

St. Andrew (JKP) Monthly Newsletter
June, 2012

Edification: I recently spent 2 non-refundable hours watching an old black & white movie classic on TV. I love those old movies and this one is a gem. Entitled "*The Wild One*" it stars a young, brooding Marlon Brando of 1953. Brando plays the quintessential youth-in-rebellion (he even rides a *motorcycle...c'mon!*). In this movie Brando delivers one of the all-time great movie lines. He and his hombres in the motorcycle gang are living it up at a local bar when one young lady, upon learning the name of his gang is *The Black Rebels* asks Brando (Johnny): "*Hey Johnny, What are you rebelling against?*" With complete disinterest Brando simply says; "*Whadda ya got?*" That's classic! It doesn't matter what the "cause" I'm a rebel so that's what I do - I rebel, so *whadda ya got?* That Johnny just might be a Calvinist. What is more Calvinistic than that simple truth? We're not rebels because we're in rebellion. We're in rebellion because we're rebels from conception. We come into this world looking for new ways to rebel. We live for the stuff. So, *whadda ya got*, "*A woman's right to choose*", "*Same Sex Marriage*", "*Pastor Debbie*" in the pulpit? Any or all of these will do. These are all acts of blatant rebellion. But these are easy and obvious to us. And these are acts of rebellion that "they" do -those who are rebels without a cause or a clue. But what about the run-of-the-mill Christian that has a cause and a clue? Can he be in rebellion too? Does faith in Christ, a.k.a. the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit deliver us from being "*Black Rebels*" along with Brando, his hombres and the rest of fallen humanity? And further, is rebellion always a bad thing? Is there a place for "Christian Rebellion"? It begs the question; if you were in that classic black & white bar that evening with Johnny and the Black Hearts and that same young lady asked you: "*Hey, Run-of-the-mill-Christian, what are you rebelling against?*" - what would you say? What do you got?

"Drinking beer is easy. Trashing your hotel room is easy. But being a Christian? That's a tough call. That's rebellion." - Alice Cooper

Encourage: Romans 7 reveals perhaps more than any other portion of scripture the remarkable struggle that takes place in the mind of the believer (*and yes, Paul wrote it as a believer*). The good Paul wills to do, that he delights to do ends-up not being what Paul actually does do. Instead it is the evil he wills not to do he keeps doing. What is this other than rebellion from within? Paul says he's held captive to this "warring" inside his mind; the law of God vs. the law of sin. Thus he is made "wretched". None know this wretchedness but the Christian; this wretched rebellion within the mind that torments the believer continually in this life. But there's more to the story for the believer than there is for Johnny. Run-of-the-mill-Christian may still be a rebel at heart, but now he has a new object of rebellion. "*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind*". Call it non-conformity if you want but it amounts to the same thing - rebellion. And what does the Christian "got" for his rebellion? An ungodly world and his own indwelling sin. So, Run-of-the-mill-Christian, go rebel and sin no more.