



The Family Room

By: Dr. Roy Don Whitehead

Changing Addictions Does Not Always Help

"No matter how hard I try, I seem to make a mess of things," Vera told me. (All characters are fictitious.) "Norm says I'm not a good parent and not a good wife. What can I do?" Vera had come for counseling because her doctor recommended it. She did not know she was depressed, but she knew she did not feel well. She was waking at 2:00 a.m., unable to go back to sleep. She had also gained 20 pounds and had no energy at all. She cried almost every day and did not enjoy life anymore.

"I should feel better than ever," she continued. "Norm has finally quit drinking and started going to church. That's what I've wanted for twenty years. I should be happy, but I'm not. Life should be better now. Norm used to get very angry when he drank. I was always afraid he would hurt me for one of the kids. I guess it's not as bad as before, but he still gets very angry."

"What does he do when he is angry?" I wanted to know. "Usually he just hollers at me or the kids," Vera answered. "Sometimes he spansks the

kids, and I make him stop. I know he wouldn't hurt them, or at least I don't think he would."

"Why does Norm get upset at the kids?" I asked. "Since he started going to church," Vera answered, "he's made some new rules, and the kids don't like them. I don't like his rules either, but I try to get the kids to go along with him so he won't get so mad. He won't let Susan (our 16 year old) go anywhere. He says there are too many temptations. He also tries to make the two little ones sit quietly while he reads the Bible to them for an hour, and then he gets angry when they don't."

Vera reported that Norm quoted the Bible to her a lot. "Norm's been memorizing Scripture, and I guess that is good," she added, "but..."

"But what, Vera?" I asked. "Well, he always quotes Scripture to me when we are arguing," she responded. "And he knows more about it than I do, so he always wins the arguments."

I believed I knew the answer before I asked this question, but I asked it anyway. "Does Norm have some favorite Scripture passages, Vera?"

"He always quotes me that one about wives submitting to the husbands," Vera said. "I surely am tired of hearing that one."

"Does he ever quote you the passage about husbands loving wives as Christ loved the church?" I inquired. "No," she replied, "I've never heard him use that one."

"Vera, I'm glad Norm has stopped drinking," I told her, "but it sounds to me as if he has just changed addictions." "What do you mean?" Vera wanted to know.

"Norm is now addicted to religion," I answered. "Instead of using his faith to strengthen your family, he is using religion as a weapon of control. Instead of being more loving toward you and the children, he is using his religion as justification for his continued abusive behavior."

"I thought all religion was healthy," Vera stated.

"Most of the time religion is healthy," I agreed. "Faith helps people deal better with life. Faith makes them better parents and better spouses. But sometimes religion does more harm than good. That is what is happening with your family now. Norm is using religion as a weapon rather than using it to make him a more loving, understanding husband and father."

"District Court"

(Cont. from B-2)

Donna S. Yocum: Failure to wear seatbelt, \$25 fine and costs.

Vernon K. Anderson: Comb. Unit 65 Ft. Designated Hwy. and Overwidth, paid \$70.85 total.

Margie K. Gasted: Operating motor vehicle under influence alcohol/drugs, \$200 and costs, \$200 service fee, \$10 VCF, 30 day operator license suspension; Criminal Possession of Forged Instrument, 60 days jail to serve 3 balance conditionally discharged one year.

David W. Mahaffey: No license in possession, \$50 fine and costs.

Kenneth B. Miller: Theft by unlawful taking, 60 days in jail to serve 15 on weekend balance conditionally discharged 2 years.

Michael D. Richmond: Carrying Concealed Weapon, 120 days to serve 60 balance conditionally discharged two years; Resisting Arrest, 120 days to serve 60 concurrent balance conditionally discharged two years.

Janie K. Bushman: Speeding and Failure to wear seatbelt, failed to appear.

Gregory J. Nickle: Speeding, failed to appear.

Arnold C. Amburgey: Driving, DUI Suspended License, 30 days concurrent; Operating motor vehicle under influence alcohol/drugs, 6 months to serve 30 days/balance conditionally discharged two years, \$500 and costs and fees, 2 year operator license suspension.

Rosetta C. Baker: Speeding, paid \$129.50 total.

Voyd Rose; Disregarding TCD, \$25 and costs.

James C. Baker: Defective equipment, \$20 and costs.

Kevin Jones: Terroristic Threatening, 6 months in jail to serve 30 days/balance conditionally discharged two years; Bail jumping, 30 days concurrent; Improper passing, \$100 and costs; Speeding, \$46; Operating on suspended license, \$100; Contempt of court, 30 days, concurrent, conditionally discharged.

Talena A. Hols: Speeding, \$30 and costs; Failure to wear seatbelt, \$25 fine; No insurance, \$500/suspend \$450.

Samson L. Bailey: Speeding, paid \$34 fine and costs.

Jackie L. Barnett: Defective equipment, paid.

Zachary W.T. Chase: Defective equipment, paid.

Christopher E. Conley: Speeding and Failure to wear seatbelt, license suspended for failure to appear.

Timothy W. Cox: Speeding, state traffic school authorized on payment of costs only.

Rita A. Eads: Speeding, license suspended for failure to appear.

Christopher S. Fegett: Speeding, license suspended for failure to appear.

Jason E. Ford: Speeding, state traffic school authorized on payment of costs only.

Ronald F. Goguen: Speeding, paid \$30 fine and costs.

Elizabeth A. Golden: Speeding, state traffic school authorized on payment of costs only.

Elizabeth M. Grise: Speeding, license suspended for failure to appear.

Eyob Hailab: Speeding, license suspended for failure to appear.

James C. Humes: Speeding and Failure to wear seatbelt, paid \$144.50 total fines and costs.

Eyob Hailab: Speeding, \$30 fine and costs.

Joanie M. King: Seat belt anchors and other charges, license suspended for failure to appear.

Jerome J. Kupicka: Speeding, paid \$28 fine and costs.

Loretta T. Leach: Speeding, state

traffic school authorized on payment of costs only.

Karen M. Mason: Speeding, state traffic school authorized on payment of costs only.

Eddie J. Maze: Speeding, paid \$24 fine and costs.

Ernest H. Miller: Speeding, state traffic school authorized on payment of costs only.

Catherine I. Napier: Speeding, license suspended for failure to appear.

Carnell M. Oncal: Defective equipment, \$25 fine and costs; fine suspended.

Su Jung Park: Speeding, license suspended for failure to appear.

Terry M. Roberts: Speeding, \$16 fine and costs; fine suspended.

Michelle L. Rowland: Speeding, state traffic school authorized on payment of costs only.

Bradlee R. Warren: Speeding, paid \$30 fine and costs.

Tommy White: Speeding, license suspended for failure to appear.

Telena F. Wilson: Speeding, paid.

Vincent Lyman *flup: Speeding,

paid \$131.50 total fine and costs.

Jason S. Reator: Speeding, \$48 fine and costs; License not in possession, \$25 fine; No Ky. Reg. Plates, \$25 fine.

Eric A. Smith: Operating motor vehicle under influence alcohol/drugs, \$350 and costs, \$250 service fee, \$10 VCF, 7 days in jail/12 month operator license suspension.

Phillip H. Spradling: Fines due (\$652.85), bench warrant issued for failure to appear/found in contempt in absentia/30 days in jail in lieu of fine.

Robert Jeffrey Steelman: Defective equipment, \$25 fine and costs; suspend fine.

Sammy Stewart: Fines due (\$75.85), found in contempt in absentia/payment in full or 3 days in jail.

David A. Weir: No Ky. Reg. Plates and other charges, license suspended for failure to appear.

Jeremy P. Workman: Speeding, \$44 and costs; Failure to wear seatbelt, \$25 fine; Expired Temporary Plate, \$25 fine.



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