

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study - July 7, 2022

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Title: "Complicit Complacent or Courageous"

Subtitle: "Are You Willing to Take a Stand For Christ?"

Scripture Reference: Acts 4:12-29

I. Introduction

A. We are living in a day and time when wickedness, corruption, and evil exists on a wide scale. This should not come as a surprise since these conditions have been on-going since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden.

B. The Word of God points out very clearly that wickedness, corruption, and evil has tainted the soul of mankind. In plain language, sin has invaded man's heart, but the Good News is that Almighty God has provided the cure for a sin-sick soul. The cure is found only in and through the Lord Jesus Christ.

C. This study session will examine the pitfalls and danger of being complicit and complacent when these actions are in opposition to the Word of God.

D. We shall also discuss the act of being courageous in spite of opposition and apparent danger.

E. As we go through this study, let us examine ourselves, and then become convicted (if you aren't already), that God's way and thinking are vastly superior to mankind. Additionally, living a life of obedience to the Lord, has not only current blessings, but eternal blessings and joy.

II. Working Definitions

A. **Complicit** - to be involved with others in an illegal activity or wrongdoing.

Comment: Although this definition is shaped in the legalist language of the law, you will be reminded that we must live and exist in society, under rules and laws. In fact, God ordained government for the peaceful and orderly existence of mankind in society.

Although we acknowledge the rules and laws of society, when they violate God's Word, we must take a stand for what is right.

B. **Complacent** - Showing smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements.

C. **Courage or Courageous** - Not deterred by danger or pain, brave.

III. Discussion [Part I] - The Danger of Being Complicit

A. The Book of 1 Samuel, Chapter 2, informs us of two young men, Hophni and Phinehas, who were brothers. Their father's name was Eli, a priest and judge of Israel.

B. These brothers were both complicit in violating God's commands by committing fornication, as the "lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation." (1 Samuel 2:22)

C. These two were partners in evil practices and brought a twice-pronounced curse upon their heads (1 Samuel 2:34; Chap 3.)

D. 1 Samuel 2:12 says - "Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the Lord." The phrase "sons of Belial" translates "worthless men," "scoundrels."

Question: If your children were engaged in some type of practice or activity that was illegal or just flat wrong, would you confront them, or would you make excuses for them?

IV. Discussion [Part II] - The Pitfalls of Being Complacent

A. Reviewing our definition again of the word Complacent, notice the word **smug**. This means having and showing an excessive pride in oneself or one's achievements.

B. I submit to you that when God has allowed you to accomplish or achieve a goal, there is nothing wrong with having a sense of joy and satisfaction. Even so, remember the words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ- **"For without me, ye can do nothing."** (John 15:5c)

C. Therefore, when a goal has been achieved, give the Lord thanks, and praise, and remain humble.

D. Conversely, some people become caught up and stuck on themselves when they reach a certain level or position, or an achievement has been obtained. Selfish pride takes over and they become absorbed with themselves. A word of caution is in order and is provided by the Apostle Paul - **"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; ..."** (Romans 12:3).

V. Discussion [Part III] - Showing Courage in The Face of Opposition

A. It takes courage to stand firm on those things that you know are right and true. As a Christian, you realize that you are not able to do this on your own and encouragement is found in the Word of God. First, we have several promises:

1. Because of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of believer in Jesus Christ, the Word of God declares - **"... greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."** (1 John 4:4b)
2. God promises to answer our prayers if we do as He commands. **"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us; And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."**

(1 John 5:14-15)

3. God promises to reveal unto us things that are beyond what we currently know. "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." (Jeremiah 33:3)

B. Speaking God's truth in love requires conviction and courage in the midst of opposition or trouble. Please turn to the book of Acts, Chapter 4, and let's witness conviction and courage. (Ref. Acts 4:12-29).

Question: Are you able to recall a time or a situation when you courageously took a stand for Christ?

VI. Summary

A. Don't be complicit nor complacent, but live a courageous life for Christ and remember, as a child of the Living God, and a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, we walk by faith, not by sight. **"Abstain from all appearance of evil."** (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

B. Additionally, **"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time."** (1 Peter 5:6)

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the biblical passages that follow; they have been taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

"Finally, my _____, be _____ in the Lord, and in the _____ of his might."

[Ephesians 6:10]

"Thus saith the Lord, Let not the _____ man _____ in his

_____, neither let the mighty man _____ in his _____,
let not the rich man _____ in his riches: But let him that
_____ glory in this, that he _____ and
_____ me, that I am the Lord which exercise
_____, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth:
for in these things I _____, saith the Lord."

[Jeremiah 9:23-24]

"Wait on the _____; be of good _____, and he shall
_____ thine _____: wait, I say, on the _____."

[Psalm 27:14]

"_____ me, O God, and _____ my heart: _____ me, and know my
_____: And see if there be any _____ way in me, and lead
me in the way _____."

[Psalm 139:23-24]

"For the _____ of God that bringeth _____ hath
appeared to all men, _____ us that, denying
_____ and worldly _____, we should live
_____, righteously, and godly, in this present _____;
Looking for that blessed _____, and the _____
appearing of the great God and our Savior _____; Who
gave _____ for us, that he might _____ us from all
_____, and purify unto himself a _____ people,
_____ of good works."

[Titus 2:11-14]

"Therefore, my _____ brethren, be ye _____,
_____, always abounding in the work of the Lord,
_____ as ye know that your _____ is not in _____"

in the Lord.”

[1 Corinthians 15:58]

I pray that you have been inspired, uplifted, and convicted to be courageous in your walk with the Lord.

Jude 3

Pastor Austin