

It Is Written

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Eliminate Any Hint Of Sexual Impropriety

By Ken Weliever

In her book, *Settle For More*, Megyn Kelly relates a time early in her broadcasting career about a rumor regarding her relationship with Britt Hume, her boss and managing editor of the DC bureau of Fox News.

Radar Online started the story. Kelly was called a "Hume wrecker." And she was furious. Megyn wrote that there was no romantic relationship between the two of them—"not a single inappropriate or even borderline moment, ever."

The next day Hume came into Kelly's office with a "half-cocked grin" and asked, "Have you seen Radar?" Kelly was not amused. She feared people would assume the worse. But Hume replied, "They won't. Because we didn't have an affair." Then he offered this insightful answer.

"Therefore, there will never be proof of an affair. There will never be a text, a photograph, a phone bill, a doorman, a driver, an email, or anything whatsoever that suggests an affair. And people will come to see that it's a lie."

Hume's reasoning was right. Later the person who began the vicious rumor was found and fired from their job.

This story reminds me of the Bible warning regarding sexual purity in Ephesians 5:3. "But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people."

Did you get it? "Not even a hint."

In a world that winks at loose morals, it's too easy for Christians to become influenced by what our culture approves, instead of what God commands. While the Bible condemns fornication, adultery and homosexual behavior, it also warns us against lust, lewdness, and lasciviousness. (Gal. 5:19-21). These are called "the works of the flesh."

We are to have nothing to do with thoughts, fantasies, or actions that even suggest impurity. Sexual purity is more, much more than just refraining from illicit sexual relationships. It begins in the mind. In the heart.

Jesus said, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man..." (Matt 15:19-20)

The challenge is that we can deceive ourselves. Yes, even our own heart. The prophet Jeremiah warned, "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?" (Jer 17:9). Even a religious person can deceive their own heart." (Jas 1:26).

So, Jeremiah asked the Lord to search his heart and test his mind. (Jer 17:10). What would happen, if the Lord did that to us and then sent us a text message with the results for us to read? Would there be any hint of impurity?

A quick glance? A curious peek? An indecent thought? A flirtatious gesture? A secret internet site? A hidden magazine? An amorous email? A titillating text message? A teasing wink? A coy smile? An unholy hug? An erotic novel? An obscene joke? A bawdy movie? An off-color remark? A racy TV show?

"Be not conformed to the world," (Rom. 12:1), is not a suggestion. It's a command. If we're really honest, it's tough. Difficult. And demanding. But not impossible.

"Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold," as J. B. Phillips paraphrases this passage. Then he writes, "Let God re-mold your minds from within."

That's the answer to overcoming any hint of impurity. A heart directed by God. Divine mind control. Inner spiritual strength.

When there's no hint of impropriety, rumors are quickly expelled. Lies are exposed. Our character is exonerated. And God is exalted.

Pursue Holiness

By Steven Harper

To deny the necessity of repentance to be pleasing to God results in a generation who seek tolerance above even holiness.

But God's word says, "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14), and, "as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct" (1 Pet. 1:15). Since we are all in SIN outside of Christ, this would demand repentance since none of us was holy outside of Christ.

In fact, God "commands all men everywhere to repent because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained" (Acts 17:30, 31).

Not all will be a part of the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 6:9, 10), but even among those sins listed in that passages were sins in which the brethren of Corinth had once indulged, but they had REPENTED. They had changed. They had given up those sins and "were washed,...sanctified, [and] justified" only after giving up those things.

That's not "hate speech"; that is TRUTH. It is LOVE that drives me to tell others of this because I genuinely care for their souls and their eternal destination.

Don't let even religious men or organizations convince you of the lie that "God loves you as you are." If that were true, then why did Christ suffer such a cruel torture and death?

Does God love you? Yes! But His love will not overlook sin; He commands repentance. What will YOU do?

Getting The Job Done

By Robert F. Turner

A fellow preacher showed me the church building in a community of middle income people — the meeting place for 60/80 brethren. Paint was peeling from the trim, the lawn was filled with weeds and needed mowing, shrubbery needed trimming, and trash was blowing about the parking lot. He asked, "If you were preaching here, how would you go about getting the brethren to clean up this place?"

I told him I would begin by bringing my mower up there and cutting the grass. Then, at our next meeting, I would ask if any of the members had an edger, and if so, would they meet me here on Saturday and edge the walk while I clean up the parking lot. I'd thank that person publicly on Sunday, and ask if someone would volunteer to trim the shrubbery. All this should get their attention!!

Then I would ask the elders, or the next business meeting, if there was any objection to scraping off the old paint, and putting on new, I'd have prices for paint on hand — and if they said the "church" couldn't afford it, I'd offer to do it myself, with whatever help anyone would give.

But my friend played devil's advocate. "What if no one offered to help, or even told you that if it took a neat clean building to get people to come to worship they would be coming for the wrong reason." I would counter that people who looked for a show place weren't coming to that little place; and that the clean-up was not to attract new comers, but was the fruit of self-respect on the part of those who regularly worshipped there.

I might suggest a Bible reading of Pro. 24:30-34. "I went by the field of the sluggard, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; and, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, The face thereof was covered with nettles, and the stone wall thereof was broken down..."

In this day of emphasis upon material things this article seems almost archaic. But this was not written to promote clean neat buildings alone. I hoped you would notice that if something needs doing you begin by doing it yourself. Elders and preachers will not increase personal work, contribution, or other desirable traits by "fussing" at the congregation. We should have scriptural authority for our plea, but even this will fail in the absence of example. Most brethren know what is right, but are not motivated to do as well as they know to do. For the bottom line, it is this mutual edification, encouragement, prompting and correcting that gives meaning to congregational fellowship.