

RAISE UP YOUR STANDARD

Hebrews 12:23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

1. Within the church, the visitor may face a barrage from those who emphasize outward actions you should or shouldn't do with, seemingly, little to no concern for the inward condition of your heart. Yet living a good life on the outside without change on the inside leads to a shallow or empty spiritual existence. These Standards and why should be taught in new convert's class. I have seen many visitors leave and never come back when more emphasis is made on the outward appearance, ahead of the inward cleansing that comes with a new heart and new spirit. The ones, on the platform of our churches, should be the example for others to follow.

The first rule of management is, "praise in public and criticize in private." Never point out an individual in the audience and criticize them before the rest of the church. They will take criticism in private, where there will be embarrassment and an adverse reaction if the same criticism is in public.

Ezekiel 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Ezekiel 36:28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

2. When we have been completely changed from the inside out, because we have been united with Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. This has so altered our condition that we are a new creation! The Holy Spirit's activity in our life, as a believer in Christ, produces a new creature that's both internally significant to you and externally evident to others.

3. The Apostles, including Paul, taught standards of behavior for the Apostolic-Pentecostal Churches. First, let us look at what a Standard is and why Standards, of both looks and behavior, are taught.

4. A Standard is a conspicuous object, such as a flag or banner, formerly carried at the top of a pole and used to mark a rallying point, especially in war and battle, to serve as an emblem of identity for your troops and cause.

5. A Standard is a flag or something that is personal to an individual or Group to identify the Group. The Standard can be a personal flag of the head of a state or of a corporation and bears heraldic devices.

6. A Standard, as a personal flag or something showing identity, such as the **Kings Family**. Let us concentrate on this "Kings Family."

2 Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? **for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

2 Corinthians 6:17 **Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord,** and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

2 Corinthians 6:18 **And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.**

1. Not only are we Children of God, He will dwell in us, walk in us, He will be our God, we will be HIS people. As Children of God, we are glad to fly a banner/flag, **our Standard**, to proclaim that we are a Blood Bought Child of the, one and only, true God.

Colossians 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Colossians 2:7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

Colossians 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

2. By not defending the Apostolic/Pentecostal heritage of Biblical morality, we're being overrun by the world, of which, we are supposed to "come out of and be separated from."

3. Powerful forces array. Christians let us consider this battle in spiritual terms. Many deplore the eroding standards of conduct while others embrace their new liberty.

4. The devil vies for our children's hearts, souls and minds. While not in the majority, at the present, "progressive Pentecostalism," dominate the dissemination of thought.

Galatians 5:9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

STANDARD FOR APOSTOLIC/PENTECOST REGARDING PRE-MARITAL SEX

5. The mainstream media, entertainment industries, education system and much of government, encourage sinful lifestyles. Take for instance, our Federal Government, rewarding having children without benefit of marriage.

1 Corinthians 5:9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:

1 Corinthians 5:10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

1 Corinthians 5:11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

1 Corinthians 5:12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?

1 Corinthians 5:13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

1 Corinthians 6:18 **Flee fornication.** Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

1 Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1. I have personally heard young people who are excited about "getting my benefit check," feeling absolutely no shame for the sin of pre-marital sex or being a single, multiple, parent. Our government keeps "giving them a raise in pay," for their immoral behavior.

1 Corinthians 7:2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have **his own wife**, and let every woman have **her own husband**.

2. Note, wife and husband are both singular, we do not believe in polygamy.

1 Corinthians 7:36 But if any man think that he behaveth himself uncomely toward his virgin, if she pass the flower of her age, and need so require, let him do what he will, he sinneth not: let them marry.

3. This was written in Bible days, before there was a license, etc., to formerly marry. They were married, immediately, at the time of this first act and did not move around to sample other forbidden fruit. Pre-marital sex is a SIN. Marriage to that first one, (notice Paul said virgin), erases the sin.

STANDARD FOR APOSTOLIC/PENTECOST AGAINST HOMOSEXUAL/LESBIANISM

Leviticus 18:22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.

1. God, in giving this commandment, was very adamant about it. Abomination is something so horrible that God has a hard time describing his contempt for this kind of behavior.

Leviticus 20:13 If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.

Romans 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Romans 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

Romans 1:23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

Romans 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

Romans 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Romans 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

Romans 1:27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

Romans 1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

Romans 1:30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

Romans 1:31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

1. Take same-sex "marriage." Shifting attitudes reflect in part, an academic establishment inculcating progressive cloud dancing.
2. The United States Government at West Point Chapel Hosts Same-Sex Wedding. The following is an excerpt from a newspaper article.
3. Cadet Chapel, the landmark Gothic church that is a center for spiritual life at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, hosted its first same-sex wedding Saturday, December 1, 2012.

Penelope Gnesin and Brenda Sue Fulton, a West Point graduate, exchanged vows in the regal church in an afternoon ceremony, attended by about 250 guests and conducted by a senior Army chaplain. The two have been together for 17 years. They had a civil commitment ceremony that didn't carry any legal force in 1999 and had long hoped to formally tie the knot.

The way was cleared last year, when New York legalized same-sex marriage and President Barack Obama lifted the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy prohibiting openly gay people from serving in the military.

The brides both live in New Jersey and would have preferred to have the wedding there, but the state doesn't allow gay marriage.

4. I feel like God was talking about womankind with a woman as well as mankind with a man. Our military and America will pay the price for this abomination to God. We, as Christians, (the silent majority, as we were once called), have been silent too long. Prayer is almost completely forbidden in these chapels. I have heard the Name of Jesus cannot be mentioned.

5. Public schools, on taxpayers' dime, have directly assailed, what had been, deeply held convictions of most parents. Parents should teach their children to love and behave like the gender that God made them, not have sex-orientation classes in our public schools to teach the children that "God made a mistake in the gender that he placed you in."

6. In the United States, Federal Government has disregarded Christian's opinion on marriage and Christians wanting to hold to Bible principles of one man, one woman, (like God established in the Garden of Eden).

Genesis 5:2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.

LOOK AT THE ATTACK ON THE NAME OF JESUS.

Matthew 24:9 **Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.**

7. Christian's, are the only group, having no rights, according to governments around the world. Jesus said, and I did not know how it was going to come about, but, it has.

1. Merry Christmas? No, the politically correct word is happy holiday!
2. Christmas tree? No, the politically correct word, according to the world and government, is Holliday tree!
3. After all, we must not offend the gay rights, Muslims, Atheist or any of the other privileged, special interest groups, according to the U.S. government, must we?
4. As Christians we should not shop in any store that refuses to acknowledge Christ is the reason for the season. We can buy our Christmas presents elsewhere and let them feel the pinch in their pocket book, probably where their brains are anyway.
5. In 1963, when God was taken out of school, our children's future was sealed in gloom and doom. We as Christians have been told to, "turn the other cheek," so many times by followers of Satan, that we have been dumbed down to think that we are supposed to just take all kinds of abuse by the world.
6. When a choice has to be made between following Jesus, being ashamed to lift up a standard or be identified with followers of Jesus, holding our ground against an ungodly society, then let us look at the example that Jesus actually set, when HIS Temple was being profaned.

John 2:13 And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

John 2:14 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

John 2:15 And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

John 2:16 And said unto them that sold doves, **Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.**

2 Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

7. He asks us to "be ye separate." One way to show our separation, from the world, is to FLY OUR STANDARD to show we are Jesus Kids.

2 Corinthians 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

8. We are Children of the Most High God, Children of the KING OF KINGS. That makes us, as His Children, a Prince or Princess!! Think of it, when we become children of God. Our Standard is, clean living and a distinctive look, to proclaim our special cause.

1. Apostolic/Pentecostals, since the days of the Apostles have used standards, as a flag or banner to proclaim that they are one of those Jesus Children. We are in a war, Isaiah, says to lift up a banner.

Isaiah 13:2 Lift ye up a banner upon the high mountain, exalt the voice unto them, shake the hand, that they may go into the gates of the nobles.

Isaiah 13:3 I have commanded my sanctified ones, I have also called my mighty ones for mine anger, even them that rejoice in my highness.

2. He prophesied, God would Command His sanctified ones, them that rejoice in HIS Highness.

Isaiah 13:4 The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like as of a great people; a tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together: the LORD of hosts mustereth the host of the battle.

3. God has, gathered together, as the LORD of host, mustered us to this great battle. A Flag is called their Standard when carried by a military unit. Their flag or emblem is used to show the central or rallying point of an army in battle. We are in the greatest battle of all, it is for our eternal soul.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Ephesians 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Ephesians 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Ephesians 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

2 Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

2 Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

1. Why do we, as Apostolic/Pentecostals, raise up a standard to show that we are chosen, set apart, children of the King of Kings?

STANDARD FOR APOSTOLIC/PENTECOST AGAINST ABORTION

Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

Job 31:15 Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb?

Psalms 139:13 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

Psalms 139:14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

Isaiah 44:1 Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen:

Isaiah 44:2 Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen.

Isaiah 44:24 Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

Jeremiah 1:6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.

Jeremiah 1:7 But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.

Jeremiah 1:8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 1:9 Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

Luke 1:31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

Luke 1:36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Luke 1:41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

Luke 1:42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

Luke 1:43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

Luke 1:44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

1. I cannot imagine any married couple wanting to abort, (murder) their unborn child. Look at the examples of scripture above, those embryos were not yet born; however they had life, God knew them. John leaped for joy at the news that God was to be manifested in the flesh in the body of Jesus Christ. Elizabeth was so elated that she was filled with the Holy Ghost! We never know what that unborn child will be called by our Lord to do. Where would this world be without those who have been called of God, even before they were born?

2. If you are unmarried and have committed the sin of pre-marital sex and are pregnant, do not compound that sin by murder! That embryo is simply a, not yet born, child, and God is watching. Repent of your first sin, adopt the child with a good Pentecostal/Apostolic family, or keep YOUR child and raise it for Jesus.

STANDARD FOR APOSTOLIC/PENTECOST AGAINST FILTHY LANGUAGE

Luke 22:31 **And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:**

Luke 22:32 **But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.**

Luke 22:33 And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.

Luke 22:34 And he said, **I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.**

Luke 22:54 Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off.

Luke 22:55 And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, **Peter sat down among them.**

1. Even though, Peter had been with Jesus for 3 1/2 years, being taught by the Master, he did not, yet, have Jesus in him, through the power of the Holy Ghost, to have the backbone or courage to stand and be identified with Jesus.

2. Peter sat among those who kindled a fire, and sat with the enemies of Jesus. He sat among the false church leaders, who had changed the teachings of Moses, taken over the church, and made it a tool of Satan rather than a House of God.

Luke 22:56 But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him.

Luke 22:57 And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not. (#1-Careful Peter).

Luke 22:58 And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not. (#2-Peter, remember the words of Jesus?)

Luke 22:59 And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaeen.

3. Why Christians do NOT curse, brawl, instead, they live by the Golden Rule.

James 1:26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

Matthew 26:73 And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee.

4. Bewrayeth is not a mis-spell. It means: 1. to reveal or expose. 2. to betray.

Matthew 26:74 **Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man.** And immediately the cock crew.

5. Peter showed those killers of Jesus, (the world), who were aligned with Satan and against Jesus. He tried to be "one of them" by showing he knew how to curse and swear, while denying that he knew Jesus. They were planning the Crucifixion of Jesus. Peter was sitting around their fire, instead of staying near His Lord and Master.

1. Clean conversation, not to curse and swear is part of our identity. The person that was accusing Peter of "being one of them," identified Peter because of his speech. Peter, wanting to be just one of the crowds, showed them that he knew how to curse and swear and that he was, not one of those Jesus People! His occupation was a sailor, before Jesus called him he probably knew how to really spit out the curse words.

Luke 22:60 And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. (#3 Now what Peter?)

Luke 22:61 And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. (Jesus is watching us, will we deny HIM too or will we identify with our Father?)

Luke 22:62 And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

2. After Peter received the Holy Ghost, (Jesus dwelling inside him) look at what he was able to do for Jesus.

John 14:17 **Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.**

3. Peter preached the New Testament plan of Salvation on the Day of Pentecost as Jesus had instructed, as Jesus was ascending into Heaven. The words of Jesus:

Luke 24:46 And said unto them, **Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:**

4. Jesus had died during the Jewish Feast of the Passover. He was our Passover lamb for the sins of the whole world, past, present and future. Sins rolled ahead by the blood of animal sacrifices, died at the cross. Christ means "the anointed ONE. Why did HE suffer? Why did He come?

Luke 24:47 **And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**

5. The above commandment, Jesus gave his Disciples, during the 40 days that He taught them, after His death, burial and resurrection, as he was about to ascend into Heaven.

Luke 24:48 **And ye are witnesses of these things.**

Luke 24:49 **And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.** (Endued, is made alive).

Luke 24:50 And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

Luke 24:51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

Luke 24:52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

1. What happened at Jerusalem? WHAT DID HIS DISCIPLES TEACH?

2. Seven days later, on the Day of Pentecost, (Pentecost means 50, it was a feast day, commanded by God to commemorate the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai), the Holy Ghost/Spirit fell on the ones gathered in the Upper Room in Jerusalem, with the evidence of "speaking in unknown tongues, as the Spirit gives the utterance." This is the evidence that God has moved into "your temple."

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

3. When Peter was asked, "what must we do?" He gave the following message, which **IS** the New Testament Plan of Salvation, written in the Blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, after the flesh, but, the One and Only God of all creation, after the Spirit. Jesus, (meaning Jehovah, our Salvation), is the revealed Name of that One God.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

4. Peter did mighty works, after Jesus came to dwell in his temple. We can too.

Acts 5:15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

Acts 5:16 There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

5. Why do we, as Apostolic/Pentecostals, raise up a standard to show that we are chosen, set apart, Children of the King of Kings? First of all you must not be ashamed that you are a Child of the King of Kings. I WILL fly the Standard for my Family of Jesus.

Mark 8:38 **Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.**

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

2 **Peter** 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all **holy conversation and godliness**,

1. Peter had remembered his lesson well; however, Paul suggested an identity. Most of the Standards or identities were commandments of God, in the Old Testament.

Exodus 16:28 And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?

2. The death of Jesus fulfilled the Law of Blood sacrifices; however, it did not do away with the Ten Commandments or other laws of God. Are we trying to be "secret service or undercover Christians?" Do we, not want anyone to know that we are not, "one of them," as Peter did, while denying that he was a follower of Jesus?

3. I had much rather go to Heaven and find out that I did not need to adhere to the Standards of the Apostolic Church, than to be told, "you were ashamed to be identified with me on earth, so go live with those who you identified with." I do not believe anyone who has made it to Heaven will want to come back to earth and live their life all over again to see what they missed by living up to the Standards of the Apostolic/Pentecostal Church. Better to be safe than sorry.

STANDARD FOR APOSTOLIC/PENTECOST SHORT HAIR ON WOMEN

4. Let us look at what Paul taught on this subject:

I Corinthians 11:5 But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

5. Dis-honors her head with cut hair.

I Corinthians 11:6 For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

I Corinthians 11:7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

I Corinthians 11:10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.

6. Power (hair) on her head, because of the Angels. Jesus is coming.

Luke 9:26 **For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.**

I Corinthians 11:13 Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?

I Corinthians 11:15 But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

1. Her Covering is also a part of her Standard. All that is necessary is to say, "Jesus, forgive me," then, keep the scissors out of it. You cannot make it grow out immediately, but, it will grow back, so let it grow back for an, "in your face devil," flag, for you are a Princess, a child of the KING of KINGS. Let the world know you are HIS child.
2. "Her Glory," so fly the Standard for Jesus!

STANDARD FOR APOSTOLIC/PENTECOST AGAINST LONG HAIR ON MEN

3. What say ye Paul?

I Corinthians 11:14 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

4. Man with long hair is a shame unto him. He covers his head with long hair. This shows the same disrespect as a man keeping a hat on in church. It is alright for a lady to wear a hat to church, keeping her head covered; however it is a shame or disrespectful, to God, for a man to wear a hat or have long hair.

I Corinthians 11:16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

5. Contentious means, tending to argument or strife; quarrelsome, causing, involving, or characterized by argument or controversy:
6. If being contentious were a valid argument against Standards, why take a chance with living a life, looking like the world, embarrassed to fly a Standard of identity as a Christian, (a Prince or Princess, the son or daughter of Jesus, the King of Kings), and not make Heaven our eternal home?
7. Examine the reason that you do not want to identify with those Jesus Kids. Is it to rebel against the teachings of the Apostolic/Pentecostal Church? If your motive is to show them, "I can look just like anyone else in the world and still live for my Jesus," then rebellion is the sin, as evil as the sin of witchcraft, which we also preach against.

1 Samuel 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

STANDARD FOR APOSTOLIC/PENTECOST FOR UNGODLY ENTERTAINMENT

8. In America, our idols come in the form of wealth, television, fashion, sports, food, even politics.

1. It's rotten that Hollywood mocks the "Modern Family" then thrusts "666 Park Ave" in primetime, but TV can be tuned out, thrown out or turned off.

2. As we think about those compelling distractions and their role in our life, let us take time to appraise our self honestly and say we are serving the One True God?

3. Friendship with and service to God does not require perfection, but, always striving for perfection, as Jesus was our example, let us walk after HIM.

Psalms 101:2 I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? **I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.**

Psalms 101:3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

Titus 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Hebrews 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

4. Blood bought Children of the Lord Jesus Christ, should proudly display the recommended standards. This is boldly saying, "in your face devil."

James 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

James 1:20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

James 1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

James 1:24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

5. When we can look at our self in the mirror and know that "all is well with my soul," we can do great things for God.

1. Our true self, is who we are when we are alone, in the dark, with no one there to observe us or to have a positive influence on our behavior. but, we must remember, God sees us at all times.

2. Many times, when a Child of God has made a mistake, the devil will keep hammering them with phrases like, "you are no good, remember what you did, yeah, you remember," and we allow the devil to again overwhelm us with remorse, when in reality, because of the Cross of Calvary, we have been forgiven, let us forgive ourselves so we can get on with doing something for Jesus.

3. Let us walk up and down the corridors of our mind daily in prayer, take off the ugly pictures of past and forgiven failures, hang there instead a beautiful picture of success, something that we have done for Jesus for all that HE has done for us.

4. Tell the devil, "my past mistakes are covered by the blood of Jesus and you cannot walk through HIS blood, so stop reminding me of my past mistakes!" Concentrate on what we can do for Jesus today and in the future, not brooding on a mistake that was made, long ago, we cannot change the past, but, we can control our future. To allow the devil to steal our praise is really allowing him to keep us from believing God's word which says:

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin**

James 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

5. If we are willing to hear the Word, then we must also be willing to obey it for it to do us any good.

6. We must hear it as James and John did, when the master said "Follow me," and they left their nets and their boats and they followed him.

7. Let us, do the word as well as hear it, yielding up our hearts to its sway, being willing to walk in the road which it maps, to follow the path which it lays before us.

8. Hearing it obediently, we must also hear it personally for ourselves, not feeling that it is for others, but for ourselves alone.

9. Abraham made many mistakes, and suffered from fear and a lack of trust, but Abraham went as the Lord directed, and wherever he built an altar, it was to the ONE TRUE God alone.

James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

James 2:24 **Ye see then how that by works a man is justified**, and not by faith only.

1. While Apostolic/Pentecostals, who have held to the Apostolic Standards, that the Apostle Paul was talking about, while the rest of the Church world, look like the world. Where is the separation?

2. An orphan or beggar, who has been adopted by a King, would never say, "I don't want to be identified with THAT family," would they?

STANDARD FOR APOSTOLIC/PENTECOST DRESS ON A WOMAN/PANTS ON MAN

3. So why do Apostolic/Pentecostals have Standards that identify them wherever they are? What about Dress?

Deuteronomy 22:5 **The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment:** for all that do so are **abomination** unto the LORD thy God.

4. Abomination is the same word that God used to describe the behavior of the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh **abomination**, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

STANDARD FOR APOSTOLIC/PENTECOST AGAINST MAKEUP AND JEWELRY

5. Paul covers why Apostolic/Pentecostal women wear no makeup or jewelry.

1 Timothy 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

1 Timothy 2:10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

6. Here is why Paul was preaching what he preached. This was in the Old Testament; however, something that God did not like in the Old Testament, is a law or rule that is carried into the New Testament. The laws of Blood Sacrifices were fulfilled when Jesus, God manifest in the Flesh, died for our sins. **An abomination to God in the Old Testament is still an abomination.** God said in Malachi:

Malachi 3:6 **For I am the LORD, I change not;** therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Genesis 35:4 And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and **all their earrings which were in their ears**; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem.

Isaiah 3:16 Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet:

Isaiah 3:17 Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts.

Isaiah 3:18 In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon,

Isaiah 3:19 The chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers,

Isaiah 3:20 The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings,

Isaiah 3:21 The rings, and nose jewels,

2 Kings 9:30 And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window.

Ezekiel 23:40 And furthermore, that ye have sent for men to come from far, unto whom a messenger was sent; and, lo, they came: for whom thou didst wash thyself, paintedst thy eyes, and deckedst thyself with ornaments,

Ezekiel 23:41 And satest upon a stately bed, and a table prepared before it, whereupon thou hast set mine incense and mine oil.

Ezekiel 23:42 And a voice of a multitude being at ease was with her: and with the men of the common sort were brought Sabians from the wilderness, which put bracelets upon their hands, and beautiful crowns upon their heads.

Ezekiel 23:46 For thus saith the Lord GOD; I will bring up a company upon them, and will give them to be removed and spoiled.

STANDARD FOR APOSTOLIC/PENTECOST AGAINST USING TOBACCO, ALCOHOL OR ILLEGAL DRUGS IN ANY FORM

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

Isaiah 5:11 Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!

Isaiah 5:12 And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe, and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the LORD, neither consider the operation of his hands.

Isaiah 5:13 Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.

Isaiah 5:14 **Therefore hell hath enlarged herself**, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.

Habbakuk 2:15 Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!

Titus 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

1 Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

1 Corinthians 3:17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

1. Drugs, alcohol and tobacco have destroyed many people. Tobacco causes cancer, drugs and alcohol are mind altering and will destroy a person mentally and physically. Even if it were not a sin to defile or destroy the temple of God, why not buy your children a new pair of shoes or save that enormous expense, being used for drugs, alcohol and tobacco and put it in the bank for your children's education? Education makes the difference in whether your child will work for a minimum wage job, or have the finer things in life. Education makes the rest of their life easier and more pleasant.

STANDARD FOR APOSTOLIC/PENTECOST on LIES, GAMBLING and STEALING

Exodus 20:15 Thou shalt not steal.

Exodus 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Leviticus 19:11 Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.

Leviticus 19:12 And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:13 Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning.

Jeremiah 22:13 Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbour's service without wages, and giveth him not for his work;

Ezekiel 22:12 In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood; thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 22:13 Behold, therefore I have smitten mine hand at thy dishonest gain which thou hast made, and at thy blood which hath been in the midst of thee.

Zechariah 5:3 Then said he unto me, This is the curse that goeth forth over the face of the whole earth: for every one that stealeth shall be cut off as on this side according to it; and every one that sweareth shall be cut off as on that side according to it.

Zechariah 5:4 I will bring it forth, saith the LORD of hosts, and it shall enter into the house of the thief, and into the house of him that sweareth falsely by my name: and it shall remain in the midst of his house, and shall consume it with the timber thereof and the stones thereof.

Matthew 19:18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

Matthew 19:19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Romans 13:8 **Owe no man any thing**, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

1. Owe no man, does not mean it is wrong to buy something, a house or automobile on the credit, it means to pay your debts on time as agreed, this is Godly honesty.

Romans 13:9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Romans 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Ephesians 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Ephesians 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Ephesians 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

Ephesians 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

2. Jesus is watching over us, at all time, let us wave our Standard back to Heaven!