

*In
Search
of*

Truth and Right

Tim Henderson, Editor

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"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." Philippians 4:8 (NASB-U)

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Christ**

The Power of a Young Person's Influence

By: Steve Klein

-- Via The Exhorter, August 22, 1999

Over the past 10 weeks or so, the Oakland church of Christ has been blessed to see eleven young people obey the gospel. We've witnessed scene after scene of joyous parents and friends hugging and congratulating new brothers and sisters in Christ still wet from the waters of baptism. God must be given all the praise and glory for making these things possible.

Naturally, a question might arise as to why all of these young people are suddenly deciding to obey the gospel. Could it be that some of them have been influenced by their peers? Maybe so. And maybe that is the way it should be.

Children are natural imitators, not only of their parents, but also of each other. Paul alludes to this inborn mimicry when he commands us to "*be imitators of God as dear children.*" (Ephesians 5:1). So, children are "imitators." We know this. But we get so focused on "peer pressure" as a negative thing that we forget that young people can and should influence one another to do good. Yes, it is possible for them to imitate good. In fact, the Bible commands it! The Bible says, "*Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good*" (3 John 11).

There are important reasons for young and old alike to work at imitating good. For one thing, we'll have much less to fear in the way of negative consequences for our behavior. In 1 Peter 3:13, Peter asks, "*And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?*" It's just not very likely that you'll ever get in much trouble or be punished severely for following a good example. Besides this, the Lord will love and appreciate you if you will allow yourself to be influenced to do good. Proverbs 15:9 says that, "*The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But He loves him who follows righteousness.*"

The fact that young people can be influenced BY others necessarily implies that they can also be influences ON others. The

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TIMES OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Classes* 10:00 AM

AM Worship 10:45 AM

PM Worship 6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes* 7:00 PM

(* Bible Classes for All Ages)

Bible commands the young to be good examples, so that others will have something worthwhile to imitate. The young man Timothy was told, *"Let no one despise your youth, but BE AN EXAMPLE to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity"* (1 Timothy 4:12).

So, to the young we say **BE INFLUENCED** and **BE AN INFLUENCE**:

- * Let yourself be influenced to obey the gospel, and then influence someone else to do the same.
- * Let yourself be influenced to use pure speech, and then influence someone else to do the same.
- * Let yourself be influenced to dress modestly, and then influence others to do the same.
- * Let yourself be influenced to reverently participate in worship (no note passing, giggling, whispering), and then influence someone else to do the same.
- * Let yourself be influenced to be kind to others, and then influence someone else to do the same.

Remember

By: Gene Taylor

-- Via <http://www.padfield.com/1999/remember.html>

In his final epistle, written near the end of his life, the apostle Peter told his fellow brethren, *"For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you"* (2 Pet. 1:12-13).

Reminders are good things. The older I get, the more I appreciate them. Like so many others, my memory is not what it used to be so it is good to be reminded of doctors' appointments, my wedding anniversary, my wife's birthday, etc.

Often it is good for us to be reminded of some basic things in relation to our spiritual life. These things are very fundamental. All who are Christians know them. Yet, it is good to be reminded of them from time to time so that we might always remember them.

Remember Who You Are

The apostle John wrote, *"See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is"* (1 John 3:1-2). It is good for Christians to remember at all times that they are children of God. Christianity is not something that is donned on Sundays or when around other Christians. It is who we are 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our conduct should reflect that fact.

Today's Sermon:

*Extreme
Makeovers*

Colossians 3

In John 8:44, Jesus told the Jews of His day that they were children of the devil because it was his will they desired to do. Conversely, if we are going to be children of God, we must desire to do His will in our lives. It is something we need to remember constantly.

Remember Why You Are Here

Sometimes, even though we might have the best of intentions, we get caught up in the ideas of the world around us and worldly things seem important to us. We give priority to our education, our job, our possessions, etc., instead of remembering what life is really about. No better statement of the purpose of life can be found than that which Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 12:13, *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all."* Let us never lose sight of the purpose of our existence. Let us not be distracted by the world and its enticements. Let us be firmly resolved to remember that "our all" is to live lives that honor and glorify our God. Let us never lose sight of that fact.

Remember Why You Worship

Jesus reminded the Samaritan woman at the well that, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." We should always remind ourselves that worship is directed to God. Sometimes, some who claim to be Christians are dissatisfied with worship or even stay away because it was not done in the way in which they desired or by whom they wanted. Somehow some of us have gotten the idea that for worship to be what it should be that it has to be done to please us. In reality, is that not worship of self rather than worship of God?

Self is never to be the focus of worship. Hebrews 10:24-25 says we assemble to worship God and to "...consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another..." As we worship, we should be thinking of God and others, not of self. Remember the purpose of worship.

Additionally, remember the purpose of the building in which we worship. Though not sacred in and of itself, it was purchased with the Lord's money so that Christians might have a comfortable place in which to worship, study the word of God and carry out the work of the church. Let us not allow it to become just a social gathering place or a playground for our children. Let us respect the fact that it was built for the Lord's honor and glory. Let us teach our children such respect.

News N Notes

Remember these in your prayers:

- Joseph Morriss, Nancy Morriss' son
- Darla Elsen's brother,
- Lucille Harless, Dave Harless' mother
- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband.
- Blake Swanson, Dorothy Lancaster's grandson
- Virginia Malick, Peggy Miller's mother
- Trudell Tennant
- Bud and Merl Frey
- Tammy Garrison, Zeda Goddard's daughter
- Audrio Gaudio, Nancy Morris' great-granddaughter
- Marie Roberts, & Ed's father, Jim Roberts.
- Ila Marshall, Harold Marshall's mother
- Cary & Grace Lancaster

Nursing Home:

- Pauline Sellers
- Ethel Mahan

Shut-ins:

- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- Pauline Midcap