

University Heights Church
of Christ
445 Columbia Ave.,
Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 255-6257
www.uheightschurch.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday

Bible Study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is
immediately followed by a
short worship period)

First Friday of Each Month

Singing: 7:30 PM

LEADERSHIP

Elders

David Collins

John Thompson

Troy Antle

Evangelist

Adam Litmer

Deacons

Richard Brundige

Matt Thompson

Adam Litmer

Bill Morelan

Jim Parsons

Pat Seabolt

Adam Daniels

Jamie Powell

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

The Osborne family, Jim Parsons,
Rachel Thompson, John Thompson,
Larry Billator, Karen Spivey, Sandra
Russell, Jeff Howerton (also his aunt),
Janet Brundige, Rhonda Boyd (and
her sister, Dorothy), Paul Atkisson,
Julia-Ann Dixon, Ed Allison, Dwight
Antle, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige,
Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's
mother, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young,
Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Jean
Gartland, John Blessing, William
Roberts, Paul Lyda, Pete Soro, Mattie
Johnson, Elijah Epling, Sandra Queen,
Linda Moore, Sheila Johnson, Virginia
Gordon, Glenn Lake, Annie Allen

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The “Do It My Way” Mentality

Adam Litmer

Of all the vices we have considered in this series of articles, I am convinced that the most widespread and insidious of them all is what I am calling the “do it my own way” mentality. So many people who do not touch alcohol or drugs, involve themselves in sexual immorality, or bow to the proclamations of peer pressure, *do* possess a self-sufficient attitude causing them to operate on the basis of personal choice and whim.

The spiritual danger here should be clear. This person is not opposed to uttering a pious “Praise God” before acting. Indeed, they may delight in it. However, upon examination, it becomes clear they are attaching it to something that God never authorized and may have specifically forbidden.

This mentality is far from a teenage problem. In fact, the seed of this attitude tends to take root before the teenage years ever begin, particularly if the child's parents subscribe to the increasingly popular “collaborative” method of child rearing which, in essence, gives the child equal say on whether they will accept parenting and discipline at any given moment.

But is there no place for individualism and self-expression in life? There is. Astounding works of art, music, literature, architecture, and much more prove it. However, there is *never* any place for independence from God. The “I’ll do it my own way” attitude in matters of eternity can only lead to one response: *I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.* (Matthew 7:23)

Dear Christian, young or old, do not rejoice in your individualism before God. After all, your “independence” from God and the choices you made in your “individualism” and “self-expression” was the very reason you needed a Savior. Rejoice rather that your God loved you enough to show you how to be forgiven and then forgave when you humbly submitted to Him. Doing it our own way ensured our souls were lost. Doing it God’s way ensured they were recovered.

The wise man uttered his wisest words in Proverbs 3:5-7. *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.* (5) A little thought shows the honest person that the world itself could not contain the number of books required to note everything he does not understand. Truly, the deficiencies in our personal understanding is breathtaking. With that being true, wisdom dictates that we put all our heart’s trust into the One whose wisdom is perfect in all areas.

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (6) Our God has graciously granted us His own wisdom in the pages of Scripture. He has granted us all things that pertain to life and godliness. (2 Peter 1:3) Every

decision we make can and must be made with God’s guidance. When He has not provided specifics on a given circumstance, He has provided principles. When we put these principles into practice we are acknowledging Him. When we accept His guidance in thought and practice we have His promise that He will not lead us wrong. While obedience is not always popular and sometimes daunting, it is a path leading straight to Heaven.

Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. (7) Pride is such a destructive and silly thing. To be wise in our own eyes is to imagine that we have the power to chart our own path to Heaven. Such pride causes one to consider topics God is quite clear on (marital purity, homosexuality, abortion, the role of women within the church etc.) and casually brush them aside with a dismissive, “That might have been true once, but times have changed and things are different now.” This person is not turning away from evil because he has rejected the humility and trust in God that equips him to do so. Indeed, he is not even aware that he is embracing evil *in* his proud self-reliance. His disgrace is coming, if not in this life than in the next. (Proverbs 11:2a)

Young Christian, don’t let all the noise drown out the timeless voice of God. Your peers will proudly advise you to “just do you”, and the wisdom of this world will shout its “Amen!” But remember, *He has told you, O man, what is good...* (Micah 6:8a) That wisdom will never lead you wrong.

