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Are You Moving Up the Ladder of Set Apartness?

March, 2008

Shalom!

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Here we are at the end of March. I'm thinking ahead: April showers bring May flowers. Our friend, Jann, in Texas is planting her garden now while we will still have snow banks sl-o-w- l-y melting away. Are your thoughts turning toward the outdoors yet?

We are **hosting Dave Gipson this coming Shabbat** and have put out the welcome mat for visitors. Dave is currently coordinating the development of groups of people interested in developing Messianic communities and is spending a lot of time in Mexico assisting several Messianic groups there. He is in the process of relocating from Colorado to Southern California. We are looking forward to his message as YHWH leads though we may also ask him to comment on our current Galatians study as well. If you are within travel distance please join us for worship, prayer and study this weekend!

Our March **For Women Only teleconference** is

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Recording method to get the most out of your study time

<http://www.setapartmingb.org/SetApartMinistries/Articles/Recordofknowledge-insightsgainedwithinstructions.pdf>

scheduled for March 30th. Our subject this month is:

Keeping Pesach, our Betrothal Dinner and Discussion of how we are doing at learning to Hear His voice. Shema, Yisrael!

More information is listed below.

It is time once again to host a **Ha Yesod class** as we have a group of interested people. Marilyn Zierhart will be facilitating the group which will be held on Sunday evenings, beginning in early April. If you know of someone who would like to attend, please let us know so we can order enough study materials for all. The cost is \$35 for the 14 week presentations, workbook and a years subscription to Messiah magazine from First Fruits of Zion.

Our **Messianic Fellowship Leaders conference** this past weekend concluded our discussion on resolving conflicts with mature fellow Believers and began the discussion of shepherding. Like Yeshua, those who shepherd His people must be mature and dedicated to nourish, defend and admonish as needed. It seems it is these last two tasks that are often the hardest.

We spoke of the difference between wolves in sheep's clothing, tares and immature "wheat." It is clear to us that Yeshua instructed us to allow tares to remain, though we are not to give them authority or allow them to "steal" time. It is also clear that we are to root out any wolves as soon as we know their identity. My favorite comment: "Someone is not a wolf just because we don't get along with them." We spoke of the difficulty of discerning between these as well as between immature wheat and tares.

It continues to be apparent what an awesome and humbling task it is to shepherd under our Head Shepherd's authority.



Along with our next installment on moving toward **Set Apartness**, you will find a brief article here on the need for balance between our delight in reaching out to others to give them the Gospel Message of our Messiah

Up the Ladder

of

Set Apartness

Part 3 of 4

Profanity in the Cinema

by

Marsha Van,
A.D.N., G.N.



I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside: it shall not cleave to me.

Psalms 101: 3 (KJV)

What's in a word? A picture is worth a thousand of them. They can build up or tear down, bring joy or pain, heal or harm, they can be righteous or profane.

When I say profane, what comes to your mind? The New Webster's Dictionary defines **profane** as:

- not

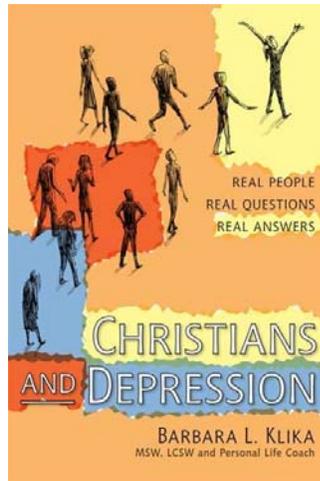
sacred; irreverent;
blasphemous; vulgar;

- to put to a wrong or unworthy use (as in using the Lords name in vain);

AND our need to teach, strengthen and establish the identity and boundaries of the fellowship itself: **Inside, Outside, Upside Down.**

In Service to Him, the Gatherer of the Flock;

Barb Klika



Christians and Depression: Real Questions & Real Answers

By Barbara L. Klika, MSW, LCSW, Personal Life Coach

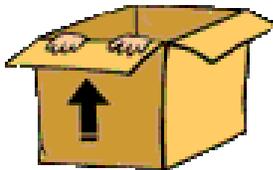
With grateful thanks to Rob Marnocha's End Zone for the cover graphics!

Christians and Depression is a thoughtful, well researched resource for the many questions that arise when a Christian struggles with depression. Especially appropriate for therapists, coaches, and those who need Biblically sound answers for common questions about an often taboo subject. The author's gentle and encouraging tone make this a book of hope for all readers.

*~ Lynne Klippel, author, publisher, coach
<http://www.lynneklippel.com/>*

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Inside, Outside, Upside Down



Just as had been true in our days of attending a church of one denomination or another, one of the ongoing struggles of maintaining a Messianic Fellowship, perhaps especially a home based one, is the issue of maintaining a **healthy balance between care and nurturing of the existing members, and outreach for bringing in new members.**

All of us seem to be especially excited as we see someone with a heart for Yeshua who is willing and able to "break out of the mold" and diligently

- bad language

(swearing, cursing),

- lewd, sexually suggestive, coarse, vulgar, or offensive language or acts

(this might also include some words that replace swear words).

When I searched the Bible to get an understanding of what YHVH (God) considered profane, I found that it referred to two basic categories of being holy and profane. It appears that any word, thing, or action that diminishes the holiness or sovereignty of YHVH is considered profane.

In 2 Corinthians 6:14 we are instructed not to be connected to unbelievers and asked, "What partnership have righteousness and lawlessness or what fellowship has light with darkness?" I understand this to mean that we are to be as different from unbelievers as light is from darkness or righteousness is from unrighteousness.

When I began to scrutinize my movie collection, I came to understand that differences should include what movies I watch. When I was a child, my mother directed whom I spent my time with and taught me not to swear or even to use replacement swear words. I remember her quoting Matthew 15:11 "It is not what enters into the mouth that defiles the man but what proceeds out of the mouth that defiles him." I knew this verse was referring to swearing but hadn't yet learned about profanities in many other forms.

At first I followed the rules Mom set, but by the time I hit my teens, swearing and coarse humor had become like a competitive sport amongst many of my peers, and I was not one for losing. At one point my grandmother said my language would have made a sailor blush.

seek Him and His Word in a Hebraic context.

- Truth seekers all, we have risked the displeasure of man in our desire to please our Elohim.



As a result, when we find one another of like mind, seeing the One Flock, One Shepherd, One stick in His Hand as a living prophecy coming to life today, we are just pleased and happy to be in their company. Come one, come all! Let us joyfully celebrate what we have come to understand.

And this system works well for a time! At some point, though, trouble will inevitably erupt. Some one will want something changed that others value. Challenges to the leaders authority to make decisions comes up so often; sort of a modern day Korah company. People learn at different rates too, so as each one studies they may come to different understandings than they originally had. Trying to change a group's direction can be like trying to drive with one foot on the accelerator and the other on the brake.

When new people come in, whatever their knowledge base in Torah, simply by being there, group dynamics can change. Some groups welcome additional insight and some are threatened by it. Some acknowledge and tend to the need to help bedraggled and despairing "sheople" while some feel ill equipped to do so. I have even read one community website that said point blank that if people had personal issues, they should go elsewhere.

- As much as we desire simple unity in Maschiach, in

our fallen state and in our various levels of maturity and immaturity, we cannot always maintain it.

As I noted above in reference to our Leadership teleconference, as leaders we need to take up both our rod and **and** our staff if we are to carry out all the tasks of a shepherd. Discernment about the heart motives of our people, recognition of different agendas, a willingness to face and work through these differences or to make the tough call if disciplinary action needs to be taken is required of us. (In our SAM community, we say: **pray, stay,**

Fortunately, YHVH recalled His words to my memory and I've taken a stand against profanity being spoken in my home, either in person, or by way of my TV. Through prayer I have come to understand that every movie or TV show I watch should reflect YHVH just as everything I do or say should reflect Him. I also recognized that I was incapable of accomplishing this task without some divine assistance, and even with that I still had my flesh to contend with.

When I first took a stand against profanity, I thought it would be easy. I was wrong. It's been one of the hardest steps up the ladder I've taken yet. It's strange how swearing, being one of the first things I stopped doing myself, became one of the last things I was offended by in others.

Though I was convicted in my spirit, it took a while for my ears to become spiritually tuned and even longer for me to speak my mind to others.

By the time I made the choice to scrutinize my media choices for profanity, my ears had grown in spiritual discernment, but my early attempts were still fraught with difficulty. Initially I resisted the full leading of the spirit because the number of movies I had in the "out" pile overwhelmed me. I juggled several movies several times back and forth from the "in" to the "out" and back to the "in" again. I was having a hard time knowing where to draw the line of acceptability.

After wrestling with the overall message of a movie versus the level of profanity it contained, I realized the answer was not as black and white as I had once thought. Some movies contain profanity to help define a character and not just for the

and don't run away.)

- If we fail to pay enough attention to the development of trust, maturity and mutual accountability **within** our fellowships, we find ourselves much more easily divided by the push and pull of absorbing newer members.

Not everyone who comes to our doors is pure as the driven snow, as the saying goes. Some truly ARE wolves in sheep's clothing while others may be simply immature or in the midst of life transitions or relationship challenges. There are even those who are a distraction. Our "short hand" reference is "**Swisher people**": the ones who have idle curiosity about YHWH, Yeshua and Torah but not enough to be hungering and thirsting after Him, so that they just come and go, "swishing" in and out of fellowship with the wind, often with entirely different expectations or even demands on the group. Of course, we need to be wise and discerning about the factors that can affect someone who is sort of "caught between a rock and a hard place," too.

As the covenant relationships of a community grow stronger, usually through adversity, a deeper knowledge of one another and a trust of *Messiah **in** each one* leads to greater confidence in their heart intent, no matter how the circumstances may appear. If someone makes accusations, they will have less power to be divisive for those who know one another's hearts well.

The long and the short of it is this:

- *When we truly nurture, love, cherish, defend, teach, admonish and exhort our **INSIDE** people, through our unity in Messiah,*
- *we will give far less opportunity for anyone coming from the **OUTSIDE***
- *to turn us*
UPSIDE DOWN!



sake of profanity.

If Charles Dickens character Fagan, from the book *Oliver Twist*, had been portrayed without profanity, would he have been understood to be the evil man he was? This isn't meant to be an excuse for tolerating bad language, just an example of how profanity can influence a story line.

After much thought, I concluded that these choices should be YHWH's, not mine, and I gave it over to Him in prayer. I can't say that everything went perfectly after that because my flesh still got in the way, but I was able to refocus on the task at hand.

I found that swearing was the easiest profanity to recognize but hard to eliminate completely because of its prevalence. Sexual suggestibility in action or word and vulgar or coarse language were easy to identify also, but it was irreverence or blasphemy toward YHWH that won an instant trip to the "out" pile.

Once I'd identified the profanity in a movie, I just had to overcome any emotional attachment I might have to it.

For instance, I used to love Mel Brooks, but he never made a movie that didn't contain all these profanities.

I used to love science fiction movies too, but one night when I was watching *Star Gate*, I recognized the names of pagan gods being spoken and remembered the words of Exodus 23:13 "and do not mention the names of other gods, nor let them be heard from your mouth." That was the last episode I ever watched. I know I wasn't the one speaking their names, but allowing this in my home was blasphemy.

I wish I could talk more about the movies I ousted but there are just too many to mention. Suffice it to say, I ended up with a lot more space for good movies. I know they are out there and I continue to search for them on a regular basis.

Teleconferences

FOR WOMEN ONLY

Our next monthly teleconference will be held on March 30, 2008 at 9:00 am CST.



Watch for the announcement in your email box or contact us if you'd like to receive an invitation. info@setapartmingb.org and ask to be included!

Our topics for this month:

PESACH PLANNING

SHEMA YISRAEL!

Last month we spoke of the realization that we are in a comparable time of the straw being removed as we consider the Exodus story. After the apparent worsening of the situation, YHWH brought Moshe and the Children of Israel and their companions safely through His final lesson by providing the Passover Lamb.

Now we, too, commemorate this event and consider it our Betrothal Dinner and preparation for the Marriage Feast of the Lamb to come.

How have you kept Pesach and how have you presented it to friends and relatives who do not yet understand our ways?

As we study the First Exodus, we are reminded once again of the necessity of listening for His voice in this Greater Exodus to come so that we know where to step. How are we doing learning to recognize and respond to His Voice in immediate obedience?

MESSIANIC FELLOWSHIP

LEADERS TELECONFERENCES

We have two current teleconference groups. Would your leadership team benefit from a consultation opportunity?

(You can arrange for a conference

As I mentioned in my earlier articles, scrutinizing what you watch on your TV is not a one-time deal, it is a continual process. As I grow in spiritual maturity, I get better at separating the profane from the holy and the righteous from the unrighteous and I move up another rung of the ladder of set apartness.

Join me next time for Part 4: Magic in the Cinema.

If you want to know more about what it means to be Holy or Set Apart (Qadosh in Hebrew) you can go to our site to [browse the index of articles for Kadosh](#).



Maturity
in
Prayer
Life

[Please Click here for ordering information!](#)

Order now at the introductory price of \$15!

Effective May 1, it goes to \$20.

For the past several years, the Set Apart Ministries community has been studying and implementing *The Life Model: Living from the Heart Jesus Gave You* (©1999, 2000, 2004 Shepherd's House, Inc.), which includes E. James Wilder, Ph.D. as author. If you have browsed through our website and read our newsletters, you will find that the *Life Model* does have an important role in our community.

During an especially intense time of prayer, we came to understand that just as we mature in our personal lives, we also go through a maturing process in our Prayer Lives. This audio CD is the result of the understanding we gained through this time.

Efforts to assess our own or another's prayer life usually consist of such things as: suggesting daily regular times of prayer, a specific devotional tool or process, keeping a prayer journal and so

with *ONLY* your own team, rather than with leaders of other groups if you prefer.)

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forth. While all of these suggestions are good, they do not present a measure by which to determine the growth and quality of the relationship itself between the pray-er and the Hear-er!

Included in the CD is an overview of the different maturity levels from *The Life Model* and what each level entails. Also included is a teaching on Love and Fear Bonds and how they affect our relationships.

These teachings are followed by a discussion on each of the prayer life levels as we see them tied into the maturing process. We pray this CD teaching will be as much a blessing to others as it was to us in preparing it.

Blessings of strength and peace to you all!

Barb Klika & Marilyn Zierhart

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