

Counselor's Corner: I DARE YOU

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Last Fall I did a 10 Week teaching on the book Search For Significance at one of our group sessions at Revelation Church. Personal sharing was key, so I talked about spending many years overcoming the need to depend on people for my wellbeing and thought the only way to fit in a group was to be like them. In college I would be a real party animal. Drink, cuss, smoke, laugh when it wasn't funny only because they were laughing, etc. When I found Jesus and repented, I lost my former identity

and started to act like the "holy" Christians around me to create a new identity. My three bibles were rarely opened but they sure looked good in their genuine fake leather Bible cover. Words like Glory, Hallelujah was part of my new vocabulary. I never realized who the real "Me" was. It was the many years of godly mentors, and later by studying as a temperament counselor I began to realize the truth. I could fool many, but I couldn't fool myself and I sure didn't fool God at all. Many of us are still play

ing the "game." Therefore, I have a challenge for you as a new year begins. No, actually I DARE you! I dare you to take a risk and actually become who God called you to be, and that is to live only for an audience of 1. I am taking on the dare myself. I've come a long way, but I have a long way to go. Even now it is bringing me so much more peace and as I slow down, I am beginning to take a look at the frenzy of people in action around me and their inner man saying things like what am I going to get out of this?

What's in it for me? Will it be fun? Will I gain something? If not, count me out!" instead of challenging our inner man to say, "God, help me to put others ahead of myself. Change my attitude." Let's take a look at a few examples as a comparison of where you are and where there's room for change.

1. Do you care about others? Really care? I once read that it's easier to shoot the wounded than it is to help them heal. Criticizing comes more naturally than listening, more than loving. Whether it's the lost, the church, the newly saved still cussing, or the pastor who has a megachurch. So many self-centered and self-righteous believers judge both those who don't or do know Christ. "Lord, change my attitude."

2. What about your role in your church? Are you looking for a community of believers that meets your needs? When did we as Christians start to think

that the church exists for us? Folks, we are the church and we're here for the world. Get in the game, reach out, use your gifts, give recklessly, MAKE A DIFFERENCE. 3. Serve passionately. Ask God to change your attitude about His church. Especially your role in it. My favorite example was the story of the new member who came up to the pastor after church and instead of saying Pastor, great sermon, he said "Pastor, I have only one thing to tell you. My answer is yes, now what is the question!" The pastor was confused and met with the young man later and asked what he meant. The young man smiled and said that he was once hooked on drugs, losing his marriage and job when he found Jesus. Jesus intervened and his life was reversed. Since then, because what Jesus did for him, he would do whatever the pastor needed. He would rock babies, usher, mow the church yard, etc. His answer to

the pastor would always be yes. All the Pastor has to do is ask the question "I need help." There is so much more to this dare I could share, I could write a book. Oh. Wait. There is one already written. The Bible. Read Genesis 1 and 2 to get a renewed sense of the awe of the God of the Universe who created us. He who loves us unconditionally even to the point of sacrificing His Son for our sins, so we can be with Him eternally. Do we need to readjust our attitudes? our tongues? our self-importance? our lack of love for others? our lack of forgiveness? I'm taking the dare. I want to focus only on an audience of 1, the God of the Universe and my Father. How about you? Have a blessed 2019!

Blessings and Love,
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JESUS IS LORD!

South Carolina Bill Would Define Unborn Baby as a Person & Ban Abortions

BY MICAH BILGER

A South Carolina bill filed for 2019 seeks to end all abortions by defining an unborn baby as a person under the law. Its sponsor, state Rep. Josiah Magnuson, R-Campobello, said he hopes the bill will succeed in overturning the infamous U.S. Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade, the Spartanburg Herald-Journal reports. "The Personhood Act will define life at conception so that all humans are protected under state law, regardless of age," Magnuson

said. "... The only way to slay the dragon is through the heart of Roe v. Wade. We need to remember our goal — to end abortion." His bill includes an exception for abortions when the mother's life is in danger, according to the report. Magnuson said the bill also would not ban in vitro fertilization or contraception. "I believe protecting individual rights is the highest responsibility of the state, and the right to life is given to us by our creator,"

Magnuson said. WSAV News reports Gov. Henry McMaster said he would sign the bill, and state Attorney General Alan Wilson promised to defend it in court. A similar personhood bill failed in the state legislature in 2018. Personhood bills can be controversial even among pro-life advocates because of the unlikelihood of them succeeding in a legal challenge. When states lose these battles, taxpayers often are forced to pay

pro-abortion groups' legal fees for the court cases. Abortion groups have succeeded in overturning similar laws in court. In 2012, the Oklahoma Supreme Court struck down a personhood bill as unconstitutional because it recognized unborn babies as human beings who deserve the right to life. Though these lawmakers have good intentions to save unborn babies' lives, personhood legislation, even if upheld in court, may not make abortions

illegal. When considering a Missouri statute in 1989, U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist ruled that the personhood statute was nothing more than a statement of position that had no bearing on banning abortions or even limiting them in any way. Missouri had approved a statute saying, "the life of each human being begins at conception" and "unborn children have protectable interests in life, health, and well-being." The statute required that all Missouri state laws be interpreted to provide unborn children with rights equal to those enjoyed by other persons. The U.S. Court for the Western District of Missouri struck down that provision and the abortion limits, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit affirmed and ruled they violated Roe. The U.S. Supreme Court

then ruled that it did not need to consider the constitutionality of the law's preamble, defining personhood at conception, as it could not be used to support any abortion laws that conflicted with Roe. Chief Justice Rehnquist wrote the decision. Ultimately, the Supreme Court upheld the personhood language Missouri used decades ago but did not allow it to ban — or even limit — any abortions. There is more hope that the new conservative-majority U.S. Supreme Court may consider an abortion ban, but it is difficult to say if it would for certain. Some legal scholars have speculated that the current court would be more likely to consider cases that gradually chip away at Roe v. Wade — such as a dismemberment abortion ban — rather than reverse it completely. +++

JESUS IS LORD.

Doctors Told Mom to Abort two of Her Triplets. She Refused

self, have the added burden of deciding whether to trust a medical professional's advice or give their unborn baby a chance at life. Despite the risk, the Johnsons refused to consider aborting any of their unborn babies. "... there was no way that we could terminate one or two babies. We had to give them all a chance of survival," their mother said. Doctors monitored Johnson and her unborn babies closely throughout the

next several months. "It was nerve-racking as they were scanned each any better with Oliver," she remembered. "At 28 weeks we were told he had stopped growing completely. But doctors said that as long as the blood week, and it wasn't getting flow carried on getting to him, then they would leave him in the womb." The triplets were delivered by emergency cesarean section three weeks later, according to the report. Oliver was the smallest,



weighing 2 pounds 15 ounces, while Oscar weighed 4 pounds and Aurelia 3 pounds 15 ounces. "It was a relief when they were all born safely. Oliver was incredibly tiny," their mother said.

The triplets spent four weeks in the hospital before doctors deemed them well enough to go home. The Johnsons said they were thankful to have their babies home in time for Christmas. Their mother called it an "incredible gift."

JESUS IS THE SAME YESTERDAY TODAY AND FOREVER ...