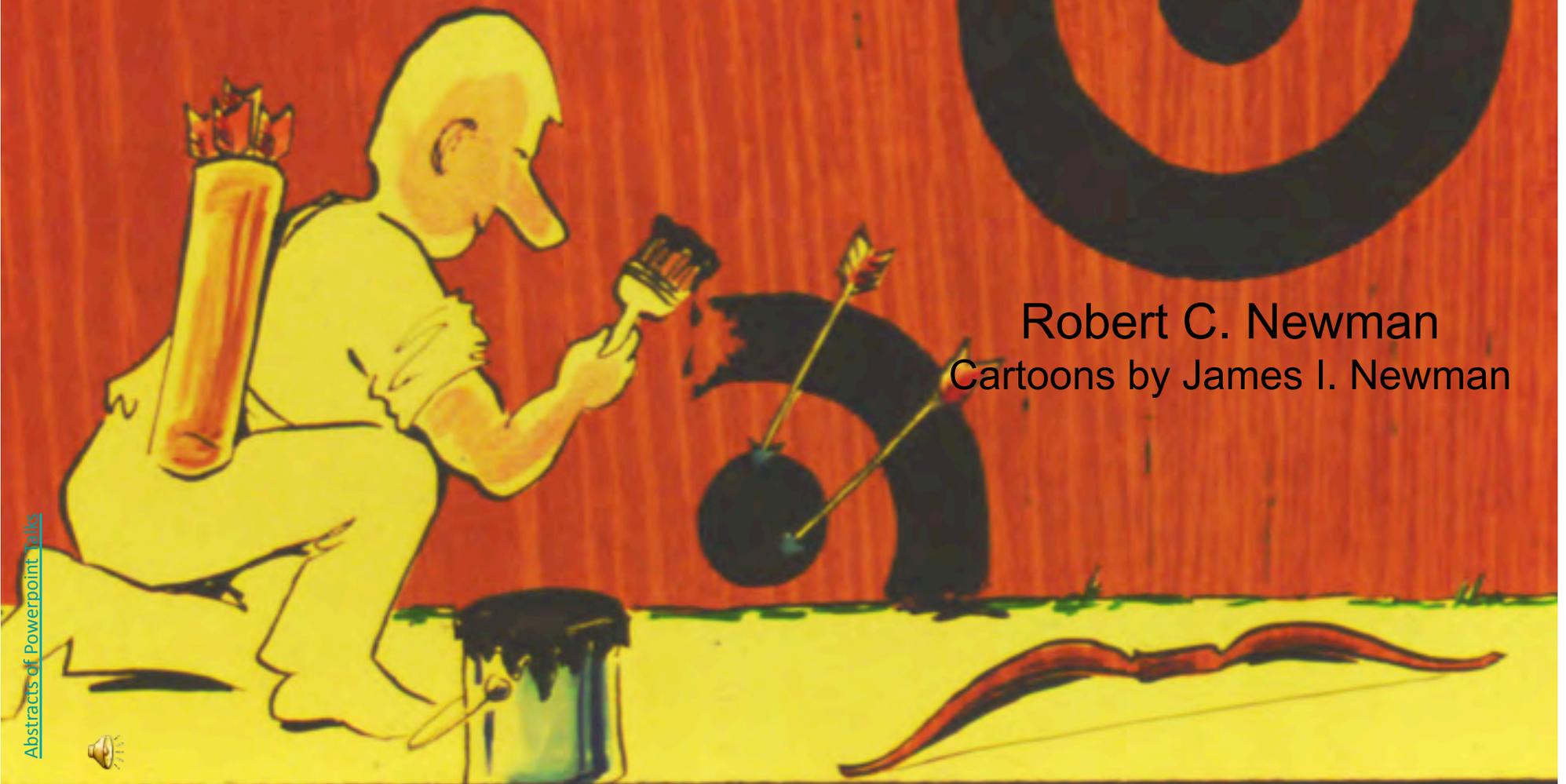


# Substitutes for Sanctification



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Cartoons by James I. Newman



# Warning!

- This talk is ironic n even cynical!
- But it has some good purposes:
  - To help people tell the difference between real holiness and cheap substitutes.
  - To keep us from thinking we're OK when the Last Judgment will reveal that we aren't.
  - To help us make to course corrections while we still can.

# How to Make Yourself Holy Without the Holy Spirit



# In General

- Rather than actually becoming more conformed to the image of Christ...
- Or doing a better job of keeping God's laws...
- Put all the harder laws in another dispensation, for example:
  - Before the Church Age
  - During the Millennium

# In General

- Realize that this is the Age of Grace, not of Law:
  - So you don't need to keep all those laws...
  - And it is Legalism to try...
- Define away certain sins...
  - They are merely mistakes, imperfections...

# In General

- Concentrate on certain externals...
  - Or on certain specific areas of behavior.
- Notice how bad everyone else is.
  - (This will vary from group to group.)
  - They drink (or smoke).
  - They don't keep the Sabbath.
  - They consort with sinners.
  - They dress the wrong way.
  - (No doubt you can supply additional items.)

# Substitutes for the Fruit of the Spirit

EXPLANATIONS  
FOR ALL  
OCCASIONS



# The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22 (NIV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

# Love

- Instead, just have a pleasant outward appearance & smile a lot...
  - So long as no one crosses you.
- Condescend to those you consider beneath you.
- Flatter those you think may be superior to you.

# Joy

- The suggestions for “Love” (above) will probably do the trick here.
- You do need to be careful to try & stick to:
  - Pleasant surroundings
  - Pleasant people
  - Comfortable circumstances
- It’s too tough to be joyful in difficult situations.

# Peace

- Both the suggestions under “Love” and “Joy” should prove helpful here.
- Try to avoid controversy...
  - Or if that doesn’t work, ignore it.
- Don’t think of people in the categories “saved” and “unsaved.”
- Or if you do, stay away from the latter.
- Don’t think about the troubles other Christians are facing.

# Patience

- This is hard to fake, so stay away from circumstances where this is needed.
- You aren't required to be patient...
  - When dealing with nasty people
  - Where matters of principle are involved.
- Make sure the offender knows that you are “long-suffering.”

# Kindness

- Like “Love,” you may use the practice of kindness as an excuse for not rebuking sin...
  - At least in certain areas.
  - Remember “judge not,” unless someone really deserves it.

# Goodness

- This means being more holy according to the general principles sketched in those panels above labelled “In General.”
- We shouldn’t tell others how good we are, but we can show them by:
  - Being an obvious example
  - Pointing out the faults of others
  - Giving free advice

# Faith, Faithfulness

- Sometimes translated “faith”
  - What others should have in what you say
  - A device to avoid:
    - Planning (I did it by faith)
    - Obedience (The Spirit led me...)
- If translated “faithfulness”
  - Loyalty to leadership whatever they are doing
  - My group, right or wrong
  - Not needed if they disagree with you

# Gentleness

- Traditionally “meekness”
  - Not to be applied to your understanding of Scripture, since you are illuminated by the Holy Spirit, and thus “spiritual”
  - Taking a backseat to obvious superiors, unless they are trying to muscle in
  - Giving in if the other person is too strong

# Gentleness

- Allows bragging about:
  - Growing up in poverty
  - Your earlier life of sin
  - Lack of education
  - How you interpret Scripture w/o human aid
  - Your parents who were...
    - Christians
    - Missionaries
    - Pastors

# Self-Control

- Traditionally translated “temperance.”
  - Total abstinence from alcohol is a good substitute in some circles.
  - Drinking in moderation with do in others.
  - Also includes not speaking the truth if your audience will consider the truth intemperate.
- Self-control is demonstrated by putting up with those who are moderately aggravating...
  - Not necessary if they are really aggravating.
- Doesn't apply to eating habits

# Summary

- Moving out of the ironic, cynical mode...
- I found a good deal of this rather convicting, as I find myself practicing such techniques all too often.
- May God help us to recognize fake spirituality, in ourselves & in others.
- May the Lord change us, so that we may indeed grow in true holiness.

Know Thyself



The End