

## A Quintology

During these, my final days here, I've been persuaded to discuss 5 issues that I consider to be of significance.

There are many more that could be added, but only these have come to me strongly enough to here consider. These are: *rage, tolerance, calluses, integrity, and God's special kind of love.*

During these current end times, Satan has almost total dominion over the first 3, while he seeks to eliminate the other 2. It has been through Satan, who is the personification of evil, with the very able assistance of fallen man's nature, that are responsible for this millennium long world-wide condition.

It is only the ever shrinking remnant that recognizes their desperate need for a Savior. They seek the only One who can save, and will gladly accept Him as their Lord and Master now, and forever. There is no other way or any other one through which they can escape eternal suffering in the "lake of fire".

Now, let us examine these 5 conditions:

1. Rage - this physical / spiritual affliction is not limited to the unsaved. I have personally been a victim of a rage so viscous that it could only come from someone either possessed, or for a time most strongly influenced by Satan. This came from a person well accepted as a born-again Christian.

Jesus gave us an example of such an involvement in a believer when He spoke to Peter saying "...*Get thee behind me, Satan...*" (Matthew 16:23). Rage was not involved. It was only to illustrate of how Satan can influence saved souls, and souls proceeding toward salvation. Rage, wrath and anger are close cousins in both the spiritual and secular contexts. Some spiritual anger is justified just as when David's anger was justified against Goliath which is why he sought to kill him. Goliath blasphemed against

Israel and the true God, thus providing the well justified wrath. (1Samuel 17:21 as well as other verses in 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel; and Ephesians 4:20-31 are also excellent references.)

God is so often accused as being a continuously mean and angry God by those who do not know Him as well as those who do know Him, but do not know Him adequately.

God's anger is always justified. How could our God ever have unjustified anger? Thus we see that rage / wrath are justified when it is against our God, but is never justified for any other reason.

2. Tolerance – The word “tolerant” is not to be found in Scripture. Tolerable is found 6 times, and they are all pertaining to Sodom and Gomorrah, Tyre, and the villages of Judah which would not accept the messages provided by the Apostles. Jesus sent the 12 out to preach the Gospel to all of the cities and villages of Judah. It was those that would not accept it that He compared to these 2 peoples, saying that even they would not suffer as much as those in Judah who rejected the Word. These two peoples were exceedingly wicked by their own and Satan's doings. However, they didn't know what the people of Judah knew, and could not be blamed for not dealing with that of which they had not been given to know. Those of Judea, God's own people, did know but rejected what they knew. Therefore, they were far more sinful than the pagan cultures, and thus deserving even greater punishments.
  
3. Callous – My mother married my step-father when I was 8 years old. Prior to that I lived with my grandparents and wherever else someone was willing to have me. She married in order to provide me with a healthier atmosphere. The doctor at the TB sanatorium where I was at the time, told her unless that happen, I would die. What does that have to do with callous? I'll tell you in a minute or so.

Where we lived summer and winter for most of those 10 years, before I went into the army was in a summer cottage, not suitable for 30+ below zero temperatures. Cardboard, old newspapers covered the knot holes and cracks which occurred between each board of

shiplap siding. Two wood burning stoves, one in each of the first floor rooms provided all the heat. Our only source of water was a well about 200 feet away. Two pails of water would suffice for the 3 of us and they were placed on a sink which drained down to the ground under the building. One of my assignments was to bail out the water and carry it home. During the night, the fires, no matter how full of fuel the stoves were, would last only a few hours. By morning, the water in the bucket had frozen and needed to be thawed on the stove before it could be used. Before the fire was going again, whatever the temperature was outside it was the same inside. Week day mornings when I would go to school and they went to work, we only used the kitchen stove.

Thirty degrees below zero was not uncommon in late January, February and early March. The one coldest day I remember was 43 degrees below zero. One year, I believe that it was in 1942 or 1943 there was a great thaw, and then rain which was followed by very low temperatures. This formed a thick crust over the remaining 4 feet of snow. The crust was so strong that a team on horses pulling a full sleigh of logs across it without even cracking the surface. There were no automobiles or truck traveling during the next several weeks. All power and phone lines were also down.

As noted, my stepfather's vocation / business was cutting and bringing home 4 foot long wood to then be cut into 12inch, sixteen inch, for 24 inch lengths for sale to the public. The demand began to be greater than what he and I could cut, so he paid \$5.00 a cord of "cord wood" to locals who would cut on his land. The summer of my 16<sup>th</sup> year (1943) he learned of there being a man who had 60 cords of cordwood piled in one place about 2-3 hundred feet from truck access. With a tractor fashioned out of a Model A Ford with duel transmission, oversized wheels, and chain equipped tires, he went to the wood and loaded a wagon. Because of the variable terrains and many huge boulders the wagon turned over 3 times before the load became truck accessible. Finally we come to "callous". His solution was for us to carry the wood out stick by stick on our shoulders. This took several weeks. First there were bleeding sores due to the abrasiveness which eventually healed becoming calluses. In the meantime, I learned to avoid the hurting places and utilized different areas of the back and shoulders. We never stopped walking.

When one shoulder began to hurt, I would simply roll it over the back of my neck to a clear place on the other shoulder without missing a step.

The humidity must have been nearly 100 degrees. The summer heat was intense and the misquotes as well as deer flies and other biting flies were everywhere. Perspiration was so intense that it saturated our pants and ran down into our boots. We had ample water in the truck which we drank copiously. We went bare to the waist because we found that a shirt caused even bigger abrasion problems. Eventually the 60 cords were all in our work yard piled 8 feet high and 240+ feet long ready to be buzzed up into the shorter lengths. When all of the carrying was finished we both had the toughest calluses to be found anywhere.

Now let's use these tretus as an analogy for dealing with spiritual calluses. Spiritual calluses are much easier to obtain. We feel no physical pain, and usually, not even any spiritual discomfort. The more time we spend in the "world", and with worldly people, the faster, and tougher, and the more difficult it is to remove them. I first became aware of this personally when my unsaved son Eric and his wife Amy came to visit for a week about eighteen months ago. The daily conversations were entirely about food, his Blues compositions, his performances, and similar subjects.

It was only after he left that I realized that I had backslid considerably in that I retained way too much of the earthly desires. These were food and other unnecessary pleasures and preoccupations. I regained my taste for food, which had vanished several years before. I now can eat far more than I should, but so far, I have added no weight. I had compromised and diminished the spiritually God-centered ways of my mind and heart. Even though I have struggled against this, yet too much still influences my daily life. I believe that every Christian is susceptible to this problem in various ways and degrees. All people are, as evidenced by the growing numbers of too fat and obese people throughout much of the world eating too much of the wrong things. For the unsaved, it only causes discomfort, a more difficult social life, and a shorter life span. However, for the Christian, it may be all of the above, plus the likelihood that there will be fewer

golden crowns to have been placed at Jesus' feet when we meet Him at the Bema Judgement.

4. *Integrity* – Dr. Missler has the best definition, better than Webster's, in my opinion. To paraphrase: Integrity is when you have committed to something when it seems easy to do, and you persevere in that commitment even when it seems impossible to continue honoring it. Short term commitments are usually easier to keep, because the situation usually doesn't change much, during these shorter spans of time.

Because of my advanced age and the nature of my profession I was blessed to have had dealings with many people of outstanding integrity. These were mostly my developer clients whom, as their engineer, I helped them to overcome the numerous impediments imposed by the federal, state and local agencies. The most radical as well as ignorant and demanding that there be no such construction in their towns were the Planning boards, Boards of Appeals, Wetland Conservation Boards and their agents, and the crowd of residents who came to "protect" their town and to intimidate the developer. The "not in my town" mantra applied to nearly everything private enterprise attempted. In that respect, little has changed to this day, except that with the introduction of the internet, and world-wide communication it has become much more sophisticated and requires for less physical efforts. These men of integrity (there were no women at this time as land developers) were not Christians.

They never spoke of religion, nor did I. A small example of this is that there were no contracts between us. They didn't ask what the cost would be and I didn't need to be concerned about full payment no matter what the cost. I received every bit of what I billed them with no questions asked. There were several highly severe examples of this.

One in particular was an approval process for a large apartment development nearby which, under even the normally severe opposition should not have cost the client for our services to be much more than \$100,000.00. However, because of the viscous efforts by people of 2 towns, the total for our services cost the developer over \$270,000.00 at which

some point he capitulated and abandoned the project. He paid us all that we had billed him, after which he went bankrupt. That was the kind of integrity, though not as severe in outcome that I experienced up until around 1966 when “coincidentally” creation was forcibly removed from all test books. It just so happened the client’s children, and even the grandchildren of those who continue in this business have retained the integrity and are still among the company’s clients. There are other larger better financed clients who have persisted as much as 8 years before obtaining a comprised approval. What our services cost them I don’t know, except that it had to be several hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Today such integrity is very rare. Clients require contracts committing to upset limits of costs. If it’s too high, they go shopping for another lower priced engineer. If they decide for any reason not to pay, they don’t. The answer to any requests for payment is simply “sue me”. They know that this won’t happen because of the legal fees and other expenses, the cost of suing is greater than the valued owed. I tried that once and so I’m speaking from experience, not theory.

5. *God’s special kind of Love* – The English language has but one word for the various ways we express love. The only way we can distinguish that manner of love we feel is by the context of our thoughts and words. As many of us know the Greeks have separated the word into 4 distinct categories. They are: Eros, which is sexual love; Serga which is motherly love; Phyllo which is brotherly love; and Agapeo, which is Godly love. Christians have removed the “o” and refer to it as agape love.

Man co-mingles and applies the first 3 loves nearly every day for most of his life. If he is truly born-again, agape, that is Godly love will stand dominate, and will be expressed hundreds of times daily. In God’s love, there is no co-mingling, nor diluted in any way.

God’s love can be fully expressed with only one word, that is commitment. God’s love is commitment to His creation. Ours must also be a total unwavering and sustaining commitment to Him. Anything less than that is simply inadequate and should plague our

consciences. If it doesn't than something is wrong. It may be callous, or something worse, like false faith. From God's perspective, this is the most serious of all things. It is to be applied with solemn seriousness.

God made a unilateral everlasting covenant when He said *"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness"* Then He gave man dominion over all the earth and all that lived on it or under it. As is most evident today, man has abused what he was given, making portions of the world almost unlivable because of its toxicity. Man has even caused the soil and much of the plant life to be toxic through the application of various poisons, that is natural "growth enhancing" chemicals called fertilizers. They do enhance growth, but with mineral depleted soils, the plants lack too many of the essential minerals that would make them most nutritious. As usual, we could go on and on with this and get into the covenant Jesus made as well. However, we will end here having, I hope identified what God's love for us really is. As noted, it is purely 100% commitment!

When Scripture speaks of the flesh and bones of the dead, it is because both are fungible that is that the physical resurrection is not necessarily referring to the very same molecules of a person's dead flesh and bones. Being fungible, means that any element and molecule is available from which God can reconstruct the entire body of flesh and bones. Blood is no longer relevant, because it is that which assured physical death to every living person, especially Jesus.

A deeper examination of God's Love, reveals that there are at least 4 aspects of that love.

As I have mused on this, I have concluded that these four categories are:

1. The singular love that has always been within the Trinity of each towards the other.
2. God's love for all of His creation.
3. God's love for those whose faith, belief and trust of Jesus' sacrificial act on the cross that made them one again with Him and are now part of His eternal family.
4. His love of the lost.

Even though He spoke harshly to them, when He said, *"...I never knew you.."* because He is by definition, love, how could He not have some form of that love for them as well?

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