

The Christian Filter

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on these things." (Philippians 4:8).

Is it True? The mind of a Christian is to be rooted in truth. If an action is deceptive in its presentation or design, it should be avoided and not dwelt upon. Remember, sin promises pleasure, but it is a passing pleasure which deceives many (Heb. 3:13, 11:25). How much time is spent worrying over things which are not true? Much anxiety is brought on by suspicion and false conclusion.

Is it Noble or Honorable? When you turn on the television, read the headlines in the newspaper, or read articles on the internet, do they tend to focus on the shallow, cheap, pointless, reckless, and malicious deeds of the world? Yet, Christian minds are to be centered on respectable and dignified matters. Our actions should literally command a sense of respect.

Is it Just? A Christian is one that desires to do the right thing. The essence of their being is captured in the idea of not rejoicing in wrong doing or unrighteousness, but in what is true and just (1 Cor. 13:6). If the action, thought, and/or moment promotes injustice, Christians are exhorted to shun such behavior and handle the situation in an appropriate manner.

Is it Pure? Christians should be concerned with what is morally right. God's people are to be holy, for He is holy (1 Peter 1:16). Those that are pure see things purely, but, to those who are defiled, nothing is pure (Titus 1:15). The Christian's inward being is to be focused on the pure, bringing them closer to God (Matt. 5:8).

Is it Lovely? Our actions and thoughts are to be friendly and acceptable. These actions and thoughts call out love from one person to the next. This implies the idea of eliminating personal agendas bent on vengeance, bitterness, or harm to others. Rather than causing resentment, the Christian desires to instill charity, gentleness, and patience within their fellowman.

Is it Commendable or of Good Report? A Christian's actions and thoughts are those which can be spoken well of. Not just in how they are viewed by others, but, rather they consider if they could entertain such an action or thought in the presence of the Lord. Would you feel comfortable doing this knowing the Lord is watching? Be honest. Things need to be considered praise-worthy and excellent.

Do our actions and thoughts pass the Christian filter test?

- Robert Guinn, Central Church of Christ, Paducah, KY (via *Bulletin Gold*) -

A good example is the best sermon.

News & Notes

COVERED DISH DINNER: TODAY, about noon at the Fellowship Building, followed by our **early afternoon service, 2:00 p.m.** at the church building.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Jillian Reardon on her graduation from West Liberty with a Bachelor's Degree in Dental Hygiene.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Each Tuesday, May 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, May 13th, 8:30 a.m. at Columbiana Church of Christ.

BABY SHOWER: For Rachel West Kelly, Next Saturday, May 13th, 1:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Building. Details on the bulletin board.

GRIEF FELLOWSHIP & LUNCHEON: Saturday, May 20th, 11:00 a.m. at the St. Clair Ave., Church of Christ. See Twila Adamson for details.

BROTHERS WORK DAY: Saturday, May 27th, 9:00 a.m. to work on projects that need attention here at the building.

PANTRY: Vegetable soup.

SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home: Debbie Waite, Docie Moore, Peggy Linger, Nancy Cox, Mike West, Becky McKitrick, Karen & David Strum, Blondenia Orr, Barbara DeLong, Claudette Miller, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Lori Rowand (John Sprout's niece). **Fox - Chester:** Mary Johnson (Lois Hissom's sister). **Fox, Pepperberry Suites, Chester:** David McCoy. **In Ohio:** Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon OH 44432.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Lorain, Ohio----- May 7-10----- Jeff Archey
Hanoverton, Ohio ----- May 21-25 ----- Steve Stevens

The Way We Affect Others

We may not always realize that everything we do,
Affects not only our lives, but touches others too.
A single happy smile can always brighten up the day,
For anyone who happens to be passing by your way.
And a little bit of thoughtfulness that shows someone you care,
Creates a ray of sunshine for both of you to share.
Yes, every time you offer someone a helping hand,
Every time you show a friend that you understand,
Every time you have a kind and gentle word to give,
You help someone to find beauty in the precious life we live.
For happiness brings happiness and loving ways bring love,
And giving is the treasure that contentment is made of.

- Author Unknown -