

OPEN LETTER TO LOGOS SECONDARY STUDENTS

by Jim Wilson, Word of Life Church

*An Open Letter from Jim Wilson to the Secondary Students
at Logos School in Moscow, Idaho*

I will be 90 years old on October 6. Here are my credentials for writing this letter to you:

- I have been a Christian for 70 years.
- I was Tom Garfield and Doug Wilson's Sunday school teacher when they were in high school.
- I taught the Practical Christianity elective at Logos for five years.
- Ten of my grandchildren went to Logos. Nine of my great-grandchildren are currently here.
- Two of my grandchildren and one granddaughter-in-law teach here.

First, I want to commend some of you for your godly life and desire to be more like Jesus.

This is a self-evaluation letter.

Are you a Christian? Here are a few ways to find out:

- "The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit" (1 Cor. 2:14). You are

taught the Bible and read it. Do you understand it spiritually? If not, you are a natural man. A natural man cannot understand spiritual truths. They are foolishness to him.

- "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death" (1 John 3:14). Do you love Christians? Loving Christians is a means of knowing that you are one. Non-Christians do not love Christians.
- "We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands" (1 John 2:3). Do you obey God?
- "A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of" (Luke 6:45). What is your mouth like? If you have a dirty mouth, it is because you have a dirty heart.
- "I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness" (Rom.

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6:19). Do you want to be holy?

There are more ways of finding out if you are a real Christian. Read the book of 1 John several times and read Colossians several times.

Here are my observations about you, both direct and secondhand. Some of you think you are Christians because you were raised in a Christian home or because you were baptized. These things don't make you a Christian. A mouse born in a cookie jar is not a cookie.

Are you bitter? Are you angry? Are you anxious? "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice" (Eph. 4:31). "But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips" (Col. 3:8). "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:6-7).

Do you lie? Do you cheat? Do you steal? Confess each one. For stealing, you must confess and return what you stole plus 20%. "The LORD said to Moses: 'If anyone sins and is unfaithful to the LORD by deceiving a neighbor about something entrusted to them or left in their care or about something stolen, or if they cheat their neighbor, or if they find lost property and lie about it, or if they swear falsely about any such sin that people may commit—when they sin in any of these ways and realize their guilt, they must return what they have stolen or taken by extortion, or what was entrusted to them, or the lost property they found, or whatever it was they swore falsely about. They must make restitution in full, add a fifth of the value to it and give it all to the owner on the day they present their guilt offering. And as a penalty they must bring to the priest, that is, to the LORD, their guilt offering, a ram from the flock, one without defect and of the proper value. In this way the priest will make atonement for them before the LORD, and they will be

forgiven for any of the things they did that made them guilty'" (Lev. 6:1-7).

If you were not raised in a Christian home, you are probably in Logos because of its academic standards. Are you impressed with Christianity because of the Christians here? Or are you unimpressed?

Some of you will go into the secular education system when you graduate. Some of you have already made the decision to do that. You will be accordingly prepared for college academically, but you might not be spiritually prepared.

Some of you are secure in the presence of the opposite sex, and some of you are girl crazy or boy crazy. If you are on the crazy side, go to someone for help. It is not a virtue. You won't grow out of it, either. It will only get worse.

Some of you have problems with pornography (mostly boys, but more girls are having this problem now, too). You don't want anyone to know about it, so you only do it in secret. Unless you are delivered from this, it will not stop when you get married. This is a major source of wrecked marriages. I can help, or I can send you somewhere to get help. If you pretend you do not have a problem, you will just keep the problem. Jesus called it adultery. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matt. 5:27-28). The real solution to most of this is to call it sin and confess it and forsake it.

Some of you are the center of the rebellion here. Others are copying your dirty talk, but they are not at home with it like you are. You have pressured them to talk that way. There is a third group—those students who disapprove of this but do not try to stop it. There is a fourth group—those who are clean and stay clean. If you talked dirty in front of them, you would feel guilty; so you stay away from them.

In my senior year at the Naval Academy, I went to a

classmate's room to read the comics. (He was the only one who had a newspaper subscription.) When I came into his room, he met me with a mouthful of profanity. It was just his way of saying "Good morning" to me. I reached into my pocket to get a Christian booklet and threw it on his desk. "That will teach you to talk like that," I said. I sat down on his bed and started reading the comics.

Then I heard someone crying. I turned around. It was him. He said, "Jim, I didn't grow up talking like that." You may not have grown up talking like that, either.

Here is what the Bible says about this kind of talk.

"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name" (Exodus 20:7).

"But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God" (Eph. 5:3–5).

"But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips." (Col. 3:8)

If you are not able to quit, it could be because you are not a Christian. You are not saved. You are on your way to hell.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35). All men will know that you are followers of Jesus because you love each other. It would be easy for others to doubt your salvation now

because God does a better job of saving than your life shows.

If you are a Christian, then you should confess and forsake the talk that is dirty and the talk that is not loving.

If you are a Christian, then "do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Rom. 12:2).

If you realize that you are not a Christian, tell someone who is clearly Christian and ask him how to become one.

If you want to see me about any of this, check with your parents. If they agree, I will be glad to see you alone or with your parents. You can email me at jimwilson27@frontier.com.

I can help you confess, and I can help you obey.

Respectfully,

Jim Wilson