

Free Kittens

I would probably never have noticed the fence itself, had it not been for the sign advertising “free kittens” which was painted on it. The sign appeared to have been hastily painted with no straight lines and with crooked white lettering which stood out against the austere grayness of the weathered six foot high board fence.

For a while, the message stood alone on the fence, with its eight to twelve inch high letters which were laid out in a slightly arched line. Later, other messages appeared on the fence. They too, were laid out in a similar fashion giving the impression that they were painted in haste. One message advertised baby sitting services, while others made political statements.

You can tell a lot about the sign painter both from what the message is and from the care with which the message was painted. The painted message conveys something which the sign painter has within themselves and which the painter feels needs to be brought out. Crookedness of lines and letters may reveal a lack of personal pride in their work, or it might reveal the idea that the painter thought the message painting might be looked upon as nefarious activity. All of the messages on this board fence were painted so as to give the idea that format was secondary to the actual message itself.

Our lives also demonstrate to others what is inside of each of us in much the same way as a hand painted sign on a fence makes a statement about things in the lives of the painters. When we see someone whose life shows carelessness, confusion, or even a rebellion God in the form of a fleshly life style[i], we may conclude that they have abandoned a Godly life style or even that they have rejected God[ii].

However, while we have all sinned and fallen short of God’s glory[iii], God extended His Mercy to us even though under His Law we are worthy of death[iv]. Through the Name of His Son Jesus we have been granted Forgiveness[v]. This Devine Forgiveness manifests itself in the form of a new life, led by His Spirit rather than our old flesh[vi].

We are now no longer under condemnation for sin since we are in Christ[vii]. We are given the right to live by His Spirit so that we may be His Sons[viii] and thus live in His Promise that He will be with us always[ix]. If we live according to these Promises of His, no one can stand against us[x].

Upon our acceptance of His Promises the responsibility becomes ours. We cannot be subject to the secular world[xi], but are able to live in accordance to the promises of protection granted us by our Salvation in Christ. We are protected by the full armor of God, no matter what the nature of our adversary[xii].

Consequently our new life is in direct opposition to our old life. We are free from the law of sin which previously governed our lives and this gives us the freedom we have in Christ[xiii]. Our lives can not help but be changed by this Spirit of Christ Who indwells us and remakes us through His Love[xiv].

A sign usually is a testimony to the world that we have a significance to convey. God, throughout the Old Testament, gave signs for the coming deliverance of the world from the bondage of sin. Daniel and Isaiah are but two Old Testament texts that are testimonies and promises of the coming Messiah. The star seen by the wise men at the Birth of Christ heralded the babe[xv] in Whom we have but to believe and live accordingly to be saved.

It is funny how the hand painted sign of a formerly nondescript weathered wooden fence calls our attention to that which was ignored. Standing for something draws attention to someone or something. Christians, by standing for the truth, call attention to their own lives. Because of this the world judges us more severely[xvi]. We can override this by living gently quiet lives in Him[xvii].

[i] Galatians 5:16-21

[ii] Romans 1: 18-32

[iii] Romans 3:23

[iv] Romans 6:23

[v] John 3: 16-18

[vi] Galatians 5: 22-25

[vii] Romans 8:1

[viii] Romans 8:14

[ix] Matthew 28:20

[x] Romans 8:31

[xi] Romans 12:1-2

[xii] Ephesians 6: 10-28

[xiii] Ephesians 4:17-32

[xiv] 2 Corinthians 5: 14-17

[xv] Matthew 2:1-6

[xvi] James 3:1

[xvii] James 3:13