

Remember our upcoming Gospel Meeting with Mike Collier who formerly attended with us at Lenexa. Mike will come prepared and we need to be as well.

In connection with meeting, we will be running spots on local radio. More specific information on that will come in our next bulletin. We will also have fliers available to give to your neighbors and friends.

How would our lives change if we recognized the following fact. "God is the unseen guest at every meal, the silent listener to every conversation." And if we possessed this attribute. "What we need is the ability to tramp the last mile, shape the last plan, and endure the last hour's toil. The fight to the finish spirit is the one characteristic we must possess if we are to receive the prize."



ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS FOR CONVERSION

Jim Stauffer

In order for any operation to be a success there must be an atmosphere conducive to the activities necessary to achieve the goal.

For instance, since it is tourney time, if you are to be successful at the game of basketball there are several things that must be present.

Someone, presumably the coach, has to possess sufficient knowledge of the game to teach the players each aspect. They must be taught enough that they can become proficient in performing these functions. In this case ball handling, passing, shooting, defending, etc. And this must be performed at a level of proficiency to be competitive with other teams.

It is no different in the church. Those who are members of the church have become such as a result of conversion from a life of sin to a life of service to God. They must, therefore, be taught the fundamental activities of a child of God. They must love the souls of others and plead with them to make the same change in their lives. They must both understand what God requires of a sinner to attain salvation and then share that information with others. (2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 3:15) They must be hospitable, that is friendly to strangers, in order to help draw them to God. Of course, this requires some sacrifice and endurance of inconvenience, but that is all part of the fundamentals of being a Christian.

Now, back to our analogy. We have a reasonable idea of the training and regimen basketball players undergo. Their minds and bodies must be trained over and over again to perform the fundamental tasks of the game so they can instinctively respond to the opportunities on the floor.

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Send a Copy to a Friend

Evangelist:
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MEETING TIMES
Sunday - Bible Classes: 9:30AM
Worship Services 10:20AM & 6:00PM
Wednesday - Bible Classes 7:00PM

Lenexa church of Christ

In just the same way Christians must be trained and their knowledge and skills honed to take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves to us. This means we must study regularly. It means we must practice what we learn before there will be any results.

That seems to be as far as the analogy goes. The next responsibility members of the church need to accept is creating a friendly attitude toward the lost. I suppose in one sense we try hard to defeat Satan and his forces, but in general we must welcome the world to both our assembly as a congregation and to our homes as individuals. We must do this to effect an influence on them from the message of God. We cannot convert the lost if we do not warmly welcome them into our midst.

This will require patience on our part. Sometimes their dress will not be what we think it should. We welcome them anyway. (James 2) We should realize it is the inward man and not the outward man that requires the change of conversion. (Mt. 15:18) Sometimes they have not yet learned customary behavior during worship. We welcome them anyway. We patiently wait for them to learn.

We also must create and sustain a similar atmosphere for our own families. We must avoid treating the children or other members of our own families as if they were not welcome. Many people think and act differently than I do. I do not necessarily change if I believe my way is better than what someone else practices. But neither do I become unnecessarily upset because they do not choose to do everything in life as I do. This allows me to focus on the things we need to agree on rather than suffering through meaningless disagreements that prevent agreement on important spiritual matters.

The atmosphere in our assembly and our homes that we bring the lost into will be determined by how well we are trained in the fundamentals of seeking the lost.

PUBLIC CORRECTIONS

When Johnny is sitting at his desk at school and writes with his pencil "2 + 2 = 5," the teacher may look over his shoulder and privately call attention to his error. Johnny can, almost unnoticed, take his eraser and rub out his mistake. The class may never know that Johnny mis-added "2 + 2."

But if Johnny writes "2 + 2 = 5" on the chalk board, and all the class is watching, the teacher does not really correct the error if she says nothing to the class, pats Johnny approvingly on the head, and then later takes him aside and explains his mistake privately. Nor can Johnny, upon discovering the error himself, sit and correct privately at his desk with a pencil eraser the mistake he made publicly at the chalk board. "Two plus two is four, Johnny," says the teacher before the whole class, and the mistake that was

made at the chalk board is corrected at the chalk board.

"But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. When I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all..." (Galatians 2:11-14). "Them that sin rebuke before all..." (1 Timothy 5:20).

Private sins and personal differences are properly corrected privately. Nothing is gained by publicity. But public error is properly corrected publicly. Remember, the mistake that is made at the chalk board before the whole class is not fully corrected with a pencil eraser at the desk after school.

- **by Jere E. Frost**

ARE YOUR CONVICTIONS SHAPED BY SOCIETY?

Paul says in Galatians chapter 1 that we should not accept a different gospel or a perverted (changed) gospel even if he or an angel would speak it unto us. Yet many religious people are affected by the changes in the attitudes of society. As a result they change what they believe and practice to coincide with what people currently practice and believe whether they are Christians or not. Let me share with you an example sent to me by bro. Pat Donahue in Alabama.

The Methodist Creed Book, 1896: No divorce, except for adultery, shall be regarded by the Church as lawful; and no Minister shall solemnize marriage in any case where there is a divorced wife or husband living; but this rule shall not be applied to the innocent party to a divorce for the case of adultery, not to divorced parties seeking to be reunited in marriage. ***(This appears to be straight from Matt. 19:9)***

The Methodist Creed Book, 1984: Where marriage partners, even after thoughtful consideration and counsel, are estranged beyond reconciliation, we recognize divorce as regrettable but recognize the right of divorced persons to remarry. We express our deep concern for the care and nurture of the children of divorced and/or remarried persons. We encourage that either or both of the divorced parents be considered for custody of the minor children of the marriage We encourage an active, accepting, and enabling commitment of the church and our society to minister to the members of divorced families. ***(In 88 years changes in conviction are apparent)***

Let us vow to ensure our conviction is in the revelation by the Holy Spirit.