

MAKING A LIST

John Edwards

A recent FOX NEWS headline, MAKING A LIST, reported groups targeting specific businesses (like a hit list). According to the report, demonstrations and violent riots were expected to continue throughout the country. At that time, such had been going on for more than 50 straight days! We've seen vandalism, fires, graffiti, violent rioting, lawlessness, attacks on police, theft, destruction of property, statues toppled, racial slurs, people throwing rocks, bottles, paint balloons and unknown liquids at buildings and each other, shining lasers and launching fireworks, explosive devices thrown, shootings and on and on she goes! While some have been making a list of people, places and things to target and destroy, I thought of another list to be made. How about making a list of some Bible principles sorely needed today? Here are a few:

THOU SHALT NOT KILL.

There is a staggering number of murders taking place in our major cities, like Chicago, where a number of people were injured in a drive by shooting outside a funeral home. According to Chicago Tribune, as of September 2, 858 people have been shot in Chicago this year! Where has respect for life

gone? The sixth commandment said: *“Thou shalt not kill”* (Ex. 20:13). In Genesis 9:6, the Lord stated: *“Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.”* This would go along way in solving these problems today!

YE SHALL NOT STEAL.

Looting has been widespread. The Bible teaches respect for other's property. It is written in the law: *“Ye shall not steal...”* (Lev. 19:11). Exodus 22 gave instruction concerning *“If a man shall steal...”* (v. 1) and *“If a thief be found...”* (v. 2). Such going-ons were not tolerated! In some countries, the penalty for such may result in an individual being one-handed, as they cut your hand off! That would cut down on thefts, wouldn't it? I remember Zacchaeus saying, *“...if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold”* (Lk. 19:8). Fourfold restoration is a good principle! Ephesians 4:28 says, *“Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.”*

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS

THYSELF. Leviticus 19:18 reads: *“Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as*

thyself: I am the Lord.” The prophet Zechariah revealed, *“And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour...”* (Zech. 8:17). There is entirely too much evil-imagining against one's neighbour in society today! It was reported that in San Francisco a bus driver was spat upon and beaten with a baseball bat after asking passengers to wear masks. Whatever happened to neighborly love? Jesus taught, *“...and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself”* (Mt. 19:19; 22:39). If the number of citizens like the neighbor-loving Samaritan who *“was neighbour unto him that fell among thieves”* would increase, the number of individuals falling, stripped, wounded and left for dead would decrease (Lk. 15:30-36)!

DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU. This is the Golden Rule: *“Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets”* (Mt. 7:12). Just think if everybody practiced this principle today! The world would be a much different and far better place, would it not? There needs to be more others-looking as Philippians 2:4 says: *“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.”* Where are you looking?

LET YOUR SPEECH BE SEASONED WITH GRACE. Have you read Colossians 4:6 and applied it to your mouth? It says: *“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”* How about “grace speech” instead of “hate speech”? I remember a time when folks with different points of view had respect for one another and could be civil in their speech and dealings with those of differing opinions. Not much of that today, as war of words quickly break out with name-calling and worse! Ephesians 4:31-32 upholds this principle: *“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil-speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”*

BE SUBJECT UNTO THE HIGHER POWERS. Lawlessness, civil disobedience, the movement to resist ordinances of those in positions of authority and such like are about

epidemic today! Romans 13 instills these principles: *“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.... For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is*

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the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil” (vv. 1-3, 4). We need to be *“put in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates...”* (Titus 3:1).

ONE BLOOD. An understanding of Acts 17:26 would end all racism and prejudice, where Paul preached that God, *“hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth....”* If you needed a life-

saving blood transfusion, would you ask, “What color of skin did this blood come from?” Most would not! The song, *Jesus Loves The Little Children* needs to be sung more and more: *“Red, yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight!”* All lives matter as each individual, regardless of his skin-color or race, has a common Creator and is made in the image of the Almighty God! *“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul”* (Gen. 2:7).

What we see going on in society today is symptomatic of what happens when people get away from Bible teaching and living. If folks today would get back to the Bible across this country and around the world, and apply its principles to their lives, it would solve a multitude of issues and problems overnight! This will only happen one soul at a time. While we cannot control what others do, let these principles begin with you and me, and may we instill them into the hearts and minds of our young people.

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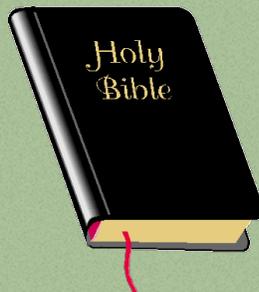
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