

Smoother Sailing on 7 “C’s”

Calming the Strife of Life – Put on the armor of Light!

Romans 13:11-14

- A Christian asked me some time ago if there were a few simple principles that could be used to minimize the risk of sin in daily living.
- Idea being that there is often little time to open the Bible when unexpected situations present themselves until after the fact.
- We should all be interested in making the best of our time and minimizing costly errors.
- Rom. 13:11 “Our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.”

1. Compass – Get a Good One!

- Pro. 22:6 – Spiritual and moral direction.
- Heb 12:2 “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith”
- Phil. 3:13-14 – Press toward the goal for the prize!
- Col. 3:1-2 “Set your mind on things above”

2. Caution – Exercise It!

- Heb. 10:23 – Care for your Confession.
- Rom. 13:11 – Be alert, “it is high time to wake out of sleep.”
- Rom. 13:12 – Be prepared – put on the armor of light.
- Rom. 13:13-4 – Don't chase trouble and don't invite sin.
- Rom. 14:19 – Pursue things that make for peace and edify.

3. Compassion – Be a Good Neighbor

- Phil. 2:3-4 – genuinely care for others.
- Rom. 13:10 “Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.” (Lk. 10:26-37)
- Rom. 14:7 – How will our choices affect others?
- Heb. 4:11, 14 – everyone is an example, bad or good.
- Who/what do you deeply care about?

4. Conviction – of Sin

- Mk. 2:16-17 “I did not come to call the righteous, but

sinners, to repentance.”

- Lk. 18:10-14 “God, be merciful to me a sinner!”
- Jn. 1:8 “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”
- Rom. 6:23 – Don't draw unwanted wages!

5. Commitment – Don't leave Home Without It!

- Lk. 14:26-35 – Count the cost.
- Heb. 11 – requires responsive faith.
- 2 Tim. 2:1-7 – Requires instruction, sacrifice, obedience, hard work, and patience.
- 2 Tim. 2:15 – Requires diligence.
- Heb. 10:35-39; 12:1-4 – Requires endurance.

6. Contentment – Be Thankful

- 1 Tim. 6:6-8 – Care for necessities & minimize “wants.”
- Rom. 13:13 “Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.”
- Mat. 19:16-24 – Contentment is learned out of necessity, not out of fullness.
- Phil. 4:11-13 – Paul “learned” to be content, so must we!

7. Correction – Embrace It!

- Heb. 12:5-6, 11 – Don't despise the chastening of the Lord.
- Rom. 13:12 “Cast off the works of darkness”
- Rom. 13:13 “Walk honestly, as in the day”
- Rom. 13:14 “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ”
- Pro. 17:10 “Rebuke is more effective for a wise man Than a hundred blows on a fool.”

Decision...

- What is your compass set on?
- Exercise Caution and make choices with Compassion.
- Accept Conviction and Commit to faithfulness.
- Learn Contentment and welcome Correction.
- Following a few basic Gospel principles can help smooth out the often rough seas of life.
- How close is the time of your salvation?

Heb 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)

Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Rom 14:19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

Php 2:3 *Let* nothing *be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Php 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

1Ti 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

1Ti 6:7 For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out.

1Ti 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

Php 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content.

Php 4:12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Php 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Heb 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Heb 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

“Contentment makes poor men rich; discontent makes rich men poor.” Benjamin Franklin.

Be content with what you have, never with what you are.