

EXCEPT FOR.....

Greetings in the name of Yeshua. I think that is how I will start out each post from now on. I know that sometimes my posts are hard to take and that it might seem that I am judgmental, but lest we forget, we are told judge a tree by what fruit it bears, even commanded to do so, just not to condemn. But getting back to my greeting, I think that it's important to start off with a good greeting or blessing before I delve into what I believe Yahweh is asking me to share.

As you probably know by now, I have a very active Facebook account. The friends that I currently have are friends that share my convictions where our faith in Yeshua is concerned. All of my friends can see the watering down of Christianity and we call out those who hold the watering cans and we come against doctrines and/or beliefs in the Church that are foreign or are corruptions of our Faith in Yeshua Ha Mashiach.

I am fully aware of the fact that ALL of us have areas in our lives where we tend to slip a little during our walk with Yeshua. Yeshua doesn't expect perfection because he knows that we still live in our flesh, yet he expects us to try to walk toward perfection, knowing that he picks up the slack that we all drag behind us as we walk along. While we walk, he is cutting away chains that still cling to us and cause us to labor harder than we need to while on that walk. What I think is important is that when it is revealed that we do have encumbrances that impede our walk with Yeshua, we acknowledge them and not brush them aside, or castigate those who have been chosen to point out those things that slow us down.

I would like to tell you about one of my encumbrances. When I was twelve years old my parents decided to divorce. When they made the decision, they asked my sister and I if it would bother us if they left each other. That is a hard thing to put on a kid because they were basically asking us if we would give them permission to divorce. I can't answer for my sister, but when they asked us that question, I immediately remembered all of their fighting, all of the verbal accusations and the general discord that these things brought to the family. All of these having been considered, I told them that I would not be bothered if they divorced. A few days after the decision had been made, my dad sat me down and told me that since he wasn't going to be around anymore (except for visits), I was going to have to be the man of the family. In one day I had gone from a playful kid to being the man of the family. Looking back in retrospect, this was a horrible thing to do to an adolescent. My mother had taken my sister and I and moved us to an apartment on the other side of town and the family house was sold. We weren't in the apartment

long when I realized that a switch in the hallway was bad and it needed to be replaced. I went to the hardware store, told the clerk what I needed, bought the switch and changed it out successfully. I had never done electrical work before, ever, and the success of my work made me feel like the “man of the house” that my dad had charged me to be.

I began to read a lot at this time, books about fixing things and troubleshooting problems. I never liked school. I found it difficult but I knew that I had to go and that I had to get passing grades. In areas where I was lacking skill, I made friends with the smarter kids that excelled in those subjects and they became my tutors. One friend, Howard Stein was a whiz at math and he really helped me to understand math and showed me how it could be fun to run through math problems and solve them successfully. We became good friends and I loved spending time with him and his family. I had a lot of respect for his dad whom I saw as a sort of surrogate father, although I never told him that I saw him that way. I was evolving into the man that my dad wanted me to be, but something crept into my life that still sometimes affects me to this day. You see, I was turning into someone who was a fixer, and I was becoming a fixer that had to do so because there really was nobody around to help me fix things.

We move ahead about seven years, the year that I saw my twentieth birthday. My life was a mess and I was on a barreling freight train to hell. I remembered the words of my good friend Art, words that he shared about my sinful nature, and Yeshua who was the cure-all for all of my ills. I came to the realization that I could not do it by myself so I asked Yeshua to forgive my sins, come into my life and make me a new creature. He was faithful to do just that. I carried into my new life many flaws, the worse being that I was still a fixer. I had seen Yeshua change me in many areas of my life and I knew that I was saved by his precious blood, but I had the tendency to put Yeshua on my own time scale when it came to Him fixing things. This led to many years of difficulty in my walk with Yahweh. That was just the problem, it was MY walk, not me walking with Him and letting Him lead me. So many times, when a problem would arise I would pray for help from Yeshua, wait for a time for Him to fix it as I thought it should be fixed, then when I didn't see what I thought was progress I would proceed to fix things on my own. Yes, things often were fixed that way, but were they the fixes that Yahweh had in mind? Well, in many cases I will never know that answer in this life.

To say that Yahweh is faithful is the understatement of the whole history of mankind. Sometime in the late 1980's Yahweh gave me the prophetic gift. I had prayed for him to use me more and to give me a ministry, and a prophet wasn't even on the list. I saw how the prophets suffered and I wasn't the type to go running toward problems. Yahweh started to lead me to

churches that were having problems and he started to show me the problems and, he told me to speak up, but only when he told me to speak up. I was forced to wait for weeks, months, years and even, in one event, decades, and I had to let him do the fixing and not interfere. I think that one thing that is helping to cure me of my fixing addiction is being married. When I was single I could do things and at worse, it would impact me in a bad way if I failed. However, by being married any action that I take can impact not only me but my wife and the family that Yahweh has blessed me with. My wife can be as impulsive as I am when it comes to some things, but she is also very good at bringing a balance when it comes to waiting on Yahweh.

Three years ago, we started to look for a house and all odds were against us. Neither of us had good credit and her ex-husband left her with some bills that were reflecting negatively on her credit. We prayed a lot and we found that when the stress of bill collectors would arise, Yahweh would provide a way to pay off debts and soon her credit score was jumping up leaps and bounds. It was not long before our credit advisor was calling us to let us know that our credit scores had improved so much that we now qualified for a home loan. When I was out of work we prospered because we had to wait on Yahweh. During one year, with me unemployed and going to nursing school while my wife worked, we qualified for a home, I received a special type of unemployment insurance for people going through school and we were able to pay off debt. It was a miraculous year, and it all came from waiting on Yahweh to make the moves and letting him fix things in his own timing. Oh, and by the way, it had nothing to do with tithing because we couldn't afford to tithe, plus I do not ascribe to what I see as the unscriptural command for church members to tithe.

I know what it is like to have a hindrance in my life, but I have learned how to listen and hopefully to obey. Like I said above, a lot of my obedience comes from my wife telling me that I needed to wait on Yahweh, which was a confirmation of what Yahweh has shown me for several years through the ministry that he has given to me. So, it isn't a lack of compassion that spurs me on to write what I am about to write, but a feeling of urgency that people need to learn to listen to Yahweh's voice and not be stubborn. In other words, I want to write this so that you don't make the same mistakes that I have made.

Foundations:

Right at the start, we need to get a few parameters established, or should I say refreshed. The first thing is that when you came to faith in Yeshua you gave up your sovereignty and you became a new creation:

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 1 Corinthians 5:17

We are to act differently than we did before because we are not who we were before. Granted, this is a process that occurs as we progress in our faith, but we must progress for the process to continue. Progress requires movement and movement is an action of work. I'm not talking about works as in action done in the absence of faith, but a want and desire to move forward that spurs us on and makes us want to progress in our walk with Yeshua.

Second, and as much as this might pain you the reader, we are to keep Yahweh's Commandments. Let's look at the text then delve into it a bit:

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 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. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

I hear it time and time again, "The Law was nailed to the cross with Jesus and it is no longer in effect." Yes, it is true that the sacrificial atonement parts of the Torah were done away with Yeshua because he is our sacrifice, however, the rest of the Torah is still alive and well. In addition, there is no need for a priesthood because all true believers are kings and priests because of our relationship with Aveinu through Yeshua. Notice how Yeshua tells us to keep his Commandments, and right afterward he promises to send The Comforter. I believe he placed his

words in that order because he knew that people would find distress in that they could not keep the Torah in its entirety so he promised a Comforter to bring comfort when we fail. The Comforter (Ruach Ha Kodesh) reminds us of Yeshua's sacrifice when we feel like we have failed and that helps us to proceed forward again. It is also interesting that Yeshua uses two words in this discourse that differ a great deal. Some say that when Yeshua was talking about the "his Commandments," he was referring to his teachings, but in the scripture passage above, Yeshua makes a differentiation between the Torah and His Words. His words were words of love and forgiveness, and like he said in another discourse, Love fulfills the Torah and The Prophets but does not negate them. It is interesting to note that Torah which is often called the Law, really means "instruction." So, the Ten Commandments set the Law down, the Torah shows how to obey the Ten Commandments, Yeshua came to show us that Yahweh desires that we follow Torah, but also to provide a way for us to obtain forgiveness because He knows that in our flesh we are not able to follow the Law. Then Yeshua went to be with Aveinu but sent the Ruach Ha Kodesh to comfort us when the Law becomes a burden that we cannot bear. There is a very good video online that explains how the Torah pertains to us today and I encourage that you watch it before you continue on. If you can understand how the Torah still applies you can understand the writings of Paul which tend to be confusing in regard to the Law. I grew up under the Law and still have to watch this video from time to time to understand Paul's discussion fully.

Copy and paste this link in your browser: <https://youtu.be/eJZMmjzA3JY>

Let me give an illustration. When my parents divorced my mother had to go to work full time. Because she worked all day, five days a week she didn't have time to do chores around the apartment. So, before she left for work, she would leave a list on the table with chores for my sister and me to do when we got home from school. The list that she left on the table was akin to the Ten Commandments. Mom always gave us instruction (Torah) about the blessings for being obedient to her list and the consequences for not obeying the list. Obeying the list led to a happy mother and a clean house, disobeying the list led to a disappointed and angry mother and the effects of atrophy where the cleanliness of the home was concerned. There were times when we disobeyed and failed to complete the list of chores and we knew that when mom came home, we would be in trouble. When she did arrive and saw that cleaning was not done, she would get upset. After a while she calmed down, explained that the chores would have to be done the next day and she would serve us a meal after which we would settle down, watch some television and then retire for the evening. My sister and I rebelled against the list of requirements, mom was upset, then she showed grace by excusing the rebellion, telling us that we could make up for the rebellion the next day by being obedient then she rewarded us with dinner and a nice time with

family before we retired for the evening. The list still remained on the table, it didn't disappear with mom's grace, but her grace excused us for that day's transgression.

The Ten Commandments lay down the Law, and the Torah is instruction in why things are displeasing to Yahweh, and what we need to please Yahweh. Without the Torah we would not know what sin is and contrary to popular opinion, ignorance will not be an excuse when we stand before Yahweh simply because Yahweh has written the Torah on our hearts plus Yahweh has given us His Spirit, the Ruach Ha Kodesh to tug on the Torah written on our hearts when we're about to walk in error. That is unless we make excuses for what we did or are about to do.

Is Tradition A Problem?

There are good traditions and bad traditions. One example of a good tradition is to teach children the Ten Commandments. Those ten edicts are the basis for what is good and right in a world that seems to be circling the drain toward hell. When children know what Yahweh expects another good tradition is to teach them the Gospel of Yeshua Ha Mashiach. I firmly believe that if a child knows what Yahweh expects of us, that we must strive to please Yahweh, that we can never fully please Yahweh on our own, and that Yeshua is Yahweh's good news of Salvation, and those things are firmly planted within their lives, even though they wander away they will someday be convicted to return to Yahweh. I know because that is what happened to me, and countless others I have talked to.

If you want a good example of bad tradition then you just have to look at Islam. Islam is the anti-Torah and anti-Gospel. Muslims teach their children to hate everyone that is not a Muslim, to abuse women, to kill and destroy and yes, they even teach their children through their action's abominations such as pedophilia and bestiality. Islam is the antithesis of what is good and right, the polar opposite of righteousness and holiness. It could be a major player, if not the whole embodiment of the Beast System mentioned in Revelation, although certain elements of pseudo-Christianity also play into that part.

Tradition is what Yeshua fought against when he preached to the masses. There always seemed to be a Pharisee here or a scribe there who would try to trap Yeshua because he was not following Oral Tradition, also known as the Oral Law. Each and every time that Yeshua faced adversity from a "religious" leader it was because Yeshua was enforcing Torah to fight against tradition. To this day many religious Jews live under a tradition which is a mixture of Oral Law (Tradition) and Torah Law. If one could see this mixture in a decanter it would look like a

mixture of oil and vinegar, they are in the same container but they never do mix. Someday in the near future the Jewish people will come back to faith in the Torah and the Torah alone and when they do they will see Yeshua in the Torah, Nevi'im and the Ketuvim (Torah, Prophets, and Writings) and they will cry out, "Baruch Haba b'shem Adonai," (Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord).

Tradition is rife within the Church at large. I'm not talking so much about the Remnant, but about Roman Catholicism, Orthodoxy, and many mainline Protestant churches. Many years ago, Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Wittenberg Castle church. Most of the theses had to do with the actions of the Roman Catholic Church's abuse of power by the papacy and practices of tradition that could not be found anywhere in scripture. It must be clear that Luther wanted to reform the Catholic Church, not start a new sect of Christianity. What was not included in the document that he nailed to the church door were other practices like infant baptism, lent and other traditions of Roman Catholicism. A new sect of Christianity did arise out of Luther's actions, something called Protestantism, a name given to the new movement by the Catholics who saw the Christians as protesters and upstarts. The thing to remember here is that Luther carried over into Protestantism many traditions that were not scriptural. I grew up in the Episcopal Church simply because it was convenient for our family seeing that there was a church a stone's throw from our house. Frankly, for years I thought that the Episcopalian faith was unique until I had the occasion to visit a Roman Catholic church. After the RC service, I walked out thinking to myself, "what's the difference between this and what I grew up with." The answer was and is, not much. Simply put, the Episcopalian Church is Roman Catholicism without the Vatican.

A couple of years ago my wife and I started to attend a little church around the corner from our home. We have a lot in common with the former pastor and many of the brothers and sisters at that church. The associate pastor and his wife however often mentioned words that brought me back to my past. The pastor's wife was brought up a Baptist but the pastor was Lutheran. Now if you have a scale of one through ten with one being the closest to Roman Catholicism, the Episcopal Church is a 1 and the Lutheran Church is a 2.5 or thereabout. Both of these churches fall into a category that is called "Protestant Mainline Churches." Most of the mainline churches traditionally hold many of the traditional values that have their base in Roman Catholicism, things that Luther kept and did not expunge. Remember, Luther was a Roman Catholic Monk at the beginning and was steeped in the tradition of that church. Hence, when the associate pastor would speak in lieu of the head pastor he used tradition vernacular when he spoke, words like Epiphany, Good Friday, Ash Wednesday and Lent. Recently I had occasion to

talk to the pastor's wife who assured me that although they like to hold to the traditions of her husband's original faith, they do not teach them at the church as doctrine. I appreciated her candor in the matter. She really is a nice lady and her husband is a great guy. I do keep the church in prayer however because when some people hear words that they haven't heard before they tend to become curious and they ask or research on the words. Because many people look up to the pastor as a role model there are people who will start practicing things that the pastor likes because after all, he is their shepherd and sheep like to be led in the ways of the shepherd.

The associate pastor was given the position of Head Pastor when the former pastor stepped down to take another position about an hour from here. About a week ago I received a post that the new pastor's wife had posted on Facebook. The post talked about the season of Lent. Now, remember, I grew up as an Episcopalian and know all the ecclesiastical jargon. I remember going to our church, or my grandfather's Lutheran church and hearing all of these terms. So, when I hear them coming from someone that is born again it throws up flags on my playing field, so to speak. To be frank, I don't like Vatican Tradition, it bothers me. It reminds me of all of those years I was duped to believe that I was a bonafide believer in Yeshua but was only one by name, not by faith. So, I posted on her feed on Facebook, "LENT?" Now, most of you, if I sent that message to you, would know that I was questioning why she was celebrating Lent. However, the Lady wrote back to explain to me what Lent is, that it is a period of forty days where people stop and reflect about their lives before Easter actually arrives. Lent ends on Good Friday. During Lent it is traditional to give up something that you like a lot for those forty days, as a sacrifice to show Yahweh that you mean business, so to speak. So Lent is really an act of religion, not relationship. But, like I mentioned above, the pastor's wife was emphatic that they were not teaching ecclesiastical doctrine.

Now my point is that when I came to faith in Yeshua, I mean real faith which occurred when I was born again, I gave up the ecclesiastical things because I realized that they were religious "works" and traditions of Roman Catholicism. I reflect on my life and my faith in Yeshua just about every day and every time that I err, I am thankful for Yahweh's love, grace, and mercy. I don't need a forty-day period to kick that into high gear. Religious people hold onto tradition because it was what men taught them and it makes them feel good that "they" are doing something to please Yahweh. People in a relationship with Yahweh through Yeshua are obedient to Yahweh's edicts in scripture and we have faith in knowing about His grace, mercy, and love, and that any ecclesiastic thing that we do can never make us right with him. Now, in defense of the pastor and his wife, I know that they love Yeshua and that they do have a relationship with him. Traditions are hard to break away from, but I am confident that as they

grow in faith in Yeshua the Ruach Ha Kodesh will show them the freedom of letting tradition go out of their lives.

I'll Be A Strong Follower In Yeshua In Everything, But I Like To.....

I Like to go to the movies:

Recently I was involved in a little altercation with a friend on Facebook. This guy is as solid as a rock when it comes to just about everything. In addition, this man always has something to say about Hollywood, about the actors and their political actions and such, and believe you me, he never holds back his opinion. That is why when he posted that he was going to the movies to see the latest King Kong movie I questioned why he would want to pad the pockets of the movie companies and actors who all seem to use that money in an attempt to destroy our nation and especially our faith. His reply was unexpected too. He made a comment that some people in the thread (me and another guy) should really learn to lighten up and relax. So now I was faced with a showdown with a guy who for many years now I have found to be a good staunch defender of the faith and also a defender of our nation.

My wife sometimes thinks that I'm a fuddy-duddy. Really, the only time that I will go to see a movie is when I feel that I'm being led to critique it. I just don't like throwing money down the toilet, which is where it metaphorically where it goes. Every year it seems like the actors in Hollywood and Broadway are becoming more militant against those of us who have faith in Yeshua and the vast majority of them are not shy about voicing their opinion when it comes to political matters. Most of them are hostile to freedom and friendly toward the forces that want to place America in the grave. I actually feel as if I am paying them to destroy the future of my step-children and grandkids. I won't be the one that throws my destroyer a gun so that they can destroy me or my loved ones. Yet, I get flak from friends and family alike that I am too legalistic, too opinionated and I have to hear the ever popular, "it's just a movie." Yeah, well maybe when we get to heaven and we're standing with the throng of martyrs we'll see a movie about how we actually funded the people who martyred us. Just saying.

I Like to read the horoscopes:

For years I went around and round with a loved one that liked to read horoscopes. I would tell her that Yahweh doesn't like it when we do that, showed her Leviticus in this regard and I still heard, "well, it's not real so it can't hurt me." Well yes, it's not real when you look at

the grand scheme of things, it is a deception that the enemy uses to appeal to the want of every living soul to know the future, and sorry, but that is called fortune telling and scripture is against it. I have often heard the “it’s not real” when it comes to Ouija Boards. Truth be told, when I have counseled people about alien abduction in their lives or occult harassment, I have found that about 99 percent of people who are being harassed in either area played with Ouija boards when they were young or were still dabbling in it or other occult activity. We call these things “doorways” because they seem innocent but they are actually invitations to the enemy who is more than glad to accept the invitation.

I like to drink alcohol:

A few years ago I ran into a scoundrel that called himself a “Christian Bartender.” The little time that I actually spent in his physical presence showed me that he was indeed a bartender, but also that he liked to imbibe when he wasn’t bartending. This man and I had quite debate about his actions. He actually tried to use scripture to prove that it was okay to send people out intoxicated on alcohol, stating that he used the time to minister to them while they were drinking. If you’ve ever been to a bar you know that you don’t go there to hear about God AND after you’ve had your first drink your senses are dulled and you could care less about God. Then, after they’ve had a few drinks and still appear to be able to function they get behind the wheel of a car and chances are that they will die in a wreck or they will kill someone else in a wreck.

But what about social drinking and being a believer? Well, first of all, you are fellowshiping with the world when you do that, which is something that we’re told is very wrong. Second, your own senses are being dulled and with each drink you are giving up more of your sovereignty, giving an invitation to spiritual forces that would just love to ruin your life through your own actions which they can now coordinate. Third, drinking helps the drinker to escape from reality, to forget the ills of the day and to relax when many times in scripture we are told that those things are what Yahweh wants to do for us, so drinking could be idolatrous in nature, a substitute for Yahweh.

I Casually Smoke Marijuana:

Marijuana usage falls into the same category as drinking alcohol. It is an escape where you again give up sovereignty thus allowing otherworldly forces to enter into your life. Marijuana, in fact, is worse. Did you know that our bodies actually have cannabis receptors in

our bodies? Well, they are receptors for a chemical that our bodies make naturally but are chemically related to THC. It is a proven fact that the marijuana that is available has been genetically modified (think about that you GMO conspiracy dope smokers) to be many times stronger than it was fifty years ago. It is also an established fact, backed up by studies, that marijuana can induce psychosis, they have a name for it, Marijuana Induced Psychosis. A cursory review of medical charts of patients in mental institutions shows that almost all of them abused marijuana. Oh, and don't give me the bovine scatology that THC has medicinal purposes. The compound in marijuana that has curative properties is called CBD, and it is found in high concentrations in hemp and low concentrations in marijuana. No, if you smoke Marijuana, you do it to get high and to escape life for a little while. Now that you know about CBD we'll see if you can kick the THC or if getting stoned is really all that you want. My bet is on the latter.

I like to get tattoos and/or piercing on my body:

First off, if you have tattoos on your body and you haven't gotten any since you came to faith in Yeshua then this doesn't apply to you. I have always been against the idea of tattoos. I feel that every human body is a painting on a wonderful canvas that Yahweh has created. Everyone is unique and special as they were created. When I was first saved you rarely heard of any believers getting tattooed. Back then most people took scripture seriously and the warning in Leviticus was heeded:

*Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you:
I am the Lord. Leviticus 19:28*

Oh, how I have gone round and round on this one. The first defense for people who tattoo and pierce themselves is that the Torah is no longer in effect. We have destroyed that myth. The second defense is that the scripture is talking about making piercing for the dead and that modern piercing is not done for the dead. Wrong again, and if anyone takes the time to think about it for a minute it is easy to see. When someone gets a tattoo or piercing, they aren't doing it to glorify Yahweh, although some claim to do so. Those things are done to satisfy a fleshly desire to be unique, which is pride and pride is a sin. The wages of sin is death, thus tattooing and piercing is in effect a memorial to your future death which will occur because you choose to sin.

If that is not enough to convince you then reflect on the fact that scripture says that your bodies are the Temple of The Holy Spirit, it is mentioned twice:

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 6:19

And:

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Now let's look at this. The scripture makes it clear that we are not our own anymore. That means that Yahweh owns us, all of us from head to toe, from your innermost being to the very surface layer of your skin, it all belongs to Him. Think about your house for a moment. Think about how you would feel if you came home and found your home covered with gang graffiti. They didn't use normal paint either, but paint that could not be covered and had to remain on your house until the house finally became old and fell down. Or, think about how you would feel if you came home and found that someone had placed giant chrome doorknockers on your house, and they screwed gigantic stainless-steel screws all over your wall and cut holes and put pipes in the wall as decoration. Either of these scenarios would really piss you off unless you are some sort of deranged person who liked such things. Now think about someone painting graffiti on the Temple of Yahweh in Jerusalem back during Yeshua's day, or them placing the door knockers all over the walls of that structure. Well, that is what tattoo's and piercings are like.

The scripture above talks about defiling the temple. What exactly does that word mean? It seems that the word denotes making ugly and unacceptable.

DEFILE, *verb transitive*

- 1. To make unclean; to render foul or dirty; in a general sense.*
- 2. To make impure; to render turbid; as, the water or liquor is defiled.*
- 3. To soil or sully; to tarnish; as reputation, etc.*
- 4. To pollute; to make ceremonially unclean.*
- 5. To corrupt chastity; to debauch; to violate; to tarnish the purity of character by lewdness.*

6. *To taint, in a moral sense; to corrupt; to vitiate; to render impure with sin.*

[Source: Webster's 1828 Dictionary]

A few years ago, I attended a church that had younger people (late teens and early 20's) who thought that it would cool to have a tattoo competition. Sadly, one of these people was the pastor's daughter. As is usually the case, the pastor didn't want to address the issue, but I felt led to address it. I had an online conversation with one of the girls who defended venomously her right to get tattoos. I cited the verse in Leviticus where Yahweh commanded that His people not be tattooed or pierced. She gave me the old line that Leviticus was the Old Testament and that it was no longer valid because she was under grace. I told her that the very next scripture after the one I cited said that Yahweh didn't want his people to prostitute their daughters. I asked the girl if she thought that prostituting our children was okay since it was in the Old Testament and that by her way of thinking was no longer valid. To skirt the issue, she accused me of calling her a prostitute and ended the conversation. A few weeks passed and the pastor arranged a meeting between the tattoo girl and me. Both of our spouses were present. The girl was quick to show me a large tattoo that went across her upper back, above the shoulder blades which had a scripture chapter and verse tattooed on it. I asked her how that applied to our conversation and she said: "it plants seeds." I asked her if any of her plantings had been successful and if she had led anyone to Yahweh or if anyone had asked about the tattoo. She replied that it had not. I pointed out that it wasn't a very good argument for her cause then. The meeting ended with everyone agreeing to disagree on the subject. Planting seeds is a valid concept, but one could try to argue that they want to become a pole dancer to witness to people, or a porn star or a drug dealer and so on, but when it comes to committing sin to bring about salvation it just doesn't pass the litmus test.

Again, I want to reiterate that it is not my purpose to castigate those who were marked with tattoos prior to their conversion to Yahweh through Yeshua, nor do I want to make those who, as young believers got tattoos and/or piercings out of ignorance. I do however want to warn people who think that as believers it is okay to continue to get tattoos and piercings, that they are dead wrong and that they are polluting their body temple of the Ruach Ha Kodesh.

I Am Really into Video Games:

I was alive when video games were first invented. I remember playing Pong, which was basically a light paddle on one side and a dot that represented a ball that would bounce between paddles. Then Pac Man came out and I remember thinking that the little guy that I was supposed

to be had to outrun ghosts, and thinking that this game was sort of esoteric. Then the Mario Brothers generation of games came out which consisted of a person or persons that were skipping through a virtual world stealing things as they came upon them so that they could gain power and proceed to the next level.

Games continued to evolve into things like Grand Theft Auto, where kids are taught to steal cars, evade the police and kill people. Games continued to get more and more violent. When violence wasn't enough the games started to get magical and occult-like. Games allowed you to cast spells and fight demons and all manner of things that believers are not to do. Many games now are military games that have frighteningly good graphics, so real that today I had to take a second look to see if it was a game or a war movie. Granted, there are video games that are a lot more inert, but they are rarely advertised and I never see kids playing them.

One dear sister who was concerned about video games back in the 90's came to me with a revelation one day. She pointed out that normally when we process things, they come in through one of our five senses upon which time they are weighed by the heart as they are processed by the brain. She said that she watched some kids back then and how they would play the games. The senses came in through the eyes and sometimes the ears, went straight to the brain and then back to the hands, bypassing the heart. After all, it's just a game she surmised, why would it have to go to the heart. She then equated that she then understood how some of the school shootings could happen. She said that the kids were being conditioned to think of life as a game, causing the senses to the brain to hands mode and bypassing the heart. When they would shoot up a school, they were just playing a game. Almost every popular game involves breaking many if not all of the Ten Commandments. I have never seen a game that involved loving neighbors, serving Yahweh or respecting parents. And let's be real about this, shall we? The stupid games are a humungous waste of time that could be spent in living out our salvation and evangelizing the world.

Summary:

These are just some of the things I have witnessed people whom I have considered to be strong Christians doing that is in juxtaposition to their walk with Yeshua. Why do these things happen? I think that it has to do with a warped reality of what Grace really is. Grace is not an excuse to sin nor is it a "get out of sin free card." The definition of Grace is "unmerited favor." It means that we have been shown favor when we could do nothing to attain it. When such a gift is given, we are supposed to be grateful to the one giving the gift, and we are supposed to want to

please the Giver of such a wonderful Grace. Grace means that Yahweh is our friend and Satan is our enemy. Satan hates Grace because he can never attain it. It is a gift that is uniquely given to mankind and not given to other beings physical or ethereal.

At the beginning of this document, I mentioned a friend who was very staunch when it came to patriotism and doctrinal issues of our faith. This friend wrote and shared many posts on Facebook relating to what he (and many of us) saw as the treasonous activities of Barack Obama, who it seemed constantly aided and abetted the enemies of our nation. I can't count the times that he called Obama and other liberal's traitors, and I agreed with him. I also cannot count the number of times he ripped into actors from Hollywood because they take anti-American views and they're quite vocal about their thoughts and intentions. Yet, this friend decided that he was going to see a movie put out by the very industry that he criticized and called traitors. So I and another brother called him to the carpet about going to see the movie, and instead of using a little circumspection about the matter, he told us in effect that we were being judgmental and that we shouldn't point out his hypocrisy. There are several words in the Greek Language that mean judge. When Yeshua uttered, "Judge not lest thou be judged," he was saying "condemn not lest you yourselves be condemned." We are exhorted to judge with righteous judgment. Without knowing the Greek words this sounds like a contradiction. The word for Judge in that instance is to discriminate or discern with righteous discernment or discrimination. We discriminate every day. We come to the determination (judge) that the stove is hot, so we do not touch the stove bare handed. I like to stop at stop signs for the full three seconds because I know right from wrong, that is discrimination, but I also discern that I am always the one that gets pulled over for traffic violations, so obey the law and it won't happen.

It all boils down to common sense and thinking about the consequences of our actions. For instance, smoking tobacco might not send me to hell, but the cancer that it could give me could send me to heaven earlier than I expected. Having a martini regularly might not send me to hell, but damaging my liver might end my life a bit earlier than expected. Paying good money to see a movie might not impact my family right away, but the money does get funneled down to the actors and acting organizations that hate my faith and/or my country. The other fellow that protested our friend who was going to see King Kong said that he wouldn't see a movie with Samuel L. Jackson in it. He said that Jackson was a hater and was anti-American. I concur with his assessment. Samuel L. Jackson hates white people, he doesn't like our country and he hates Black Conservatives. So far, King Kong, Skull Island had netted in the box office about 263 million dollars. That's a quarter of a billion dollars. Jackson probably netted several million for his role in the movie. You have to know that some of that money will go to black supremacist

causes as well as anti-American causes and some will go into political donations to liberal politicians. This doesn't take into account the funds from the other actors, the directors and the producers that will also go into left-leaning causes. Frankly, for myself, I know that I probably have only twenty, maybe thirty more years left in this world and I have endured hardships before. But I refuse to fund people who are dead set against our way of life and want to place my step-children and grandchildren in harm's way, and I refuse to do it by padding the pockets of my enemies. I will not take it easy or chill out like my Facebook friend demanded. When you fund our enemies, you are no different than Obama and his henchmen. Furthermore, when you act like the people that you condemn that makes you out to be a hypocrite. It's high time that we remember that part of our time in heaven is the Bema Seat Judgment, where we will be judged for what we did on earth. No, we won't be cast into hell, but when rewards are handed out the obedient will get much while the lazy and those that compromise will receive little.

Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:14-15