

An Old Refrain of Satan's

by Bill Crews

It is amazing to what lengths some will go to condemn the innocent and to exonerate the guilty. A person who will not listen to the foul speech and the vulgar jokes of others on the job or at social gatherings or, trapped into hearing, will not laugh or pretend to be amused is often scolded as though he were the rascal or culprit. He is told that he ought to stay and listen and laugh with the crowd lest he leave the impression "that he thinks that he is better than everyone else."

This is an old refrain of Satan's; he has been using it for a long time. It was developed and perfected by those who, because of their own misconduct, have reasons to feel guilty but want to transfer their feelings of guilt to those who have conviction and courage enough to refrain. The individual who will not drink alcoholic beverages, who will not gamble, who will not dance, who will not read obscene literature or feast upon pornographic pictures, who will not patronize disgusting movies, who will not appear in public in immodest apparel is cut down with the old cliché: "You must think you're better than everyone else." The truth is, that they make those who freely indulge in sinful pleasures feel guilty and uncomfortable, and they do not like it one bit. So they strike out -- at the wrong thing. This, however, is nothing new under the sun. Nineteen centuries ago the apostle Peter wrote: "that ye no longer should live the rest of your time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. For the time past may suffice to have wrought the desire of the Gentiles, and to have walked in lasciviousness, lusts, winebibbings, revellings, carousings, and abominable idolatries: wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them into the same excess of riot. speaking evil of you: who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the living and the dead" (1 Peter 4:2-4).

Have convictions; be certain they rest upon the truth; stand up for them; let no one drive you from them. The apostle Paul warned, "That we may be no longer children, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men in craftiness, after the wiles of error; but speaking truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him, who is the head, even Christ" (Ephesians 4:14-15). He also said, "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord"(1 Corinthians 15:58)

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