

## A Fly in The Ointment

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**Ecclesiastes 10:1,** "Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour."

This observation from King Solomon is a true statement. Good and bad don't go together and will not mix with any worthwhile results. Dead flies and other bugs ruin an ointment, or food, and make it useless to man. The same is true for the actions and lifestyle of people too, as foolishness, or sin, will have the same effect in the person's life who does so.

A person may have done a lot of good in his life but all of that can be wiped out with one bad deed. It seems that bad words, or actions, are noticed and remembered more than the good that a person has done. While no one is perfect, the Christian is under more pressure to live in a way that gives no offence to anyone. It may not seem fair, or realistic, but it is the way of life. There is no room for error and we must be on guard constantly to be aware of our words and deeds. Once a person is observed to have failed to live up to the standard of the gospel, he is thought

to have fallen completely in the eyes of some folks.

It takes a lot to restore a reputation that has been damaged, or destroyed, by sinful actions. Sometimes it can never be overcome as people will always think of the person's failures and not believe that he is sorry and trying to do better. Well known people, such as national known figures, are watched and held to a higher standard than the folks doing the watching. While the average person don't think too bad of himself if he slips and fails in his life, he thinks that the famous person shouldn't do such things.

There are none of us who have not done things that we are sorry for, and that is because the flesh fails us as King Solomon said, "There is no man that sinneth not." (**1 Kings 8:46**). The Christian is to resist sin to the best of his ability, never accepting it as "Normal." If we were to live of sin as we lived before we came to Jesus, then we would be hypocrites. We would have no walk with the Lord and no witness with the world, only a dead form of religion. Our life as a believer is under observation by the people of the world and we need to beware of how we live and act each day. A good example of this is found in the scriptures and is for our instruction.

First let us consider Jesus and the life he lived. Jesus asked the Jews in **John 8:46**, "Which of you convinceth

me of sin?" That meant that if anyone could show any sin in his life they were free to show it before the crowd. Could any of us be able to say such a thing? I think not, for we know better. If the Lord had not given us a perfect example to live by, he would not have been the perfect lamb of God.

Samuel is another who had confidence in his obedience to God. Behold, here I am: witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you.

**1 Samuel 12:3**, "He asked this before the Jewish people and in verse four they said, "Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand."

Samuel was faithful in his life and had the respect of the people. There are many like that in the scriptures, men like Daniel, Joseph and Paul. There are those who have erred in a moment of weakness, but did not make it a way of life. God knows the hearts of all men and sees when a person is truly sorry for a sinful act. The Lord forgives, as he forgave Peter, and can still use that person in his service.

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