

Intersections: Christianity & Today

Not! On ^ Being a Prig

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prig, n. a person who adheres smugly to rigid standards of propriety.

1. “When I’m in a church group and everyone is putting on their church behavior, there is a feeling of tightness. But if someone breaks that piety and says sonofabitch, things get more relaxed and comfortable.”
—John Bridgewater
2. “If the truth is worth telling, it is worth making a fool of yourself to tell.”
—Frederick Buechner
3. “She admonished me severely for having used disposable plastic glasses in a previous party, chiding me with a rather tender remark, ‘You got no class.’ . . . I reasoned that anyone who would look upon me with disfavor because I committed the unthinkable—used plastic glasses—would be an individual I would not care to have in my house again anyway.”
—Robert Ringer, *Looking Out for #1*, p. 89
4. “You’ve been told to advertise your true self so many times in this book that it should practically be imprinted on your subconscious by now.” —*ibid*, p. 296
5. “If you are loving and diligent, you may do whatever you want.”
—St. Augustine, 1 Jn. 7. *Patrologia Latina*, 34, 2033
6. “There’s one thing missing in you, Boss. A touch of madness! Unless you cut the string, you’ll never really live.”
—Zorba, the Greek
7. “You are free to do whatever you like. You need only face the consequences.”
—Sheldon B. Kopp, *If You Meet the Buddha on the Road, Kill Him!*, p. 224
8. “What is the consequence of not thinking? It’s conformity.”
—*Whitmer’s Guide to Total Wellness*, p. 27
9. “The beauty of liberal Christianity is that one need not divorce the mind from the body, the emotions from the intellect, the passions from religion, or culture from piety.”
—Donald E. Miller, *The Case for Liberal Christianity*, p. 77
10. Do prigs ever admit that they are prigs? Famous prig statement: I’m not smug. I’m just know what’s right.
11. Are there times in which you should adhere to rigid standards of propriety?
12. Does God adhere to rigid standards of propriety?
 - A) Does God have standards for us today?
 - B) If there are standards for us today, are all these groups of people held to the same standard?
 - i) Members of Community Fellowship
 - ii) Children under the age of five
 - iii) Husbands in Saudi Arabia
 - iv) The President of the United States
 - v) Mothers in Africa whose children are dying of starvation
 - C) Are we held to the same standards as those in the Old Testament?