

The Articles of
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as published in The Gospel Fire

Jokes Becoming more than Jokes

It's August. August means end of summer... parties... football... parties... new schools... and lots and lots of parties! With all the excitement, its easy to get carried away as Christians and let our guard down and "have fun." Even though, I have been there before and have seen my own friends get hurt because they were not thinking right, or they were just "joking around." As you will find out, jokes can become more than jokes.

After school one day, I was talking to my friends Josh and Steve. We were making plans on what we were going to do at a State Solo and Ensemble Competition that we qualified for. Of course, you HAVE to bring Halo, the iPod, and most definitely, Call Of Duty 4! But then one of my friends said, "Hey, any of ya'll going to bring the good stuff?" My other friend responded and said, "What, you're going to be an idiot and bring beer?!?" "No," he replied, "I mean protection." We started to laugh because we knew he was not serious. But not even ten minutes later he asked again. Josh decided that we should buy some just for fun. Me, being led into temptation and not thinking right, gave in and went along with them. Steve went in and bought them and gave them to the rest of us. To make a long story short, we took them to the State Competition and Steve came to us in the morning and said, "... Guys, I had a chance last night but I didn't want to get caught so I didn't go." I was glad he didn't follow his fleshly desires but was mad at him for his reason. So what started out as a joke, turned out to be a cover up for reality.

As young Christians, we need to remember that the Devil is out to get us as a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8). Even though the Devil is after us, he was also after Joseph in Potiphar's house with Potiphar's wife. His wife wanted to sleep with Joseph, just as the girl wanted to with my friend Steve, but Joseph knew it was wrong and he RAN! It does not say in the Bible that he ran just for emphasis, it says he ran because that's exactly what he did. HE RAN! (Gen. 39:16; read all of Genesis 39 for context). The Devil was even after Christ as he was fasting for 40 days, but Christ denied him three times (Matt. 4:1-11).

Also as young Christians, we come in contact with people who love to joke around as my friends do and say things like: "Hey man, did you ever know that your mom looks good in that?" or "Dude... your mom is FINE!!" Things of this sort are just completely unacceptable and not what a Christian or anyone else needs to be saying. The Bible even talks about course jesting, which is saying nasty jokes or comments. We as Christians have to put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:10-20) and we will have to give an account on the judgment day for every word we did OR did not say, for every action we did OR did not do (Matt. 12:36). So in the end, I have changed. I have seen where I was wrong, repented, and am striving not to do these actions again. Please, likewise, if this story fits your life, change now before it's too late. If you are not a Christian and want to be but do not know what to do, you first have to hear the word of God and believe it is the Inspired Word of God and that it is true (Rom. 10:17). You must then realize you are sinning and you need to repent, or try as hard as you can not to do those sins again (Acts 2:38). Once you have made the commitment to repent, you must then confess with your mouth in front of a preacher, elder, deacon, or a congregation that you believe that

Christ is the Son of the living God (Matt. 16:13-20). You can then be baptized to wash your sins away and have God remember them no more. You will rise as a new creature, ready to serve God to the best of your ability, remaining faithful until you die (Acts 2:38; Rev. 2:10). If you are a Christian and have fallen away, you must acknowledge your sins before the one you have sinned against. If it was a private sin, go to God in prayer. If it was a public sin, confess it before the congregation asking them to help you and for their prayers on your behalf (1 John 1:9). Then you must repent of those sins and remain faithful until death (Acts 2:38; Rev. 2:10). I hope this article is useful for you, or friends and family because that was my intent. May God be with you!

-August 2008