

The Brown Street Beacon

*"...Shine out among them like beacon lights,
holding out to them the Word of Life" (Phil 2:15-16)*



Volume 3

March 13, 2016

Number. 4

“I Am a Christian, and...”

Carrie Prejean has been in the news a lot lately. She is the current Miss California USA, and the runner up to the 2009 Miss USA. When asked a question about marriage during the Miss USA pageant, she proclaimed her belief that a marriage should be between a man and a woman, opposing the “same-sex” position that is becoming more and more popular. She has come under fire from both individuals and groups that back the gay movement in this country, but she has held her ground and declared her faith in God and the Bible.

Recently, however, some immodest pictures, on the verge of being pornographic in nature, have surfaced of Miss Prejean. The pictures were taken when she, now twenty-one, was seventeen years old. Here is her response to the pictures:

"I am a Christian, and I am a model," Carrie Prejean said in a statement. "Models pose for pictures, including lingerie and swimwear photos."

It is clear that the website that posted the photos of this young lady was attempting to bash her biblical stand on marriage, calling her “a little sinner” and “homo-phobic.” Nevertheless, sins do have a way of finding us out, don't they?

What interests me about all this is, not the view of the world in regard to Christianity, but rather the view that some self-proclaimed Christians have of Christianity. The doctrine of faith only contributes to the distorted view of what a Christian is. Clearly, Miss Prejean believes that being a Christian is no more than a proclamation. I'm not running her down. She is, after all, just a young lady. At twenty-one the direction of one's life is hardly written in stone. Still, her view of what makes a person a Christian is insufficient. I'm not talking about how to become a Christian. There are many who think they are Christians who are not because they haven't obeyed God's plan of salvation. Then there are those who think they are Christians even though they do things in life that are contrary to the moral standards of the gospel of Christ. They are not Christians, not only because they haven't truly obeyed the gospel, but also because they don't LIVE the life of a Christian.

Miss Prejean truly believes that she can be a Christian and pose half naked in a swimwear or lingerie because she is also a model. My friends, there are certain things that Christians cannot do. From a moral aspect there is no difference in Carrie Prejean saying, “I am a Christian and I am a model,” than one saying, “I'm a Christian and I'm a bank robber,” etc. Now let me modify that by saying that one can be a model and be a Christian at the same time, but work will be awfully hard to find. One cannot model anything that is in anyway immodest, which would exclude swimwear and lingerie, and still be a Christian. We cannot separate who and what we are from our occupation in

life.

There are certain ways of earning a living that are unacceptable to those who are truly Christians. If Miss Prejean's view of Christianity was correct, it would justify almost any occupation. One could say, "I regularly attend strip clubs because while I'm a Christian, I am also a bouncer at a strip club" or "I commit fornication regularly because while I am a Christian, by trade I am a prostitute." Can you not see how this doesn't work? Well, someone says that's an extreme example you just gave." Yes, but the only difference is the specific law of God that is violated. Is immodesty condemned any less than fornication by God? The answer is no. What we do and how we live, on the job and off, determines whether or not we are truly Christians.

Let's not divide certain aspects of our lives and say, "I am a Christians and I am a..." The truth is true Christians are Christians all the time. If you are a Christian, you are a Christian at home, at school, on the job, in a restaurant, at the store, during times of recreation, etc. Christianity is not a hat that we put on and take off during certain times of our lives. Being a Christian is not only who we are, it is what we are. Remember, John said that if we want to remain in fellowship with God, we must walk in the light as He is in the light (1 John 1:7). If we do otherwise, the world will surely label us as hypocrites, and they will have a valid point.

Don

Without Natural Affection

I once heard a congresswoman from Houston, Texas talk about an effort the city was making to slow down the alarming rate of babies being abandoned by their mothers. In a ten month period, there were something like 15 babies abandoned by their mothers in Houston alone. These babies were left in trash cans, back allies, hospitals, etc. by their mothers. One can't help but recall the words of Paul in 2 Timothy 3:1-3:

*"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, **Without natural affection**, trucebreak-ers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good."*

Any time a parent can just abandon a child, leaving them to die in a trash can or back alley, you know there is a lack of natural affection. There is definitely a cause for public outrage in such cases.

Question. Why such outrage over a child just born, yet indifference towards the unborn child who is aborted by a mother. Is there really a difference between aborting a child before he or she is born and throwing that child away in a back alley trash can hours after the birth? Abortion is a demonstration of a lack of natural affection. How sad that we as a nation have become so self-pleasing and self-serving, that as a whole we do not recognize the rights of an unborn child. The very cry for "pro-choice" is the only position that leaves the child without any choice whatsoever. I wonder what the congresswoman from Houston would say about the many babies who are aborted every year.

Don