

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Conscious Uncoupling

April 6, 2014

Issue 156

A euphemism is a softer, kinder, more socially acceptable version of a much harsher, crude, socially unacceptable word. There are many euphemisms for curse words, bedroom and bathroom activities, and legislation. Euphemisms are often used to make certain behaviors seem less offensive. Some have replaced “illegal alien” with “undocumented worker.” “Terrorists” have been called “insurgents.” “Homosexuality” is commonly called an “alternative lifestyle.” And so on.

The latest redefinition is the most confusing. Actress Gwyneth Paltrow and musician Chris Martin recently got a divorce, but when

they described it as a “conscious uncoupling,” many people were perplexed. Supposedly that phrase has been used for several years in New Age circles, but had never been used by anyone famous. The idea behind this phrase is that when a couple comes together, they are subconsciously attracted to the other person. But when they come to terms with their personal preferences and take responsibility for their actions, they consciously decide to leave the other person, if necessary—a “conscious uncoupling.” Makes sense, right?

It is a shame that people think they can change the seriousness of an act by

changing the name of it. Spiritually, we should call Bible things by Bible names and expect Bible consequences if those acts are sinful.

Conversely, we should not add seriousness or sinfulness to activities that the Bible does not deem serious or sinful. We should not become modern day Pharisees who create our own strict guidelines for behavior and then expect all Christians to abide by those rules.

We should consciously uncouple ourselves from the world (Rom. 12:2), and just call a divorce a divorce.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Hillcrest Nursing Home worship is today. Please attend and encourage the residents there.
- Randy Gupton is still being treated for kidney failure. He will have a kidney transplant soon if his heart is healthy enough for it.
- Paula Lee, a member of the community, has leukemia and is spending a month at Sarah Cannon Cancer Center.

**James Is Preaching A Gospel Meeting At Birdwell's Chapel This Week
VBS = June 8-12. Guest Speakers. Singing and Classes For Children**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Terry Walker

Pray: Garrett

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Gupton

Serve: Demonbreum, J. Walker, E. Walker

Pray: F. Brown

Pleasant View church of Christ
2500 Highway 49 East
P.O. Box 189
Pleasant View, TN 37146

Sunday School: 9:30
A.M. Worship: 10:30
P.M. Worship: 6:00
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm
Phone: 924-9714

Romans 12:1
“Therefore I urge you,
brethren, by the mercies of
God, to present your bodies
a living and holy sacrifice,
acceptable to God, which is
your spiritual service of
worship.”

“People will doubt what you say, but they will
always believe what you do.”

Author Unknown

“To choose doubt as a philosophy of life is akin
to choosing immobility as a means of transpor-
tation.”

Yann Martel

“Faith doesn’t mean you never doubt. It just
means you never act upon your doubts.”

Orson Card

What If You Were There?

It is easy for us to create enormous distance between ourselves and the Bible. We read about towns that are now buried under 1,000 feet of earth. We read stories of giants, crucifixions, miracles and other things that we will never see in our lifetime. So it is difficult to put ourselves in the text—to be part of the action as it unfolds. But if you take the time to visualize those moments and ask yourself, “What would I do in that situation?” the gap between yourself and the Bible will begin to narrow.

What if you were at Pentecost when Peter preached the first gospel sermon? What would you have done when the apostles were asked, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”

Would you have been baptized like the other 3,000+ people that day? Or would you have argued with Peter about the necessity of baptism? Would you have been “pierced to the heart,” or would you have walked away, choosing to deny the divinity of Christ?

What if you saw the parting of the Red Sea? If you saw the waters part and the Israelites walk across on dry land, would you have complained about the living conditions in the wilderness? Or would you have followed God and His leader, Moses? Would you have endorsed the creation of the golden calf, or would you have done everything in your power to prevent the idolatry?

What if you were at the cross? What if you saw a man bleeding and suffocating for crimes he did not commit and for people who had mistreated Him? What would you do? Would you run away? Or would you finally believe, as the Roman centurion did, that Jesus was the Son of God?

When we think of ourselves in those situations, having to make those types of decisions, the Bible comes alive, and our faith increases.

“He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’” (Matt. 16:15).

James Hayes
