

WARRANT OF ARREST—FELONY

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA Va. Code § 19.2-71, -72

Norfolk, Va.

CITY OR COUNTY

General District Court Criminal Traffic
 Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

You're sitting in Church or working at your job when a clean-cut man in a suit sits beside you & asks your name. Opening his jacket a little to reveal a gun & a badge, he asks you to come peacefully- unless you want to make a scene.

What do you do? What are the charges? Your mind races to anything remotely illegal you may have done that could justify this... What dark secrets lie in your past? Nothing illegal you say? Certainly nothing worthy of this scenario?

What if we were to include the laws of almighty God?

The Bible speaks of two categories of people...

"God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

Into which category do you fall?

A **proud man** looks in the mirror & sees only himself, he sees himself & his world through his own standards, be they religious or secular. He does not necessarily have to "boast" to be proud; a private man can also be proud- Whether or not he wants others to see this image of himself can depend on how he sees his accomplishments: If he feels he has done little with his life, he may be depressed; if he thinks he has done well, he is happy with himself & with life. He may boast about it or maybe he won't. A successful, proud man can also be quiet & not brag about his accomplishments. Pride is more a matter of the heart than what is seen or heard on the outside.

Whether "successful" or an apparent "failure," anyone can be guilty of pride because he is looking at himself alone in that mirror & he centers his worldview around what he thinks & wants, what he believes he deserves- whether or not he currently "has" all that he believes he deserves.

Amazingly, regardless of what they've done wrong against man or God, a proud man or woman **feels** they have lived a pretty good life & done what is right for the most part. Their misbehavior & failures are usually someone else's fault.

The biggest problem with pride is that we have forgotten that God created us & He deserves to be recognized, honored & worshipped. When we make ourselves the center, it is pure idolatry. God created us to love Him & to love each other. Selfishness is at the heart of pride. Selfishness is the very power of sin. It is that selfish pride that keeps God "at arms length" & causes us to hurt others & disobey God's laws.

Jesus had a talk with a Jewish leader in Luke 10:25-28... & behold, a certain lawyer stood up & tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered & said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, & with all your mind,' & 'your neighbor as yourself.'" and Jesus said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this & you will live."

Yes, God does command & demand obedience. But God is not selfish or demanding in a human sense. We cannot compare Him to man. He is Creator. HE IS GOD. He has

the power, authority & perfection to handle "being demanding" because HE is NOT merely human & subject to failure.

He has a right to our obedience because He CREATED us out of nothing and gives us each breath- HE is WORTHY of our worship. Thankfully, God is good and loving, and He has "demanded" only what is GOOD for us.

The problem with most modern westerners is that humanism has taught us to worship ourselves; it is the essence of pride. But dare not accuse God of pride! He IS God; YOU are NOT! He has a right to be worshipped, you don't.

Now, back to His commands. Because God *is* love, He calls us, as His children, to be selfless even as He is- To love God with all that we are and have; and from that heart of love for God is meant to spring forth love for our neighbor... The problem is- we cannot and do not do it. We are weak...

A **humble man** looks in the mirror & sees what his creator made him to be, though he may see good things or bad, he knows every good thing has come from God & the humble man or woman owns responsibility for the bad choices they have made in life. Because sin has affected us all, the humble know they are weak & have sinned against God; they know they are guilty before Him.

You may feel there is little hope for you because a Holy God could never forgive all the pain & suffering you have caused. Perhaps this thought torments you & it may even allow you to continue in the very habits that have caused so much destruction in your life already. The demons taunt "Why not medicate the pain with the momentary relief & pleasure of sin, you are doomed anyway?"

To you I would say, believe it or not, God is not far from you. My hope is that by the end of this short paper, you will understand why that is, believe it & receive what God has for you. It is for you, for SINNERS that Christ came to die. He did not come for the righteous. If you know you are guilty, be of good cheer, there is a kind judge on the bench of eternity, and though justice MUST be served; the Judge Himself has a plan to save you from the sentence- and from the guilt!

To those who are comfortable in your life; by worldwide standards we could even say you are rich- you have need of nothing; perhaps you have broken no man-made laws & you may consider yourself a pretty good person, compared to many at least. Please continue, and let's take...

A test to clarify where you are: To the humble & the proud, I ask you to consider what are the bare basics of "loving God with all your heart & your neighbor as yourself"

Have you broken God's Law: The 10 Commandments?

- Is God really FIRST in your life? Please think about it.
- Have you made a **concept** of "god" to suit yourself?
- Have you ever used God's holy name in vain?
- Have you always honored your parents in word & deed?

Matt. 5:19-48 describes how breaking God's law is not just what you "do" but it is a matter of the heart...

- Have you ever hated anyone?
Then the Bible says you are a murderer.
- Have you had sex out of marriage?
Then you are a fornicator & cannot enter Heaven.
- Jesus said, "Whoever looks upon a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her in his heart."
Have you ever lusted? Then you are an adulterer at heart.
- Have you ever stolen something (no matter how small)?
Then you are a thief.
- If you have told just one lie (even if you call it "white"),
Then you are a liar, & cannot enter the Kingdom of God.

How dare we breathe the air God has given us & enjoy all the wonderful things He has provided for us & then live our lives as though He & His laws don't matter? Or worse, how dare anyone judge or blame God because of mankind's sin & evil deeds? One day we will all find out that **God is not dead.**

There will come a day when we will all stand before the ultimate Judge, & there will be no secret arrests, no need for trials or to wonder if justice will be served, for the Bible tells us in 1 Timothy 5:24 "Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later." & in Hebrews 4:13 "...there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked & open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."

Listen to your conscience. God's Law leaves us all sinners in His sight. On Judgment Day we will be found guilty, & end up in Hell forever BUT there is hope! Because Jesus paid our fine on the Cross 2,000 years ago, God can forgive us.

He thought of US, He planned from the beginning to bring us eternal life, NOT because we DESERVE it, but despite the fact that we have raised our fist to God in defiant pride, He came to earth Himself as a man to take the punishment for OUR sins!!! The ultimate in love & selflessness demonstrated toward us by our Father in Heaven Himself, He sent His own Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life!!

The Bible says, "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." & in another place, "(Jesus) Himself bore our sins in His own body on the cross, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes (from the whip beatings He took for us) you were healed." The Apostle Paul explained it in 2 Corinthians 5:21 "For He made Him who knew no sin [to be] sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Then He rose from the dead, & defeated the power of sin & the grave! He offers this wonderful gift of grace to you. If you repent of your sins & trust the Savior, God will forgive your sins & grant you everlasting life. In light of all this, I plead with you, confess your sins to God & put your faith in Jesus Christ. Then, according to Rom 10:9-10-- "...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus & believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For

with the heart one believes unto righteousness, & with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

To: "The Christian" The earlier arrest scenario started out in church because, as Paul said in 2 Corinthians 13:5, you should "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith." Test yourselves. The whole world can quote Matthew 7:1 "Judge not" but read the whole chapter; it says to get your life right with God, then help others to get right; not to ignore sin or to defend it! In verses 21-23 Jesus said that many will call Him Lord on judgment day & say they have done wonderful, miraculous things *in his name* & He will say to them, "Depart from me I never knew you, you workers of iniquity." Romans 6:1 "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?" **God forbids it!** Is this "grace plus works?" No, it is grace plus fruit. Matt. 7:15-20 "A good tree bears good fruit." Are you lying to yourself & to everyone else? 1 John 3:18-24 "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed & in truth." If your heart condemns you, repent & turn to God. 1 John 1:6-10 confess your sins & He will forgive you, but only if you confess them. Galatians 6:7 "God is not mocked." James 2- Prove your faith through your works, not to earn salvation, but to demonstrate that God's grace works in you. It is not just "trying hard" but it is God's grace supernaturally producing holiness & good works: 2 Cor. 6:1, 2Cor. 9:8, 2 Tim. 1:9

Matt. 13:24-43, There are many who look like Christians who grow up right alongside those that truly have faith & good fruit, but one day judgment will come & that which is hidden will be revealed.

He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

You are accountable to your Creator & your conscience confirms that your thoughts & actions in life have condemned you before the ultimate Judge. Ignoring that truth by denying sin, God's existence, or any other mental trick, does not change the facts. Whether you are a professed atheist or a professed Christian, *please* do not risk your eternity...

Give yourself fully to Him who gave Himself fully for you.

To grow in your faith you need to read the Bible daily, especially the New Testament letters to the churches (Romans to Revelation). When you read the Bible, remember it is God's message to you. It does little good unless you

Obey what you read!

As part of that obedience, you should be baptized (immersed in water) to declare your faith & testify that you have died with Christ to your old life (as you go under the water as in burial) & are risen with Him (as you rise up from the water) to a new resurrected life **in** Christ!

God wants you to look in that mirror & see Jesus Christ, & to remember that through faith HE has made you free from the penalty of disobedience to the law, & through a new life in Him, you are also free from the power & bondage of sin. Look into the perfect law of liberty & see who He has made you to be in Him. The ultimate humility is to lose your own life, your own ambitions & dreams & trade them for His.

It is the best plea bargain going in the universe.

For more see: www.theJudgment.US