

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”

APRIL 11, 2021

“CHRISTLIKE SPIRIT”

by Jim Stauffer

We sing a hymn titled, “Send the Light”. There is a line in that hymn that pleads, *and a Christlike spirit everywhere be found*. This phrase echos what the apostle Paul asks of us when he says it is true of him, *“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”* (Galatians 2:20)

Let us take a few lines and a bit of our time to analyze the spirit Christ had that we are to emulate (1 Corinthians 11:1; Ephesians 5:1,2). There is a quality the Lord possesses that we should strive to achieve as His disciples. He is innately just. That means when the situation needs the truth to correct our conduct He applies it and when mercy is called upon in the application of that truth He is merciful. A couple of examples: When dealing with the Pharisees who equated His miracles with the work of Satan, He said, *“He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.”* (Matthew 12:30) Then He relates the story of the “Good Samaritan” to teach us the kindness that He has for any and all in need (Luke 10).

What we are to learn from Him is there is never an occasion to sacrifice truth. He came to bring grace and truth to the world (John 1:14,17). It is imperative we strive to meet this standard in our daily living. We are to be people of the truth (John 18:37) while also being people who set the standard for those around us in going the extra mile with folks (Matthew 5:41).

Sometimes we feel conflicted in our efforts to accomplish both ends of the spectrum. We either find it difficult to tell someone the unvarnished truth or we struggle to be kind in the process. Neither is what the Lord calls for. Paul, in his letter from prison to the Colossians asked for their prayers, *that God will open up*

to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned (Col. 4:3). Then, two verses later he says, *“Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.”* (Colossians 4:6) So, you see, it is not only possible but absolutely imperative we do both. Paul calls it *speaking the truth in love* in Ephesians 4:15.

Now, let us finish this by suggesting we develop a balance in our presentation of the truth. We must seek to be just persons as we follow the instructions of Scripture. We are, of course, commanded to *contend earnestly for the faith* (Jude 3). Paul says, *Fight the good fight of faith...* as he speaks to Timothy. The Scriptures clearly teach us we are in a spiritual fight against *every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God* (2 Cor. 10:5). And we understand the implications of being true to the word Christ has revealed as John warns us, *“Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.”* (2 John 1:9)

Knowing all this, we now recognize we have been given the responsibility to communicate the gospel of Christ, to share with others as we have opportunity, the message of salvation. As noted earlier, the difficulty we face is delivering this message as one who is bringing something of monumental importance to the life of each person we meet. As Jesus said and we now understand, *“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”* (Matthew 16:26)

Fully aware of the lost condition of each and every soul who has not been redeemed by the blood of Christ through obedience to His word, we therefore, go into the

world presenting the gospel message to all we may in full knowledge that, *“He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”* (Mark 16:16)

Jesus taught the truth and His life demonstrated His love for everyone to whom He presented it (Phil. 2:5-8)

Editors’s note:

This is a follow up article to last week’s article entitled, “Placing Local Church Membership”

Implications Of Local Membership by Wayne Goff

Throughout the New Testament, there is not only a *distinction* between the local church and the universal church, but there is everywhere **implied** that one must “*join*” a local church to be recognized by that church and to be what God wants him to be. Let me give you a few examples:

Hebrews 13:17 ~ *“Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.”*

Notice in this verse that there are those who (1) rule over you, and those who (2) are to be submissive. This is referring to the relationship between the eldership and a faithful member. Elders cannot “**rule over**” those who are not a part of their congregation. Disciples cannot submit to those elders if they are not a part of that local congregation! So you see the obvious implication of each Christian “**joining**” or “*associating*” themselves with a local church. That is the only way one can have a relationship together.

1 Peter 5:2 ~ *“Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly.”* The apostle Peter instructs “**elders**” (5:1) to “*shepherd*” or “*feed*” (KJV) “*the flock of God which is among you.*” Who are the “*sheep*” of the “*flock... among them*”? Elders may only shepherd one flock, the flock among them. But who are those sheep and how did they get to be among them?! Again, there is the obvious implication of a *relationship* between the Shepherds and the Sheep that began when each “*sheep*” joined the local “*flock*” (congregation). Otherwise, the eldership (shepherds) would have no idea who these people were. In spite of such obvious evidence, there are still those who are “*members at large*” — never joining a local congregation, but visiting around from place to place. This is not

according to the Lord’s blueprint.

1 Corinthians 1:2 ~ *“To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.”*

There were “*saints*” which constituted “*the church of God which is at Corinth.*” How did that happen? How did each baptized disciple (saint) become a member of the local church at Corinth? Not every baptized disciple in the world was a member at Corinth! Obviously the implication is that when disciples lived in the area of Corinth, they “**joined**” that local church by “*placing membership*” in it. The same could be said for the local churches of Ephesus (**Eph. 1:1**), Philippi (**Phil. 1:1**), Colosse (**Col. 1:2**), Thessalonica (**1 Thess. 1:1**), etc. Each local congregation had members, elders (see **Acts 14:23**), organization, and worship. These brethren banded together to do together what God has commanded brethren to do together! You cannot be a “*member at large*” and fulfill your duties to a local congregation. If you are guilty of such behavior, then I urge you to repent and “*place membership*” with a faithful local church!

Ephesians 4:16 ~ *“From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”* Paul is instructing the local church to behave like our physical bodies behave — in unity, harmony, and careful conduct and organization. Every member of every physical body has a part to do, and must do that part in order for the body to be sound! We understand that, don’t we? But the application is to the local church! Each member of the spiritual body has a part to do, and must do that part in order for the spiritual body to be sound and grow! Dear reader, are you a member of a faithful local congregation, and are you doing your part?!

Great Multitudes Followed Him

“When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him” (Matthew 8:1).

Jesus had just finished His Sermon on the Mount (**Matthew 5-7**). In that powerful and poetic speech, Jesus challenged the people with teaching that calls for a change in people from the inside out. People’s behavior changes because their attitude and thinking changes.

What is amazing is that the changes called for in His teaching were demanding and accomplished only through great dedication and sacrifice:

- spiritual versus material focus
- embracing of suffering
- a yielding spirit
- standing separate from the world
- care what God thinks, not people
- unconcern for material things
- diligently pursuing truth and right

Jesus set a moral standard of excellence:

- no violence, not even cursing
- no adultery, not even lust
- no lying, no deceit whatsoever
- no revenge, not even resistance
- love others, even your enemies

After reading the entire speech (**Matthew 5-7**), one might wonder why multitudes followed Him. *"And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes"* (**Matthew 7:28-29**).

Maybe you should look more closely at Jesus' teaching. You might follow Him, too.

Don Bunting

Run the Race

In **1 Corinthians 9:24-27**, Paul makes several comparisons to the sports of his day, and the giveaway that he is talking about our spiritual journey is in the last phrase: *"lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."* To preach and then become disqualified would mean that he has helped other people go to Heaven, but that he is going to miss Heaven even though he has preached to others.

This means that the race he talks about is the spiritual journey each Christian is on. **Verse 24** says *"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it."* We must participate in our journey to Heaven as if we were the only ones that were going to make it to Heaven, just like there is only one winner in a race. This is obviously not the case, since all who are faithful will make it to Heaven (**Matthew 10:22**), but it speaks to the attitude that we run the race with. We want to be so intense in our Christianity, that if there were only one person going to make it to Heaven, it would be yourself.

We're not competing against each other, of course, we're simply running the best we can every day.

(2 Corinthians 10:12)

Verse 25 says that everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. If you are an Olympic Athlete, you don't just eat junk food every day. You're not an alcoholic, a drug addict, or a glutton. You make sure that you are taking care of your body, putting good stuff in it and practicing your skill that you compete in every day. You also make sure you're maintaining a healthy mindset, etc. You don't do anything to excess, because that would make it harder for you to win the prize you are striving for, and you want that prize more than anything else you might desire. The same is true in Christianity. If we at Brentwood can help you pursue God in any way, let us know! May God bless you as you draw near to Him.

Matt Hodge

Are you interested in a Bible Study?
Would you enjoy studying the Bible in
your own home?
We offer either in home studies in
person or by way of
Correspondence Courses.

Please contact us at 913-620-0563

Call Jim Stauffer, Evangelist at the
Lenexa church of Christ
We believe in worshiping and serving
the Lord as He has instructed in His
word.

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock."
(Matthew 7:24)

Psa. 1:1 *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.*

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study
Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship
Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship
Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

OUR ADDRESS IS:

7845 Cottonwood Dr.
Lenexa, Kansas 66216
913-620-0563

Check out the following websites:

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

lenexachurchofchrist.org

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

Elders:

**Ron Peck
Jim Stauffer**

Deacons:

**Bill Miller
Brandon Jimison
Joe Hurd**

News and Notes:

Sick in need of Prayers:

Alma Baumgartner, Jan Patrick,
Trudy Mullen, Denese Goring,
Brooklyn Boyer, George Root, Tracy
Richardson, L.A. Stauffer, Gerry
Sandusky, Randy Harshbarger and
Dana Carrozza

Bible Classes:

**Sunday Morning - Messianic
Pathway O.T. to N.T. - Jim Stauffer**

**Wednesday Evening - Proverbs -
Bill Miller**

**Sunday Morning Sermon:
All You Need is Heart**



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10