

Words of Wisdom by John T Polk II For WECO FM 101.3 and The Fellowship Room

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.

5-2–2016 Being a Christian

Jesus spoke a parable:

"No one puts a piece from a new garment on an old one; otherwise the new makes a tear, and also the piece that was taken out of the new does not match the old" (Luke 5:36).

Putting a new piece of material on an old garment misses on two counts:

- (1) the old garment is already stretched, so the new piece will pull away;
- (2) the new material won't match the old.

Some people try to add Christian principles to their stretched, sinful lives, but the Christian life pulls away, and being a Christian doesn't "match" sin.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God (**Romans 12:2**).

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Before becoming a disciple of the Lord, Paul said,

I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme (Acts 26:11).

He had tried to make them speak against Jesus. As a Christian, Paul wrote,

I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed (**1 Corinthians 12:3**).

No one following the Holy Spirit's inspired Scriptures will contradict Jesus Christ. By the Holy Spirit, who can say: Jesus did not build His church (**Matthew 16:18**)? Purchase His church with His blood (**Acts 20:28**)? give sinners "redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (**Ephesians 1:7**)? Reject baptism to "wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (**Acts 22:16**)?

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body (1 Corinthians 12:13).

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5-4–2016 Becoming a Christian

After Jesus had died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day, He appeared to the Apostles,

When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted (Matthew 28:17).

"Doubted" simply means their mind was divided on how far to go with belief. To them, Jesus said,

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:18-20).

Today, people believe Jesus is the Christ, but are not sure about being baptized. Listen to the Lord who loves you and was raised from the dead.

He who believes and is baptized will be saved (Mark 16:16).

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5-5–2016 More Than a Mother

[A woman's voice above the crowd] said to Him, 'Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!' But He said, 'More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!' (Luke 11:27-28).

Jesus was born of Mary, the only virgin mother, ever! And, yet, His spiritual family means more to Him than she did! Before this incident, some said,

'Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You.' But He answered and said to them, 'My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it''' (Luke 8:20-21).

His spiritual family is "the house of God, which is the church of the living God" (1 Timothy 3:15), composed of all who "call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:2).

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Judas Iscariot had left to betray Jesus (**John 13:21-30**), Peter was told he would deny Jesus (**John 13:36-38**), and yet Jesus said,

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me" (John 14:1).

Faith in God should continue, no matter what people might do. But, faith in God necessitated faith in Jesus as God's only begotten Son, for Jesus had said,

"He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me" (John 12:44).

One cannot believe God is but deny that His Son is Christ.

"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God" (**1 John 4:15**).

Religions that deny Jesus is God's Son do not, and cannot believe in the God of the Bible, the Father of Jesus Christ!

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