

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Behavior

"To really know a man, observe his behavior with a woman, a flat tire, and a child." – Anonymous

"I love you always, but sometimes I do not love your behavior." – Amy Vanderbilt

"The way we behave toward people indicates what we really believe about God." – Warren Wiersbe

"Human behavior flows from three main sources: desire, emotion, and knowledge." – Plato

"People's behavior makes sense if you think about it in terms of their goals, needs, and motives."
– Thomas Mann

"I will behave wisely in a perfect way. Oh, when will You come to me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart" (Psa. 101:2). Here we see the noble desire of the Psalmist. This is such a great challenge, for it is much easier to say one thing and do another.

How often have we heard the old cliché, "Do as I say, and not as I do?" Or, "Actions speak louder than words?" It is so easy to "talk the talk, but not walk and walk."

James is the book of practical wisdom, and sometimes very hard hitting when it comes to our daily lives. He writes, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror, for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was" (James 1:22-24). If our Christianity has its basis totally in words and not in deeds, then we have only fooled ourselves.

Among the 613 laws and regulations of the Old Covenant, Israel was warned against cheating their fellow Israelites. "For all who do such things, all who behave unrighteously, are an abomination to the LORD your God" (Deut. 25:16). This is a simple reminder that behavior can be classed in two categories: righteous and unrighteous.

Our desire should be to have a behavior that exemplifies Christianity. People should be able to know of our love for God by the way we act. Isn't it interesting that Jesus reveals to us that we will be an influence upon others by the way we act? "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35).

What does your behavior say about you?