

Pleasant Valley Weekly

Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding. (Psalm 47 : 6–7)

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Issue 10

Do you approve?

Have you ever been asked for your approval? What are they asking for? Approval, according to the dictionary, means the action of officially agreeing to something or accepting something as satisfactory. So, when you are asked for your approval, you have been asked for your agreement to a statement, an action, or a decision. You are asked whether it is okay with you that something happens.

Do you really consider what it means to give your approval of something? Do you actually weight the pros / cons before agreeing to something? Or, do you not want to be the one who said “No” when everyone else said “Yes”?

The opposite of approving something is actually condemning it. Condemning means to express complete disapproval of something. The idea of condemning something doesn't sound enjoyable; perhaps, this is why we choose to say nothing at all rather than to express disapproval.

When we choose not to answer, we misrepresent our beliefs, our feelings, and what we stand for. Why is it that we have deceived ourselves into thinking that to say nothing is different than giving our approval? To God, when we fail to not condemn something, we approve of it. When we approve of sin, we condemn ourselves. I believe we take the severity of this too lightly.

Do you approve?

- * What is the righteous judgment of God?
“...those...are deserving of death.”
- * What does it mean to deserve something?
It is a due reward for something said or done.
- * What have they done to deserve death?
Sin—the wages of which is death
Anyone who sins is deserving of death
- * What is death?
Not physical but spiritual
The second death—Hell
- * Who else is deserving of this same death?
Anyone who approves of sin
Anyone who does not condemn sin
Paul was consenting to the death of Stephen.
- * We only have two options
We either approve of something, or we condemn it. No middle ground.
- * Why do we approve of sin? A better way to say it, why don't we condemn it?
1) It has become so prevalent that we no longer blush 2) Arrogance