



Let's Not Be "Bloodless Christians"

By Pastor Jason Triplett

Hebrews 12:3-4 (ESV)

"Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood."

Recently, a high-profile pastor in New York was found to have had an ongoing extra-marital affair with another woman. His Church serves nearly 10,000 people. As the faith community reeled from the exposure of sin within the life of its lead minister, a very familiar accusation rose among those who responded to this news. It was the accusation of hypocrisy.

The philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche was highly critical of people who did not embody the beloved ideas they studied and expressed. He believed that people should not merely be "in love" with ideas but should incarnate the ideas they love. He only respected people who practiced what they preached. Nietzsche said people become enamored of ideas. They hear something, like it, memorize it and then spew it out and think that's living it out. But the person hasn't "shed any blood" in living out their beloved philosophy. They are simply a cheap mirror of the idea; they have no intention of employing it. Nietzsche identified this as great hypocrisy. While the philosopher was an atheist, I think Jesus would agree. But is the New York pastor truly a hypocrite? Is he someone who's loving the idea of Christianity, but not living it?

Hypocrisy is the most common sin Christians are accused of committing. The word is out. Christians are a group of people who believe both in personal righteousness and personal depravity. Many people see this and can't reconcile it because they think it's

a contradiction. In the minds of many we are either righteous, or we are sinful, we cannot be both. But in Christ, true believers are both. Christians who fall into sin are not hypocrites. Why? The introductory tenet of the faith is that we are saved sinners saved by grace and therefore righteous. It's not a contradiction, it's basic Christianity.

This Sunday is the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In this cornerstone event of the Church, we see a 'contradiction' inhabited by Jesus Himself. Christ, God in human flesh, all powerful and righteous, stepped into our depravity and became sin. He died a sinner's death while being sinless Himself. Three days later he arose, conquering death and fully identifying Himself as God and Savior. The result is that our faith in Him, His cross and His sacrifice removes the stain of sin from our lives and attributes to us His righteousness that we did not earn by behavior. This dynamic, although a paradox to those outside the faith, exists in the life of every believer. By faith in Christ, our past, ongoing and future sins are paid for by Christ's work on the cross. This is the idea that Christians incarnate. This is the reality for which we bleed. If we live this, we are not hypocrites. We would be "Bloodless Christians" if we lived into the idea that believers are sinless. Jesus clearly taught against this idea.

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior this season, may we not be "Bloodless Christians". May we embody the true Gospel as we enjoy blessed righteousness in Christ. May we know the paradox of His blood poured out for our sin while His resurrection imparts new life, righteousness and eternity to us.

¹ Nietzsche, Friedrich Wilhelm, 1844-1900. *Beyond Good and Evil : Prelude to a Philosophy of the Future*. London, England ; New York, New York, USA :Penguin Books, 1990, Chapter 6.

CELEBRATE WITH US EASTER SUNDAY

In-Person Services @8:00 & 9:45am
Livestream @9:45am

Each Service will have
Live Music, Nursery and
Children's Church

**ARE YOU READY
FOR CAMP?**



**CAMP SCHEDULE
TO BE FINALIZED SOON!**

For more info:
www.lamoinecamp.org

**In whom do you trust
on life's journey?**



2021 RCC Women's Retreat
Trust the Trinity

Fri May 14 - 5 pm to 9 pm

Sat May 15 - 8 am to 4 pm

Registration - \$25.00

Deadline April 18

Speaker

Dawn Farris

Church Center App - rushvillechurchofchrist.com

Brochures available on bulletin board in entry

Meet Goeff & Bobbie Breedwell!

Goeff is a candidate for our Associate Minister position. He will be preaching on Sun. May 2. RCC will host a Meet & Greet breakfast before service starting at 8:30am on that Sunday.



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Prayers & Praises

Updated: 4/1/2021

Praise that RCC will return to 1 service on April 11th!

Rick Ashcraft - Praise for a great report!

Ladies retreat May 14 - 15

Bianca (Sara's cousin) Praise for healthy mommy & baby!

Janet Detrick - Cancer

Pray for the family & friends of Nathan Grafton, 19 year old who lost his life as the result of a car accident

Leaders of our country & military

Jane Wright - health

From Emily Caldwell - for people to Love God and Love Others!

Associate Pastor search

Family of Carl Wiggins

Alisha's grandmother - starting breast cancer treatments

Thelma - health

Garrett Collins - Cancer

Ron King (Cheri's father) - health

Kailey Orwig - deployed to South Korea

Abigail Norton - deployed to Africa

Still in need of a Nursery Point Person

Church Building Need

Liz Wood - cancer

Dan Norton - stroke recovery

March OFFERINGS:

Mar 7 - \$ 2269.42

Mar 14 - \$ 1931.66

Mar 21 - \$ 5480.92

Mar 28 - \$ 3044.92

Prayer Requests can be submitted and updated through the online Prayer card. Find it at rushvillechurchofchrist.com

