

WHAT DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND

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"They read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading," Nehemiah 8:8.

Down through the history of man, God has laid down His laws as the way of knowledge. They are to be understood and obeyed. Our daily victory depends on knowing and obeying God. How we live must be constantly shaped by the rules of God, our maker and redeemer. Opinion must not shape what we do, but rather the commandments of God. In these days it seems Christians are more apt to break the rules of God than to keep them. Not that we don't know them but we are unwilling to keep them. Please allow me to ask you some straight questions. **What don't you understand about** *"Think no evil."* I Cor. 13:5. Many Bible passages warn *"As he thinketh in his heart so is he,"* Prov. 23:7. Do you allow the evils of this world to pollute your mind. They will destroy your close walk with God, and fill your waking hours with the false character ruining meditation of this world. Please remember that what you think will shape your daily life, resulting in defeat or victory. One can hide their thoughts from others but not from God. **What don't you understand about** *"Let the words of my mouth be acceptable in thy sight,"* Psm. 19:14 or the warning in Matt. 5:34, *"Swear not at all."* God hates profanity and swearing and all manner of "dirty" talking. When you are alone or with the crowd what are your words of expression? Many believers are so tangled in the world they have learned its language and it spews forth sometimes to their embarrassment from lips of carelessness. This also warns of gossip and the angry tantrums that are often covered up at home, school and work. The control of our tongues is vital in the profane

age in which we live, **What don't you understand about** *"the ear of the wise seek knowledge,"* Prov. 18:15. What do you listen to? Rock and Roll and even Contemporary Christian music has led many a believer astray. You cannot listen to the flesh pleasing beat of bad music and walk pleasingly before God. Again the ear can accept lies about others or be aroused to thoughts of evil if you are careless in its use. I remember a little song from childhood, "Oh! be careful little ears what you hear". **What don't you understand about** *"I will set no wicked thing before my eyes,"* Psalm 101:3. I John 2:16 warns against *"the lust of the eyes."* Come on now! You can see the allure of the world in most everything today. Your TV is full of evil and lack of control is constantly destroying your own heart or that of your children. Most of the programming is to foster what God calls evil and to pollute the standards of Christianity. Hollywood is a garbage dump and the computer now adds its temptation to the lustful eyes of the careless. Visual lust has even entered the field of marketing and style. You have already hurt your self, your children and your testimony by the things you like to watch and often excuse. **What don't you understand about** *"Touch not the unclean thing,"* II Cor.6:17 or the admonition *"Keep thyself pure,"* I Tim. 5:22. The hand is a wonderful part of our body but Satan uses it often. What do you reach for and hold in your hand? We should not hold a cancer causing smoke of tobacco or drugs in our fingers. Wrapping them around a shot glass or bottle of alcohol will destroy your walk with God and your testimony with others. Your hands should not be used to destroy the purity of other men or the virginity of a woman. When you date keep your hands to yourself. The touch between male and female must not be the threshold of immorality to follow. Hands are often used for fighting, stealing and the expression of abuse to others. My dad used to

tell me as a young man to, keep my hands to myself. That was good advice but even better, we should keep our hands for honest work and the service of God. **What don't you understand about** "*Remove thy foot from evil.*" Prov. 4:27. A dancing foot and a praying knee don't belong on the same leg. Your steps into worldly places puts your life in great danger. The theater is no place for the child of God, watching splattering blood and horrific crime. Believers walk into the environment of the worst sins and fail to condemn them. Your feet can divert you from the path of righteousness into vast compromise and the wasteland of evil. We must stand for the right and remember Romans 14:13, It urges, "*Let not man put a stumbling block or occasion to fall in his brothers way.*" **What don't you understand about,** "*Flee youthful lusts.*" or "*touch not the unclean thing,*" II Cor 6:7. Moral purity honors God and brings blessing to a believer who respects his body as the temple of God. All sex outside of marriage is sin and the whole Old Testament pictures straying believers who lustfully departed from purity. Disease is rampant and introduced by lusting after evil practices. Same sex marriages are usually the result of lustful experiences in youth. No one is born to something that the Bible forbids. If you are a youth be sure to turn your back on the peer pressure to be "cool" and save your life for the service of God. We adults who say we believe, must live a life of leadership and example and preserve family purity. **What don't you understand about** "*have no fellowship with the works of darkness but rather reprove them,*" Eph. 5:11. The worldly entertainment you allow increases the pressure of the world upon you. Rock concert music on your home radio builds an atmosphere which grieves the Holy Spirit as it massages your thoughts and life actions. What we listen to and relax in manipulates our thinking and actions in our family and in the neighborhood. We are to be careful investors

of our days in that which pleases God above all things. Are we not His to command and lead in the paths of righteousness? **What don't you understand about,** *Abstain from the appearance of evil.*" I Thess. 5:22. Like it or not, what we wear and how we dress has great importance in life today. The believer is to "*be examples of the believer,*" I Tim. 4:12. You women reading this need to stand against all the worlds ideas for style and appearance. Thee wearing of male attire began on workers of the factories during World War II. Then feminists adopted the same in the battle to be like men. Then style pushers adopted that which Deut:22:5 warns against. Now your teen girls want to wear tight pants, low on their hips, with a strip of belly showing. Such body revealing practices make it more difficult for men to think morally. Now even grandmother comes to church dressed like a garage mechanic and invents reasons to disobey the commands of God. Remember, the woman that pleases God must wear "modest apparel, professing Godliness," I Tim. 2:9&10. Please don't fuss at me but ask what is best for your testimony as the women of God. **What don't you understand about your life** when the Bible urges you to **Protect it-** Matt. 6:33, "*Seek ye first the kingdom of God,*" or our need to **Exercise it-** Jer. 7:23, "*Walk in all the ways I have commanded you.*" Certainly we are to **Invest it-** I Cor. 6:20, "*Glorify God in your body and spirit, which are Gods.*" and **Cleanse it-** I John 1:9, "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all righteousness.*" Remember in your attitude and daily practice of God's laws "*in keeping them there is great reward,*" Psm. 19:11. My morning devotions tucked this verse into my heart. "*Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.*" Prov. 9:6

God help us to be understanding!