



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
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Confidence Comer John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we want to examine whether the NIV translation of I Corinthians 7:1 is a good translation. In order to do so a few things must be noted at the outset. First, though I

am not a fan of the NIV translation, to cast it aside as if it had no value whatsoever is improper. Without the efforts of translators most of us would be hopeless to read and understand the revelation God has provided man.

My main concern is with the NIV philosophy of translation that is stated in most prefaces of the copies of NIV Bibles. The philosophy of the translators of the NIV is referred to as "dynamic equivalence." The intent of the translator in this type of translation is to bring the meaning of the text out in an easier to read format. These translations reword each portion of the text to present "the meaning" of the original writer. Care should be taken when choosing this type of translation.

A perfect example as to why caution needs to be exercised in the reading of the NIV is found in I Cor. 7:1. The NIV translates this passage as follows: "Now for the matters you wrote: It is good for a man not to marry." The idiom translated by the NIV as "to marry" simply cannot be extended to mean "to marry." The ambiguous "not to touch a woman" of the *KJV* conveys better the meaning of the idiom. Preferable is a true dynamic equivalent, such as "to have relations with," that keeps the euphemistic nature of the original and at the same time has the same meaning as the original. But rather than simply use a phrase that conveyed the meaning (to have relations with) the NIV translators became commentators. They placed their belief and bias in the passage. Be careful to know the philosophy of the translations you use in your study.

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Fall is upon us. You may be wondering where fall has gone because we went straight to winter. Though the cold weather took us by surprise the leaves are now starting to change. It may mean to some that pumpkin spice and flannel shirts are in season, however there is another group of people who are more focused on another season that is upon us. No, not football or basketball season. This season is characterized by scent blocker, eight pointers, cold boat rides, and banded birds. You may have noticed hunting season with the abundant supply of camouflage in sporting goods stores. Whether you're looking to the sky or looking through the trees and fields, camouflage will greatly increase your chances of ending a hunt in success. When going on a hunt we like to blend in. We want it to seem we aren't even there.

Christians can sometimes be like hunters. When we come to church sometimes we like to blend in as a "churchgoer." When we return to the rest of the world we try to blend in with it as well. What surroundings are you trying to blend in to? Do you aim to "blend in" as a Christian? Are you the same person no matter your environment?

2 Timothy 3 tells us, *But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.*

There will come a time when those who try to blend in with Christians and pose as being those who love God, they will waiver and not be able to stay camouflaged. Do you have just the appearance of godliness, or do you strive to live out godliness everyday? Don't be camouflaged, be holy!

Mitchell's Weekly Manna Mitchell Lockhart

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — Christ is Fact
John 6:66-69**

**P.M. — Lethal Weapon
Matthew 12:36-37**

What a Difference a Day Makes!

Isn't it amazing how things can change so quickly? I think of Tyler Trent, the young Purdue student and super fan who is battling terminal bone cancer. Though he hoped to be present for the Ohio State game on Saturday, if Friday was any indication, his dream would not be realized. But on Saturday he mustered enough strength to be present for one of the more memorable upset victories in recent Boilermaker football. The behind the scenes story of that remarkable upset victory will very likely one day be on the big screen. Tyler Trent perhaps willed himself to be at the game, and as if such could happen, he willed his team to victory.

Tyler credited God with providing him the strength to be present Saturday. "At the end of the day. All glory goes to God, without him there is no way I was going to make the game yesterday," Tyler posted to Twitter after the game. "From having to have emergency surgery at the beginning of the week to throwing up all day Friday." What a difference a day made for Tyler...and what a difference a day could make for us as well.

For all of us who are Christians, the day we were baptized for the remission of our sins made all the difference in the world. The day before our baptism we were hopelessly lost in sin! The disease of Satan had us in its hold and we had no hope on our own. Because of God's love and the willingness of Christ to die for our sins, a change in our life was made possible. Rather than being spiritually sick and helpless in sin like the day before, on the day of our obedience to Christ we were made completely and entirely whole. We truly praise God for the salvation made available in Christ.

I guess my question to you is have you experienced that day that changes everything? Have you made the decision yet to have your sins washed away in baptism and allow the Lord to add you to His body, the Church? Anyone who has watched a loved one suffer from cancer or some other disease knows the desire for their loved one to be completely healed. Who would not desire such?

In the realm that is the most important, complete healing is not only possible—it is guaranteed! Though spiritual death was what we all faced because of sin, God provided the Great Physician to heal our disease. Today I stand with great hope. My great hope is both in living the best life possible while here upon the earth, and also experiencing eternal life with God in heaven. Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift!

*John F. Board
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