

Raise the Flag

Pt. 2 - Waving the Red Flag

Opening joke - Smells like pepper spray and it has bells in it.

Note - Red flags are used for warning of impending danger. (Dates back to the early days of the shipping trade.)

- God waves red flags for us.

Psalms 81:8, "Hear, O my people, and I will warn you - if you would but listen to me, O Israel!"

Ecclesiastes 4:13, Better a poor but wise youth than an old but foolish king who no longer knows how to take warning.

God's Red Flags

1. The Bible.

1 Corinthians 10:6-12, Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. 7 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry." 8 We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did - and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. 9 We should not test the Lord, as some of them did - and were killed by snakes. 10 And do not grumble, as some of them did - and were killed by the destroying angel. 11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. 12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

Psalms 19:9, The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. 10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. 11 By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Note - The Bible warns us against getting drunk, wayward women, foolish spending, dating unbelievers, robbing God of the tithe, etc.

Example - Couples living together outside of matrimony asking for assistance with their bills.

Hebrews 2:1-3, We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. 2 For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, 3 how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?

2. The inward witness.

Acts 15:24-28, We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said. 25 So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul - 26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 27 Therefore we are sending

Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing. 28 It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements...

Note - They knew it seemed good to the Holy Spirit because of the inward witness!

Romans 8:16, The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

3. Wisdom.

Proverbs 2:12-17, Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse, 13 who leave the straight paths to walk in dark ways, 14 who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil, 15 whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways. 16 It will save you also from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words, 17 who has left the partner of her youth and ignored the covenant she made before God.

Note - The warning is just don't ignore the obvious!
If it walks like a duck...

Example - Riding the mechanical bull fresh off of back surgery, having a convicted felon do some house sitting while you're on vacation, investing your life savings in the latest pyramid scheme, etc.

CLC students caught in ocean tide.

4. His people.

Acts 20:31, So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

Ezekiel 33:6, 9, But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes the life of one of them, that man will be taken away because of his sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for his blood. 9 But if you do warn the wicked man

to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself.

Example - Running on the highway

- Heeding God's red flags are the greatest measure of protection we have.

Example - Security systems, auto sensors, off duty officers verses The Bible, The Holy Spirit, Wisdom and Christian community.

2 Thessalonians 3:15, Don't think of them as enemies, but warn them as you would a brother or a sister.

Example - The collision of the two trains.

Note - Many complain that a *loving* God could never send an eternal soul to a devil's hell. (Mother's prayers, Pastor's sermons, co-worker's witness, etc.)