**Let He Who Is Without Sin**

**There is no man who does not sin.**

***(1 Kings 8:46)***

**Jesus said: “If any of you is without sin,**

**let him be the first to throw a stone at her.”**

***(St. John 8:7)***

**The Jews again picked up rocks to stone him, so Jesus said to them,**

**"I have shown you many good works from my Father,**

**for which of these are you trying to stone me?"**

**The Jews answered him,**

**"We are not stoning you for a good work, but for blasphemy.**

**You, a man are making yourself God."**

**Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are god'"? *(St. John 10:31-34)***

**Another little-understood claim in medical science holds that every creature can become addicted to something. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Remember that everyone you meet is afraid of something, loves something, and has lost something. *(Land Title Guarantee Company calendar)***

**The TV announces: “The Surgeon General was quoted today as saying that Americans are overweight, unmotivated and just downright lazy.” First man: “I don't have to listen to this crud -- hand me that remote!” Second man: “I can't reach it.” *(Rick Stromoski, in Soup To Nuts comic strip)***

**Bob was in his usual place in the morning, sitting at the table, reading the paper after breakfast. He came across an article about a beautiful actress who was about to marry a football player who was known primarily for his lack of IQ and common knowledge. He turned to his wife Marlene with a look of question on his face. “I’ll never understand why the biggest jerks get the most attractive wives.” Marlene replied, “Why thank you, dear!” *(Tidbits)***

**Grandpa: “I can't see a thing this morning, everything's blurry.” Grandma: “I'm having the same problem. Do you suppose we both need new glasses?” Grandpa: “It's odd that we'd both have eye problems at the same time. I wonder if it could be something we ate.” Grandma: “Food poisoning?” Grandpa: “Maybe we should go to the emergency room.” Grandma: “How? We can't see well enough to drive!” Grandpa: “Okay, then I'll call the poison control hotline. Oh, no! I can’t see to dial the numbers! What should we do?” Nelson: “Hi, Gramma and Grampa. How come you're wearing each others glasses?” Grandpa: “It's your Gramma, boy. She’s getting a little confused in her old age.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**"Everybody does it." Whenever a prominent Democrat or Republican gets caught doing something shady, you can count on partisan allies to present this dubious defense. Take Hillary Clinton's use of a private email address to conduct State Department business, and her subsequent deletion of all emails she deemed private. in Salon.com, Eric Boehlert provides the only possible justification: Republicans did it too! In 2007, Boehlert reminds us, it was revealed that Karl Rowe and 21 other White House aides used private email addresses set up by the Republican National Committee. When Rowe was accused of trying to fire nine U.S. attorneys for failing to show sufficient partisan loyalty in prosecutions, the White House said 5 million emails were missing. "I mean, deleted emails, who cares?" commentator Fred Barnes said to Fox News at that time. The roles are easily reversed. Two weeks ago, 47 Republican senators were widely criticized -- and even accused of treason -- for writing an open letter warning Iran's leaders not to trust any nuclear deal offered by President Obama. But the Republicans' defenders point out that in 2002, three House Democrats went to Baghdad to warn that President George W. Bush was trying to "lie" the U.S. into a war with Iraq. "Last I checked, no one had the three Democrats arrested for treason," said conservative blogger Ed Morrissey in HotAir.com. So there! What does the profligate use of the "everybody does it" defense tell us? For true partisans, principles are completely relative. When your team gets caught, it is a meaningless kerfuffle. When the other team does the same thing, it's outrageous, disqualifying, and perhaps a crime. Intellectual integrity, anyone? *(William Falk, in The Week magazine, March 27, 2015)***

**The dissenter is every human being at those moments of his life when he resigns momentarily from the herd and thinks for himself. *(Archibald MacLeish, poet)***

**According to the experts, 94% of us come from a dysfunctional family background. *(Mile High Church of Religious Science Media Release, November 20, 1991)/***

**Join the Club: Every felt that you are emotionally unbalanced? That you are at times, in fact, emotionally ill? "Worry not. A spokesman for the famed Menninger Clinic was asked how many people are affected by some form of emotional illness. He responded: "One out of one of us." *(Phyllis Battelle, King Features)***

**The same sense of perspective will help to keep our feelings of guilt in line. All human beings do thoughtless, impulsive things which bring them a miserable train of circumstance. Everyone misses golden opportunities through stupidity or inability to understand the other fellow. Everyone is occasionally selfish, thoughtless and unkind. We can’t help being full of despair about the results. But we needn’t feel as though we are exiled from the human race because we have done wrong. *(Ardis Whitman, in Reader’s Digest)***

**No member of our generation who has a mature sense of reality and responsibility can experience a literal freedom from fear. *(Bonaro Overstreet, in Courage for Crisis)***

**Everyone is guilty of something or has something to conceal. All one has to do is look hard enough to find what it is. *(Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn)***

**A nation is a society united by a delusion about its ancestry and by a common hatred of its neighbors. *(William Ralph Inge, theologian)***

**My dear friend, a divorcee, never remarried, and her daughter wanted to know why. "The men I know will bring too much heavy baggage to the marriage and I simply don't want to put up with it," my friend explained. Taking her mother's hand in hers, my friend's daughter said sweetly, "I hate to break the news to you, Mom, but you're not exactly carry-on yourself." *(Jean Bradtke, in Reader's Digest)***

**Did you hear about the two hypocrites who met face to face to face to face? *(Nuggets)***

**The rules for stoning are codified in Iranian law and are very specific. Article 104 defines the size of the stones and stipulates that “the stones should not be so large that the person dies upon being hit by one or two of them, neither should they be so small that they cannot be called a stone.” (Don Voorhees, in *The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 220)***

**Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves. *(Carl G. Jung, in Memories, Dreams, Reflections)***

**He who thinks he knows it all is most annoying to those of us who do. *(The Chateau Chatter)***

**A man may laugh at a woman who pencils her eyebrows, but he spends ten minutes trying to comb two hairs over a bald spot. *((Dr. Delia Sellers)***

**We should remember that not one of us is perfect, and that others see our defects as obviously as we see theirs. We forget too often to look at ourselves through the eyes of our friends. *(Abraham Lincoln)***

**Can you come up with the name of at least one country that does not have a native method of making liquor? I can’t. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Every nation ridicules other nations, and all are right. *(Arthur Schopenhauer)***

**The Lord showed me that the natures of those things which were hurtful without, were within the hearts and minds of wicked men. The natures of dogs, swine, vipers, of Sodom and Egypt, Pharaoh, Cain, Ishmael, Esau, etc. The natures of these I saw within, though people had been looking without. I cried to the Lord saying, “Why should I be thus, seeing I was never addicted to commit those evils?” And the Lord answered, “It was needful I should have a sense of all conditions, how else should I speak of all conditions?” *(George Fox, a Quaker)***

**On February 16, 1971, President Richard Nixon's secret taping system made its first recording. On That morning Nixon declared, "I will not be transcribed." He could not have known that less than three years later his secret taping system would be exposed during a Senate investigation on Capitol Hill and he would forever be linked to the bugging of the Democratic National Committee's offices at Watergate. Nixon was not the first to implement secret recordings. He was the sixth president in a row to do so. But Nixon's secret taping contributed to his political downfall, ending the practice. *(The Daily Chronicles)***

**I’m afraid I cannot muster much anger about the actual use of what (Lance Armstrong) correctly called “performance enhancers.” He was competing against chemically enhanced equals. We are all pharmaceutically compromised now. From SSRIs to Adderall, from Xanax to taurine and caffeine energy drinks, it’s harder and harder to draw very clear lines between what chemicals are illicit and what chemicals aren’t. I can see a day when human growth hormone is almost universally used among male retirees, just as testosterone is now being prescribed routinely to those facing the decline of age. *(Andrew Sullivan, in TheDailyBeast.com)***

**Cardinal resigns in disgrace: In a rare demotion, a Scottish cardinal has been stripped of all priestly rights and duties because of allegations that he pressured young priests into sex -- but he is allowed to keep the title of cardinal. Keith O'Brien, 77, was known for preaching against homosexuality and gay rights. He resigned as archbishop of St. Andrews two years ago, when the allegations surfaced, and has admitted that his conduct was "below the standards expected of me." Some clerical abuse victims criticized Pope Francis for allowing O'Brien to keep his title and pension, while other Catholic observers said the pontiff's action was revolutionary. Cardinal resignations are extremely rare; the last was in 1927. *(The Week magazine, April 3, 2015)***

**Each in our own way, we have prostituted ourselves; perhaps not sexually, but in some way we have sold out who we are and denied what we are here to do. We have made compromises with our integrity, said yes when we meant no, and given ourselves away in ways that were demeaning to the gifts we came to truly share. *(Alan Cohen)***

**There is so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us, that it behooves all of us not to talk about the rest of us. *(Robert Louis Stevenson)***

**An alcoholic is someone you don’t like who drinks as much as you do. *(Dylan Thomas)***

**During our class trip to the local pool, one of my first-grade students misplaced her towel. That night, I received a frantic call from the girl's mother, who said that someone had stolen her daughter's towel. Trying to calm her down, I asked her to describe the towel. “It's white,” she snapped, “with Holiday Inn written on it!” *(Brenda Gilg, in Reader's Digest)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**An emboldened President-elect Donald Trump this week ramped up his long-promised assault on the media, filing a lawsuit against an Iowa newspaper days after ABC News settled a defamation case he’d brought against the network. ABC News will pay $16 million in the suit, over a comment made in March by George Stephanopoulos. The news anchor reportedly said Trump was found “liable for rape” in the 2023 case brought by writer E. Jean Carroll, in fact, he was found liable for sexual abuse. However, in dismissing a countersuit that Trump, filed against Carroll, a judge held that Trump’s assault fell under“what many people commonly understand (by) the word ‘rape.’” *(The Week magazine, December 27, 2024/January 3, 2025)***

**In the annals of government ethics, the year 2017 exists in a bygone era. That September, Donald Trump’s secretary of health and human services, Tom Price, resigned in disgrace. His unforgivable sin was chartering private jets funded by taxpayers, when he just as easily could have flown commercial. Compared with the abuses of power in the years that followed, the transgression was rather picayune. But at that early moment, even Trump felt obliged to join the criticism of Price. *(Franklin Foer, in The Atlantic magazine, January/February, 2024, page 36)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**A preacher put it this way: People, however honorable in their faith, tend to have one common weakness – the inability to see the difference between self-interest and divine will. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**"What was Brian Williams thinking?" asked David Graham in TheAtlantic.com. For several years, the NBC news anchor has been telling an ever more dramatic story about his 2003 trip to Iraq, claiming his Chinook helicopter was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, forced to land, and rescued from the enemy by U.S. troops. But when he repeated that claim in the Nightly News two weeks ago, several soldiers contradicted his account, prompting Stars and Stripes to report that Williams' chopper was never fired upon. Williams, we now know, has been telling tall tales for years, said Lloyd Grove in TheDailyBeast.com. After he covered Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, for example, Williams claimed to have contracted dysentery, witnessed a suicide in the Superdome, and seen a body float by his hotel room in an otherwise dry French Quarter. Williams apologized for the Iraq flub on the air, but this week, NBC suspended him for six months without pay, and the $10 million-a-year anchor was described by a friend as remorseful and "shattered." That doesn't mean he's a liar, said Carl Cannon in RealClearPolitics.com. "Human memory is not a digital record of what actually occurred," and experts say we all change details of the stories we tell every time we tell them. It's entirely plausible that over 12 years Williams lost track of what actually happened. NBC bears some of the responsibility, too, said Ken Auletta in NewYorkers.com. The networks market their news anchor as "God-like figures" who have been "everywhere and seen everything." That's why the anchors are sent off to do theatrical stand-ups in war zones, hurricanes, and earthquakes. A man who feels a need to live up to that exaggerated role could easily fall into telling self-aggrandizing tales -- "and maybe actually believing them." *(The Week magazine, February 20, 2015)***

**I’m sick of all the wrong numbers I get! I'm giving the phone company a piece of my mind! Hello, phone company. Oops! Sorry, I must have misdialed. *(Art & Chip Sansom, in The Born Loser comic strip)***

**Parents who wonder where the younger generation is going should remember where it came from. (*Sam Ewing, in The Wall Street Journal)***

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