

August 2009

Cyberspace News

Michigan News



## How Not To Sin

Elder Charles Moore

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How not to sin is something that every Christian needs to know how to do because we all still sin, no matter how long we have been a Christian. If you think that somehow you are the great exception, hear Apostle John. "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us. (1 John 1:8-10 NASB) John not only states absolutely that we all still sin, he also gives us the vitally needed remedy for the sin that we all still commit: We are to confess our sin and God will forgive us and cleanse us. Isn't that great?

I found an interesting list on [SermonCentral.com](http://www.colornet.org) that had 23 ways of 'how not to sin'. You can see the full list on our church web site at <http://www.colornet.org>. Let's look at my shortened version of the list.

Choose to love the Lord

instead of surrendering to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes or the boastful pride of life. (1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world.)

Choose to be filled with the Spirit instead of being destroyed by the works of the flesh. (Galatians 5: 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom

of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,) Choose to flee from youthful lusts and turn to a pursuit of righteousness, godliness, faith, love and peace with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart instead of the company of destructive people. (2 Timothy 2: 22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. . . . 24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil,) Choose to be faithful to my identity in Christ instead of betraying my sonship and sense of belonging, acceptance and the favor of God. (1 John 3: 1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we

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will see Him just as He is. **3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.)**

Choose to stay on track with God's will instead of allowing myself to be derailed, destroyed and disqualified from winning the race. (1

**Corinthians 9: 24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.)**

Notice that each point in the list gives a positive alternative for a sinful response. It is hard to just stop doing something without filling the void that stopping leaves. Also notice that all of the ways start with the word "choose". Sinning or not sinning is a choice we make. Sometimes it's a spontaneous, spur of the moment choice, so much so that we hardly know that we did make a choice, but choose we did. Most often these choices aren't deadly but they could be. Sometimes all that separates the extent of the consequences of these choices are circumstances. Suppose my next door neighbor comes over to complain that I need to mow my grass more often. How things turn out for my neighbor may differ based on whether I was in my house swatting flies or was outside with a chain saw cutting up logs. The same sinful impulse might give my neighbor either a welt on his head or a lost limb. The source of the problem remains the same - my anger and how I choose to handle it. Sometimes we think that our sin is 'no big deal' because the consequences have been mild, but that same "little sin" can be all too deadly if we are ever placed in the wrong circumstances.

My appeal to you today is this: Make a deal with yourself this month to meditate on these Scriptures for the next month to help you not sin. Next month we will look again at this topic of "How Not to Sin" and take it to a deeper level.

## Cyberspace News [genevabegeman@charter.net](mailto:genevabegeman@charter.net)

Greetings from your "Outlying Reporter" with August updates. Sometimes things totally escape my memory, so please forgive me when I skip some event that is very special in your life. I can always catch up so write me and remind me!

August 2 was a festive Sunday at the Sam and Rachel Sottile household in Oxford, Michigan as their first-born son, Anthony, had graduated from high school and it was time to celebrate! Since Oxford is a little north of most of the family, we were so happy to have the opportunity to see the Sottile family in their home setting. We had a lot of delicious food and tours to their beautiful home ball field and through their home. Anthony graduated at the top of his class with many awards. He starts college at the University of Michigan this fall. Congratulations, Anthony.

Ruth and David Charles spent most of August visiting family and friends in Michigan. They are now home again and I am sure those suitcases were happily unpacked. We enjoyed your weeks at church, David and Ruth.

A new baby was welcomed into Melissa and Dave Vaughn's home this month. Lauren Elizabeth Vaughn was born Sunday, August 9, 2009 at 6:18 PM weighing in at 8 lbs. 1 oz. and 21.75 inches long. Great grandpa and Great grandma Charles even got to see her before leaving for Florida!

Dorothy Layton has been having problems walking and had another hip surgery August 25 and everything went fine. She is in rehab now and we sure hope she is able to get out and about soon.

I was able to visit with the Ripley's this month and they are still getting around. Norma is having ear problems and Rip is still struggling with his knee difficulties. Send a card, folks! They love us all and miss contact with us.

Jim and Vicky Ohle report that their grandbaby, Nate, is out of the hospital and he is now 8 lb 15oz. They send thanks to you for all your prayers.

Josh Nevil has been out to sea on his sub (Navy) and is in to port for 2 months. Mom, Kay Nevil, was at church this week and happy that he is on land again. Summer is ending, but we are entering fall with all the excitement of school starting and other activities. May God bless each one of you!

## Michigan Report

Aurine Moore

The month of August was a mixture of contrasts: days of high wind or clouds, sun or fog, mornings whispering of Fall and evenings with cool breezes and noon days of radiating heat. The day for the wedding of Chelsey (Begeman) and Jason Connor this month comes to mind. Beginning as an overcast day which led into rain prior to the wedding ceremony, then there was clear air and a beautiful breeze just after and into the reception in LaSalle. The wedding itself, held at Redeemer Fellowship Church, was beautiful. Congratulations to the Connors on your wedding and may God bless your entire marriage.

It was a blessing to see David and Ruth Charles up in the Michigan area again for the various functions held at church this month. They are a wonderful couple to talk to and added to every event they were seen at, including Anthony Sottile's outdoor graduation party, Chelsey and Jason's wedding, and church Bible studies and worship services. It has also been nice to have Steve Conley, Pat Conley's husband, joining us for worship this month. We've also been enjoying visits from Pastor Mike Heil and his wife Dodi. They pastor the New Hope Fellowship church which meets at our local church building on Sundays. Dodi recently undertook a makeover of our lobby which has given it a fresh new look and extra space for fellowship and mingling, both before and after services.

Jeff and Melinda Begeman's family went to Munising Michigan for a nice late summer vacation where it was unseasonably cold and remarkably rained sideways (If

Jeff comments on weather, it's remarkable).

Tim Begeman started a trend when he served as Sabbath School superintendant several years ago. It's called, "what I learned this week". Many of those who have stepped into that post want to continue following his lead and awkwardly confess that though they learned something, they have since forgotten what it was (your writer) or that they forgot to learn anything (no names). At any rate, it has truly been an enjoyable and enlightening start to the Sabbath School portion of the program. Geneva Begeman for example shared a newsletter article that was written in 1987 about the summer camp program that year. Mike Begeman had contributed to that article and Geneva said the funny parts were written by him. Another time, she shared something Ruth Charles had sent from Florida called 'Children's Prayers to God'.

For those who don't know it, another feature of the local church service that is worthy of note is the weekly PowerPoint presentation that runs before church and during the period between Sabbath School and the Worship Service. It consists of background pictures (some beautiful, some humorous and all suited to a written message of quotes and ideas that relate to the weeks scripture theme and title). These contributions from Tim Begeman are anticipated and viewed with appreciation by the congregation.

Tune in next month for news of the shingling party. Until then, may God be with you and you with Him.

A glass feels light in your hand until you hold it a long time. If you put it down a while, you recover your strength should you choose to pick it up again. Our burdens grow heavy, too, the longer we hold them. God knows when we pray and lay our burdens in His hands that we are likely to pick them up again. Then they will grow heavy again, but at least for the time we laid them in His hand, we were able to rest.



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**Cooking Instructions**

The inscription on the metal bands used by the U.S. Department of the Interior to tag migratory birds has been changed. The bands used to bear the address of the Washington Biological Survey, abbreviated as "Wash. Biol. Surv." -- until the agency received the following letter from an unhappy camper: "Dear Sirs: While camping last week, I shot one of your birds. I think it was a crow. I followed the cooking instructions on the leg tag and want to tell you it tasted horrible."

The bands are now marked "Fish & Wildlife Service."

**Truth in Seminars**

The company I work for sometimes holds "Lunch and Learn" seminars for employees during lunchtime. These deal with a variety of physical and mental health issues. If the seminar lasts beyond the normal lunch hour, we're supposed to get managerial approval to attend.

So, last week, this flyer came around:

**LUNCH AND LEARN SEMINAR: WHO'S CONTROLLING YOUR LIFE?**  
(Get your manager's permission before attending)

Looks like that question's been answered ...





Ruth & David Charles



Anthony Sottile



Sam & Rachel Sottile



Chelsey & Jason Connor

Dad Dave & new daughter  
Lauren



Melissa, Lauren & big sis Ava  
Vaughn



Dale & Geneva Begeman

Dear Readers, Due to the financial setbacks in our country which affects even our local church, we find we are lower on funds than usual. We are getting ready to go into the upcoming Fall business meeting and vote on the missionaries whom we will support in the coming year. As you may know, we support five different missionaries: Campus Crusade for Christ--Kevin Young in New York City and Tim Schott in Detroit. Good News Unlimited, Silent Blessings, (television stories for deaf children) and Tim and Kim Trouten in training for missions work. We thought perhaps our readers, as well as our United Church members who receive this newsletter, would be interested in an opportunity to help us keep these mission efforts going. Any support you would like to contribute directly to these efforts would be appreciated and can be addressed to the United Church Treasurer, Geneva Begeman, at 3330 Jackman, Road, Petersburg, MI 49270.