

Rio Grande



Since 1870

Conference

Bishop Jim Dorff

La Voz Del Desierto

Secos Valley Region



¿Vive En Libertad O En Sus TRANSGRESIONES?

(infracciones, violaciones, faltas, atropellos y PECADOS)

Hace mucho tiempo durante los años de la secundaria, tuve que leer un libro sobre la Guerra Civil que ocurrió en Los Estados Unidos del 12 de abril del 1861 al 9 de abril del 1865. Mientras leía el libro, me encontré varias cosas muy interesantes sobre los esclavos de ese tiempo. Leí que después de que la guerra había terminado y todos los esclavos recibieron su libertad, muchos de ellos decidieron quedarse con sus dueños a pesar de que se les había concedido la libertad, ellos siguieron haciendo lo que se les mandaba como esclavos. Este dato lo encontré muy difícil de entender. De pequeño, no me gustaba que mis padres me castigaran con mandarme al cuarto por un rato, pero al instante que oía “Carlos, ya puedes salir.” ¿Usted cree que me iba a quedar encerrado en mi cuarto? ¡Por supuesto que no! Para mí había otras cosas que hacer en vez de quedarme castigado en el cuarto. Pero estos esclavos teniendo la libertad, el precio pagado con sangre durante esos años de guerra, aún así decidieron vivir como esclavos. Despreciaron la sangre derramada y todo lo que se había hecho por ellos al conseguirles y darles la libertad.

En el Nuevo Testamento tenemos la respuesta de como un Cristiano debe de vivir. Cristo murió por nuestra libertad. La libertad del pecado y por medio de Su Espíritu Santo nos ha dado ese poder de seguir siendo libres. Pero que lástima que hay “Cristianos” hoy en día, como aquellos esclavos de la guerra civil que todavía deciden obedecer a su viejo dueño, el pecado (Satanás). Mire lo que nos dice **Romanos 6:2** “*¡De ningún modo! Nosotros, que hemos muerto al pecado, ¿cómo viviremos aún en él?*” Este es un gran reto que yo creo que si usted se propone a hacer todos los días de su vida, será algo muy significativo y de mucha importancia en su vida diaria. En verdad usted vivirá en “Libertad”.

Dios nos dice que no dejemos que el pecado controle nuestro modo de vivir, que no cedamos a las cosas de éste mundo. Él mismo nos dice que si no le damos la espalda a nuestros pecados El nos dará la de El.

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EXCUSES, EXCUSES!

As sung by the KINGSMEN

Excuses, excuses, you hear them every day. And the Devil he'll supply them, if from church you stay away. When people come to know the Lord, the Devil always loses. So to keep them folks away from church, he offers them excuses.

In the summer it's too hot. And in the winter, it's too cold. In the spring time when the weather's just right, you find someplace else to go. Well, it's up to the mountains or down to the beach or to visit some old friend. Or, just stay home and kinda relax and hope some of the kin folks will start dropping in.

Well, the church benches are too hard. And, that choir sings too loud. Boy, you know how nervous you get when you're sitting in a great big crowd. The doctor told you, "Now, you better watch them crowds. They'll set you back" But, you go to that old ball game because you say, "It helps you to relax."

Well a headache Sunday morning and a backache Sunday night. But by work time Monday morning, you're feeling quite alright. While one of the children has a cold, "Pneumonia, do you suppose?" why the whole family has to stay home, just to blow that poor kid's nose.

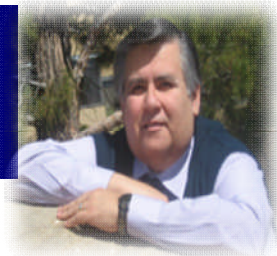
Well the preacher he's too young. And, maybe he's too old. The sermons they're not hard enough. And, maybe they're too bold. His voice is much too quiet-like. Sometimes he gets too loud. He needs to have more dignity. Or, else he's way too proud.

Well, the sermons they're too long. And maybe they're too short. He ought to preach the word with dignity instead of "stomp and snort." Well, that preacher we've got must be "the world's most stuck up man." Well, one of the ladies told me the other day, "Well, he didn't even shake my hand."

What is your EXCUSE for not seeking God?

A Word *from the* Pastor

Rev. Carlos E. Espinoza



GOOD News and BAD News

Which do you want first?



Throughout my ministry I have come across many who have been raised in the church, taught by some of the best preachers, read the entire Bible many times over, very active in their local churches and still believe that being good and/or doing good deeds will allow them to inherit the Kingdom of God. I have bad news and good news about this subject.

The bad news is that our good deeds are not good enough to get us into heaven. You may think this is a cruel statement when in reality it isn't any more cruel for you to tell a fish in the water (*and I hope you're not talking to the fish in the water*) I just can't breathe in your environment. To say that, is not a cruel statement, simply put, it is just a statement about your nature. You can't breathe under water! To say that my good deeds to God is like water to my lungs is not to say anything cruel about God, it's just the fact. God can't tolerate us. By saying this is not being mean or cruel, it's just the facts. In the world of our modern celebrities who seem to represent the thoughts of our culture, they in essence want us to believe that God can hang with sin. That God, the perfect God, a loving God can somehow tolerate imperfection. That God can look at people like you and me, people whose lives are out of sync and say "you know what, it's OK". Eh! Wrong! You don't want a God who accepts sin. Because a God who accepts sin is not a Holy "perfect" God. Grocho Marks once said "*I will never join a club who will accept me as a member.*" In reality we don't want a God who looks at us in our sinful fallen state to say, "it's OK, you're alright, come on in."

As a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as a leader in your local church, as a Sunday school teacher, counselor, or a member of the church council, would you allow sin to continue disrupting your area of ministry? Of course not. So what do you do then?

The good news is the simple fact that you not breathing underwater isn't entirely true. People can breathe underwater when equipped with scuba gear. You can conquer the environment but it's going to take something else, something you don't have natural in yourself. That is what Good Friday is all about. Good Friday to us Christians is all about what God allowed to happen at a place called Golgotha. Think about this...had Satan known what all was about to transpire on the cross for God's creation, do you think he would have allowed Jesus to die on the cross?

There on that hill stood a bloody cross with the Son of God, Jesus, on it that allows us to live in God's environment. God in **John 3:16** says I'm going to provide the oxygen tank for you, I'm going to make you acceptable in my sight. BUT you must be aware of the exchange that has to take place; your life for my Son's. You take His life and you trade yours in for it and you can be with Me. God will accept us but as the Bible puts it He will only accept us in Christ. I don't want to just be accepted as Carlos, I want to be accepted in Christ. That retains God's perfection and makes me understand that I cannot be accepted aside from Jesus Christ. What I need, I can't provide; God is going to have to provide it for me.

The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is (scuba gear) eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 6:26) God says in effect you put on the scuba gear; put on Christ and you can survive in my environment. Then and only then, can you have communion with God. I have my scuba gear on, do you have yours?

Jesus said, "*...I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*" **John 14:6**



I was reading an article the other day about certain diseases that can enter and destroy the church. To be honest with you I had no idea about this topic. I know that a cold can turn into something life threatening with complications added to an already weak immune system. But this article opened my eyes to a whole different kind of disease that can literally destroy a church. Not only is there one, but many diseases that can do a church in. In the following two months I will discuss these with you. I have felt the hand of God to share this with all who will listen and take heed to this wave of diseases that have plagued many of our churches throughout our conference and the world. It's time to recognize them and pray them out of our churches in the name of Jesus. Just to give you a hint, here are some of those diseases names, Diotrefes, Prideful Me, Me, Me, and Only Me-ism, Hypocrisy-ism, My-Church-ism, The Dieing Mentality, Snob-ism, Committee-ism, I-do-not-want-to-grow-ism along with eleven others still to be named.



Women's Corner

with
Carmen L. Espinoza

Si me permiten, en esta edición de "La Voz Del Desierto" quiero dirigirme a las esposas, tomando en cuenta a aquellas mujeres que pronto serán esposas. Espero que éste artículo les pueda ayudar a ver algo de su futuro como esposas. ¿Crees que eres una buena esposa? ¿Crees que tu lugar como esposa está siendo beneficioso para tu esposo? ¿Podieras ser mejor esposa de lo que eres en estos momentos? Estas son preguntas que posiblemente no te hayas hecho a lo largo de tu matrimonio. Mira conmigo (toma tu Biblia) lo que **Génesis 2:18** nos dice, **"Y dijo Jehová Dios: No es bueno que el hombre esté solo, le haré una ayuda idónea para él"**. La esposa, en éste caso Eva, fue una persona creada por Dios, diseñada por El y presentada por El como la ayuda idónea al esposo, Adán. Ahorita que estás leyendo esto, ¿Cómo piensas de ti misma? ¿Como una esclava, sirvienta, niñera, cocinera, ó te sientes como una mujer privilegiada para ser la ayuda, con brazos de auxilio y socorro en tiempos difíciles para tu esposo? Porque como piensas de él en tu corazón, así es. **Proverbios 23:7** **"De la abundancia del corazón habla la boca"**. Si ves a tu esposo con los ojos de Dios, muchas cosas cambiarán en tu matrimonio. Ahora, ¿Qué es lo que Dios espera de una esposa? **"Las casadas estén sujetas a sus propios maridos como al Señor"** **"La mujer respete a su marido"**. **Efesios 5:22, 33b**. Hay dos absolutos divinos: sumisión y respeto. Hablemos de **RESPECTO** primero. ¿Qué significa el respeto para ti? ¿Cómo interpretas esta palabra? Atención, cuidado, cortesía y afecto, estas son buenas palabras para empezar. Pero hay otras palabras que todavía le podemos agregar: reverencia, obediencia, sometimiento y docilidad. ¡Wow! Qué de palabras, ¿Verdad? Respetar su posición como cabeza del hogar; respetar sus opiniones, sus deseos, sus anhelos, aún cuando no estemos de acuerdo en todo con ellos, honrarlos, escucharlos, darles su lugar ante otros, sin denigrarlos por sus defectos y debilidades. ¡Especialmente en público! Esto y mucho más podríamos decir que es respeto. Ahora, hablemos de **SUMISION**. ¿Qué es la sumisión para ti? Actitud humilde, actitud del corazón (interna, no externa), estar bajo la protección de... no la actitud de un amo y una esclava, saber callar cuando es necesario, escuchar con atención, obedecer la autoridad legítima del esposo (de acuerdo a los principios morales y divinos). De ninguna manera aceptar el abuso (sexual, mental ó físico). Expresar sentimientos, opiniones y sugerencias, dejar al hombre ser el líder, la cabeza, el sacerdote según el orden de Dios. No importa su temperamento. Aquí es donde principian muchos de los pleitos. ¿Sabías que sumisión al esposo es ser obediente a la Palabra de Dios? Si somos obedientes a Dios, El promete no solamente bendecirnos sino también bendecir nuestros matrimonios. La clave aquí es una total dependencia del Espíritu Santo quien nos guiará a toda verdad y nos capacitará para morir a nuestro 'yo' y no batallar por nuestros derechos. Esto es algo que muchas mujeres no desean aceptar y entender, especialmente mujeres Cristianas. En el mundo en que vivimos, el 'yo' viene primero y luego el 'yo' y después el 'yo'. Solamente cuando el 'yo' ya no exista, se podrá cumplir con la obediencia legítima al esposo. Y por último, querer la felicidad del esposo. Al someterse al esposo, también honras a Dios. Porque esto limita las tensiones entre los dos al tomar las responsabilidades que Dios nos ha asignado, y verás cambios en tu esposo. En realidad en la sumisión es donde se forman las verdaderas cualidades internas y se desarrolla una vida hermosa. Atender las necesidades del esposo no es cosa fácil; está la necesidad emocional, tu esposo necesita ser escuchado, animado, estimulado, y no presionado. ¿Se te hace difícil compartir con él? ¿No es cariñoso? Mi amiga: a lo mejor tuvo algunos traumas durante su niñez y ahora Dios quiere usarte a ti para liberarlo. ¿Tiene sus tiempos de enojos, ataques de ira? Pídele al Señor sabiduría para ayudarlo y déjate guiar por El. Nunca dejemos de dar gracias por todo lo que tenemos. Perdonémosle sus errores pasados, no hagas el error que muchos hacen y es de traer a memoria las cosas del pasado. ¿Cómo le puedes ayudar espiritualmente? Dios nos estimula a orar por los que están en posiciones de poder y por todos los hombres **1 Timoteo 2:1**. Ora por él todos los días. Si tienes un esposo que no conoce a Dios escucha lo que Dios te dice: **Asimismo vosotras mujeres, Estad sujetas a vuestros maridos; para que también los que no creen a la palabra, sean ganados sin palabra por la conducta de sus esposas, considerando vuestra conducta casta y respetuosa**. Hablemos en cuanto a las necesidades físicas. Hay que pensar en su comida, en la forma en que preparamos los alimentos y como los servimos. En su ropa, camisas arregladas con botones y bien planchada. Y que me dices de la alcoba donde duermen, ¿Está limpia y ordenada? ¿Respetas las horas de descanso de tu esposo? **"Ninguno busque su propio bien sino el del otro."** ¿Qué piensas del sexo? Las malas relaciones sexuales han sido motivo de muchos problemas matrimoniales. Necesitas una renovación del entendimiento. **Romanos 12:2 Transformaos por medio de la renovación de vuestro entendimiento**. Lee el libro de Cantares, pídele a Dios cambiar tu actitud hacia el sexo. Habla con tu esposo sobre aquellas cosas que te molestan y con la ayuda de Dios, decide ser la esposa y amante que Dios quiere que seas. Dios dice de las esposas que somos una creación de El, que somos una bendición y que necesitamos darles grandes satisfacciones. Que Dios les bendiga y ayude a amar a sus esposos como si fuera el último hombre sobre esta tierra.

Mujer...

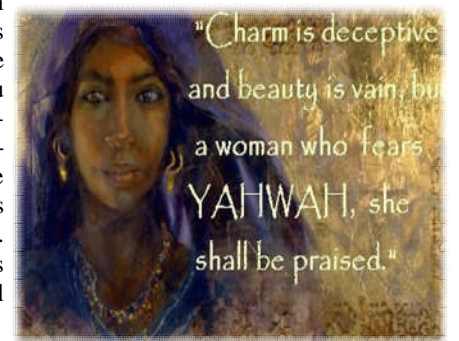
Cuando era niña yo veía niñas muy lindas, y un día sentada cerca de mi padre, le pregunté: ¿Qué es lo que tengo que hacer para ser una niña linda? Y su respuesta fue: "hija mía, las niñas más lindas en esta tierra, son aquellas que aman a Dios y le obedecen."



A woman wanting to impress the pastor when he came to visit, said to her little girl, "Honey, go get the book that Mommy loves so much." The little girl soon returned carrying the **Tele-Novelas Magazine**.

One day, a teacher was teaching her young class the story of Jesus visiting Mary and Martha. She carefully explained how Mary and Martha had hurried to clean the house and cook a special meal. Then she paused and asked, "What would you do if Jesus was going to visit your house today?" One little girl quickly responded, **"I'd put the Bible on the table!"**

A ranger was leading a group of hikers to a fire lookout. The ranger was so intent on telling the hikers about the flowers and animals that he considered the messages on his two-way radio distracting, so he switched it off. Nearing the tower, the ranger was met by a nearly breathless lookout, who asked why he hadn't responded to the messages on his radio. A grizzly bear had been seen stalking the group, and the authorities were trying to warn them. When we tune out God's messages we put ourselves and others in danger.



Is Your Ministry a Peter Style Ministry or a Stephen Type Ministry?

Either way, YOU WIN!!!

As a disciple, Peter was not the kind of guy you'd go to in the clutch, to use sports terminology. In his early years, whenever he opened his mouth, it was usually to change feet. He was the one who, when the spotlight pointed his way, ended up embarrassing himself. On the day of Pentecost, a holy and historic moment in front of a large crowd, Peter had something to say--of course; but would it be something appropriate or totally off target? His track record wasn't good. Peter didn't have a history of rising to the occasion.

If I'd been there as Peter stood, I'd have cringed. *Oh, no! What's he going to say now?* But Peter said exactly what was needed. His powerful words pierced the hearts of the crowd, **Acts 2:41** says that "those who accepted his message were added to their number that day." That day was one of the high points in all his ministry. On the other hand, consider the man named Stephen, whom the Bible describes as "*full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.*" His character was deep and sound. In addition to his spiritual depth, Stephen was also an educated man. When he spoke in public, he was persuasive--so much so that those who opposed him "*could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.*" This led those who opposed him to drum up false charges against him. **Acts 7** contains Stephen's self-defense to the authorities who called him in for questioning. His message was every bit as direct, pointed, and scriptural as Peter's sermon at Pentecost. Like Peter, he was called upon to bear witness to Christ in a tough setting, and like Peter, he was equal to the task. But unlike Peter, the results were far different. When Peter finished, the crowd responded with repentance and faith. When Stephen finished, the crowd responded by dragging him outside the city and stoning him to death. As far as we know, no one accepted his message that day. In fact, **Acts 8:1** says, "*On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem.*" It doesn't seem fair! Peter's message led to mass conversion, while Stephen's led to mass persecution. As a result of his sermon, Peter surfaced as the preeminent leader of the early church. As a result of his sermon, Stephen didn't surface --he ended up six feet under.

Ironically, Stephen is the one who had shown more spiritual maturity. He deserved success. He hadn't failed Christ as Peter had. He hadn't been a public embarrassment to his Lord. He hadn't displayed his pride and concern with "*greatness.*" Stephen had agreed to assume the low-profile, no-limelight position of distributing food to needy widows. He was questioned by the authorities because he faithfully obeyed the mandate to be a witness. It was this faithfulness that killed him.

From surface appearances, we'd label Peter's ministry a success and Stephen's a failure. Peter got the response and the recognition. As far as we know, only one individual who saw Stephen die became a believer, and that not directly because of Stephen's witness.

It doesn't take much imagination to transport these two into the twentieth century. Peter would have his picture in magazines and be a keynote speaker at church conferences. Stephen would have his ministerial life summary in the obituary section of the denominational magazine. While we admire his willingness to die, a number of us would probably say, "You know, I always thought he'd amount to more than he did." In the stories of Peter and Stephen, I've learn a great deal about success in ministry--in God's eyes as well as in mine. Where is your ministry today? Are you a Peter or a Stephen? God loves you and has called you! Now do His will!!!

La Consejería Concentrada en Jesucristo se enfoca en los siguientes

7 Principios Bíblicos:

1. Las soluciones no son sus soluciones.
(Juan 14:26)
2. La autosuficiencia en la cual se apoya debe ser reemplazada con la dependencia en Cristo.
(Juan 15:5)
3. El Espíritu de Cristo es su consejero y le capacita para dar consejo con la verdad.
(Juan 16:13)
4. El pecado de otra persona nunca debe ser enfrentado con una actitud de condenación.
(1 Pedro 3:15-16)
5. El éxito de su consejo no se basa en tener todas las respuestas.
(Proverbios 3:5-6)
6. Las escrituras alumbran el camino mientras usted ayuda a otros a salir de la oscuridad.
(Salmos 119:105)
7. La clave de la victoria sobre la tentación es apoyarse en el poder de la presencia de Cristo.
(Filipenses 4:13)