired out so that it could not finish the journey.

He was just a solitary horseman, and all that he needed to do was to have a good seat in the saddle and a light hand on the bit.

“But at noon,

When he came to the place where that unknown pilgrim lay senseless and bleeding beside the road—

then in a moment, the Samaritan’s duty changed

and God called him to be a rescuer, a nurse, a helper of the wounded.”