

EQUIPPING U

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION/JULY 2013

Genesis 3:1-8

[1] Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" [2] And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, [3] but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" [4] But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. [5] For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." [6] So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. [7] Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. [8] And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.



Declaring Independence

It is "a date which will live in infamy," the day man—male and female—declared their independence and sought freedom through sin.

Their "declaration of independence" produced an aftermath beyond what they could have ever imagined. Sin always does.

In her book, *Holiness*, Nancy Leigh DeMoss writes this caution about sin: "Before you yield to temptation the next time, try reminding yourself of these consequences.

- Sin will disappoint you
- Sin will deceive you
- Sin will dominate you
- Sin will destroy you."



TEACHING TIP. How can we influence the lives of young men if we can't even get their attention? Sometimes the answer is to join them. Getting to know their likes and interests can go a long way in bridging generational gaps.



TEACHING TIP. Words of gossip may seem delicious at the time, but they are destructive and fuel strife. Avoid listening to or speaking any words of gossip. (Prov. 18:8, 16:28, 20:19)



TEACHING TIP. In our busy culture, hospitality has taken a back seat; don't let it. Inviting people to your home can deepen relationships and provide opportunities to share God's Word—all over pie and ice cream.

Regrettably we often don't recognize sin's devastating qualities. We are tempted to reason that our sin is not a big deal, or not even sin at all.

We are tempted to reason that our sin is not a big deal, or not even sin at all

Often we rationalize our sinful behaviors and attitudes with the justification "it's just the way I am." Sin is such a deceiver.

It's easy to want to deny the existence of sin in our lives, but Proverbs 20:9 questions, "Who can say, 'I have made my heart pure; I am clean from my sin?'"

It's impossible for us to purify ourselves. But the gospel, literally the good news, is: "if we confess our sins," God, because he is faithful and just to see Jesus' sacrificial death as full atonement, will "forgive us our sins and...cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

Search me, O God, and know my heart

Confessing our sin can be difficult, because it demands that we recognize that we aren't as good as we'd like to be or think that we are.

The psalmist pled, "Search me, O God,

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Vicki Fuller & Kim von Oeyen

ICEA is a volunteer-staffed ministry. Each month Equipping U highlights and honors one of our faithful volunteers.

and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalm 139:23-24)

God will cleanse us, but first we must rip up our declaration of independence by confessing our sins and believing in Jesus. Then throughout our lives as believers, the grace of God will continue the process of training us to turn from sin and eagerly await our glorious Savior's return. For He is our blessed Hope.

This month I have the privilege of introducing you to my good friend, Vicki Fuller. Vicki quietly serves behind the scenes at ICEA proofreading Equipping U so that it arrives to you as error-free as possible.

It's a joy to shine the spotlight on Vicki as she faithfully, and with no fan-fare, serves the body of Christ through each Equipping U.

FROM THE EDITOR

This week I found the Lord, through His Word and the conviction of the Holy Spirit, shining a spotlight on the fact that I had told a half-truth, which is a full lie, to a customer of mine.



Confessing and making restitution to my customer was not easy, but the joy of having a good conscience before God and others was a sweet reward.

Is there an area God is shining a spotlight on in your life? Confess and obey; you'll be glad you did.

Serving with U,

Kim
Kimberly von Oeyen

REGISTER TODAY & SAVE!

Enjoy \$35 early bird registration for the October 19 Equipping U Church Ministries Training Conference at Ward Church in Northville, Michigan. Registration forms are available online at www.iceaOnline.org.

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EQUIPPING U

ISSUE no. 7
VOLUME 2

Equipping U is a publication of the
International Christian Education Association
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