

EMERGENCY!

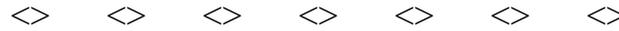
Joe Slater

You're driving down the highway; you see the flashing red lights in your rear view mirror and hear the shrill siren. It may be a fire truck, an ambulance, or a police car. Regardless, what should you do? Pull over! Why? Because it's an emergency! A building is on fire, someone is injured, or a crime is in progress. Even if you are late for an appointment, or if you are really hungry and want to get to the restaurant quickly, you pull over to give the emergency vehicle clear passage. Your own concerns can wait; the emergency cannot.

As a Christian, you are part of God's emergency response team. An inferno is raging! Let us save as many as we can, "snatching them out of the fire" (Jude 23 NASB). Sin has littered the streets and the countryside with innumerable victims wounded and dying (Romans 6:23). On behalf of the Great Physician, let us tend to them with the healing words of the gospel. Crime (sin) runs rampant throughout the population. Let us lovingly, but firmly, confront the perpetrators with the truth. For those who believe and obey, the old man of sin will die in baptism, and a new person will come forth (Romans 6:1-13).

Oh, that every Christian might appreciate the urgency of the gospel! Souls are lost; people are launching out into eternity every day, most of them unprepared to meet God in judgment. What greater, more urgent need could there be than to take the saving gospel to those souls? Yet, all too often, we refuse to "pull over." We are distracted by other matters of far less importance. While we casually tend to our own comforts and desires, the emergency escalates further and further. May God help us to take to heart the words of the song:

**Rescue the perishing; care for the dying;
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave.
Weep o'er the erring one; lift up the fallen;
Tell them of Jesus the mighty to save**



What Makes Porn Dangerous

In the *Saturday Review*, Norman Cousins wrote concerning pornography:

"The trouble with this wide-open pornography . . . is not that it corrupts, but that it desensitizes;
not that it unleashes the passions, but that it cripples the emotions;
not that it encourages a mature attitude, but that it is a reversion to infantile obsessions;
not that it removes the blinders, but that it distorts the view.
Prowess is proclaimed, but love is denied.
What we have is not liberation, but dehumanization."

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BE AN ANDREW

Every time Andrew is mentioned in Scripture, he is bringing someone to Jesus: his brother, Simon (John 1:42); a boy with five loaves and two fish (John 6:8); and some Greeks (John 12:22).

--Cecil May, Jr. (via *Preacher Talk*)

Jesus, the Man of LaMancha, and Me

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8 NASU).

The Broadway musical based on the novel, *Don Quixote*, called *The Man of LaMancha*, with its theme song, "To Dream The Impossible Dream," featured the ridiculous knight named Don Quixote. He rides through the Spanish countryside mistaking windmills for giants.

During his adventures he meets a cheap woman in a tavern. Any man can have this woman for one night, but no man wants her for life. Then Don Quixote rides into town and sees the townspeople treat her like dirt. Quixote bows before her as though she were a queen. She puts herself down. He lifts her up. When she's finally convinced that Don Quixote really believes in her, she begins to believe in herself. She has found someone who says she's priceless even when she feels worthless.

Our Lord came to this earth and found many like this woman - people the world had given up on. But He loved them and gave them what they needed, not what they deserved. He healed their broken hearts, and gave them new meaning to life. While others looked on and ridiculed Jesus, He gave them hope and forgiveness.

Should we not do the same? Each one of us is as sinful before God as anyone else. We dare not look down upon those who appear to be worse sinners than ourselves. We should never burn the very bridge that stands between us and God by not forgiving those who sin against us.

We must see the image of God in everyone. If God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, should we not look upon others the way God did?

--Rob Redden (Arroyo Grande, CA)