



NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

"take heed....as to a light that shines in a dark place." II Peter 1:19

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Dear Friends,



*My dear children, let's not just talk about love;
let's practice real love.*

*This is the only way we'll know we're living truly,
living in God's reality.*

1 John 3:18-19, The Message



Over thirty years ago in conferences and sometimes in guest pulpits, I would go beyond what at that time seemed to be proper decorum. To the shock of some folks, I would warn that the day was coming when their school children would come home telling of various sexual practices that they had learned about at school. I was compelled to speak at those times by a fire in my bones. But now, those 'over the top' pronouncements, which at the time seemed to many folks as shockingly confrontive, were too mild. I cannot write here what is daily being foisted upon our children nationally by child molesting 'educators.' The seemingly sudden eruption of perversion across the spectrum and in all Western countries proves the most outlandish warnings to have been clearly too gentle. The current evil is not sudden. It has been carefully planned and incrementally implemented right in our faces, tares sown in the field 'while men slept.' It is human nature to seek to soften warnings of impending destruction with the repetition to one's self and to others that deny the facts. When denial of danger is no longer possible, we sink to the next level: accommodation. Senator Patrick Moynihan wrote in the 60's of 'defining deviancy down.' This is where we actually seek ways to coexist with our enemy. Yet the outcome is that, finally, like quivering prey in the teeth of a devouring predator, we become its food. We are now 'defining deviancy up.' That is when deviancy is no longer defined as deviant, but has become the arbiter of what is right. Good has become evil, and evil good.

I watched a short segment of film footage of a 'pride parade' recently. Big-bellied, nearly-naked men pranced down the street lined with sidewalks full of small children, along with others who I will not describe, just as foul. How remarkably foolish for parents to have brought their young children to view such a

celebration of debauchery! Children's tender unprotected psyches were traumatized, not only by the ugly evil sights before them, but by the inner conflict of why their parents would approve of such behavior. The cognitive inner conflict was agonizingly visible on their faces as I watched them watching this parade of vulgarity. The number of people who timidly speak of this evil as though they fear offending any who may disagree, is as distressing as the offensive display itself. Their cowardice in the face of evil is grievous. But worse still are those who are not timid in their weak response to it, but claim to be Christians, who in the name of some sort of 'love,' sit back smiling in affirmation of 'everyone being free to express themselves.'

I have been just as vehement against legalistic churchy moralism, which deeply injures hurting sexually broken people, as I have the evil I have just described. In a message on a Sunday morning in another pulpit where I was a guest, I said, "God is going to kick down our white picket fence we have placed around ourselves so the most broken folks can get in." Yet seeing how some Christians have treated these hurting folks, you would certainly ask, "Why would they want to be in the church, and for what?"

This rising culture war has been fueled in great part by our failure as believers to truly love. Many Christians do not know how to love people and hate evil. Rather, they end up hating or ignoring people in bondage to evil. We are to hate the evil that has a hold on folks, and love them to the One who is Love. At the same time, we do not become indifferent to their need, and simply pretend it isn't there. Some even change the meaning of love to be an all inclusive mindless embrace of evil. Let us not cripple ourselves with self condemnation over past failures. We do not need to fall on either side of this error. We are neither to be judgmental Pharisees or Cross-denying idolaters. **We are to truly love. And love cannot be separated from truth.** As one young woman in a public testimony said recently, "If my parents had truly loved me, they would not have lied to me about the cruelty of sex reassignment surgery." The procedure has left her permanently altered and sexually crippled for the rest of her life. Love speaks truth, but not in passionless legalism. Love also speaks truth, but neither in flesh-accommodating false comfort. **Love lives the truth, manifesting the light which expels darkness.**

In a private conversation with Richard Wurmbbrand, the founder of *Voice of the Martyrs*, our Hebrew mentor and close friend Dwight Pryor was discussing what it was like to live in times of vast cultural darkness. Wurmbbrand had faced atrocities in both World War II and postwar communist Romania. What he told Dwight haunts me. He said when he was being tortured in the prison, one day two of the most well-known preachers of his nation walked in with guards. They were there for the purpose of helping in the acts of torture of their fellow Christians. They had bought certain accommodations for themselves by agreeing to participate in the darkest acts of their enemies against their own spiritual family. I don't think these men merely flipped from light to dark instantly. This was the final result of many smaller compromises with evil that, bit by bit, brought them to such a place. What temporary comforts may we be purchasing for ourselves by refusing to bear our cross in the face of current evils? The longing to be safe, accepted, and even lauded is a very human one. Will we embrace the Cross instead? Or will we betray the Cross and do it in the name of pseudo love? I assure you, for I know from my own dark experience, that **it is not love to be affirmed in life-destroying sin by well-meaning Christians** who try to separate love from truth. I would certainly be dead now if I had fallen into the hands of many today who, in the name of love, support and even help propagate the worship of Baal and Moloch.

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There is an antidote to this encroaching poison. It is not to be filled with guilt and shame about our past failures, or even our temptation to self-protect. Shame produces nothing good. The antidote is to become filled with the Spirit of love and truth. To become so filled with Light that no darkness has a chance to seduce us into foggy mixtures. When we mix light and dark, we get fog. Pray that the light burns away the fog. **“Father, we pray for such an outpouring of your Holy Presence so that no fog can survive in or around us. Let the fire of Your holiness come to and through us so that no darkness has a corner in us.”** May we place ourselves before Him on purpose with this heart cry. **“Father, teach us to love in this time of trouble as we keep our eyes on Jesus, the One who is both Love and Truth. May we stand firm, shining the Light of the World forth into the darkness by Your grace.”**

Love Through Me

Love through me, Love of God;
There is no love in me.
Oh Fire of love, light thou the love
That burns perpetually.

Flow through me, Peace of God.
Calm river, flow until
No wind can blow, no current stir
A ripple of self-will.

Shine through me, Joy of God.
Make me like Thy clear air
Which Thou dost pour Thy colours thro’
As though it were not there.

Oh blessed Love of God!
That all may taste and see
How good Thou art, once more I pray:
Love through me, even me.

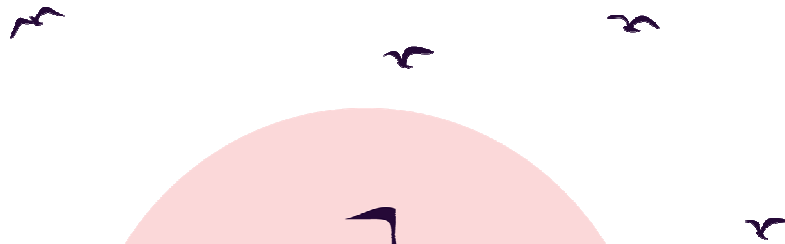
by A. W. C.



Closing Thoughts...



We cannot know what is truly true by drinking a constant flood of mixed media. We need the Holy Spirit to *guide us into all truth. (John 16:13)* We must learn to be still and quiet with Him, and to hear what He has to tell us about where we are, who we are, and what we are to do in our own little worlds of influence. Are you listening to Him? Are you guarding your inner life from the onslaught of chaos that will only distort and deform reality for you? *I will keep in perfect peace those whose mind is stayed on Me, for they trust in Me. (Isaiah 26:3)*



Love, Clay & Mary

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