

Casual Attitudes

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Introduction

Dictionary.com defines **casual** as “(1) happening by chance; fortuitous: *a casual meeting*; (2) without definite or serious intention; careless or offhand; passing: *a casual remark*; (3) seeming or tending to be indifferent to what is happening; apathetic; unconcerned: *a casual, nonchalant air*; (4) appropriate for wear or use on informal occasions; not dressy: *casual clothes; casual wear*; (5) irregular; occasional: *a casual visitor*.”

Towards Communication

Many today have a casual attitude toward communication. They swear falsely and take the name of the Lord in vain (Exod. 20:7; Lev. 19:12; Deut. 6:13; 10:20), and speak disparagingly of God and men (Exod. 22:28; Eccles. 10:20; 2 Kings 2:23-25; Acts 23:1-5). Furthermore, they make promises that they do not fulfill (Eccles. 5:1-7; Matt. 5:33-37; 23:16-22; Eph. 4:25-32; James 5:12).

Toward Morality

Many today have a casual attitude toward morality. Sacred Scripture condemns premarital and extramarital relations (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:3-5; Col. 3:5-7; 1 Thess. 4:1-8). If a Christian shares sexual relations with a prostitute, he has taken his body, which is a member of Christ (i.e., belonging and devoted to Christ), and becomes “one flesh” with a harlot (1 Cor. 6:12-20). The Greek word *melos*, here translated “member,” reminds us that sexual relationships are never casual. Other occurrences of this word signify shared relationships, impacting both the physical and spiritual realms. Theological and psychological evidence suggests that varying degrees of attachment result from acts of sexual union, however casual they may seem initially. Physical intimacy finds proper expression only in the life-long commitment of a divinely-ordained marital relationship (Gen. 2:18-24; Prov. 5:15-23; 6:20-35; Heb. 13:4).

Conclusion

Fellowship with God requires character and commitment. The Psalmist asks, “O Lord, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill?” What is the inspired answer? He who walks with integrity, works righteousness, and speaks truth in his heart. He does not slander with his tongue, does no evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend. In his eyes, a reprobate is despised, but he honors those who fear the Lord. He swears to his own hurt and does not change. He does not put out his money at interest, nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken (Psa. 15).