



THE MESSENGER

JULY 9, 2023

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting

July

Our Next Gospel Meeting

TBD

Weekly Bible Studies

Thursday at 1 on Zoom

Times of Service

Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM

(Immediately followed by a short worship service)

First Friday of Month

Singing

February 3, 7:30

Address and Contact

University Heights Church of Christ

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THE BLAME GAME

"Eve, quickly now. We need to hide. I hear God walking in the garden."

"Adam, where are you?"

"Lord, I heard you walking in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked and I hid myself."

"Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

With that conversation the blame game began. "Don't blame me, Lord. It's not my fault. This woman, here, she ate, and then she handed me some which I ate. And, by the way, you're the one who gave her to me."

It is significant how immediately and reactively Adam blamed Eve and then God. He doesn't seem to have planned his response or to have paused to think how he should answer God. He just blurted out that it was someone else's fault. How did he know to do that? I believe it came with the knowledge of evil they received when they ate the forbidden fruit and their eyes were opened. Mankind has been blaming others ever since, even to the extent of finding fault with about anything another person says, does, thinks, etc. Fault finding never happened until evil happened.

The expression "finding fault" intrigues me. It brings to mind a hunting expedition having the goal of discovering things about another person that irritate and annoy. While surfing the internet yesterday on the subject, I came across a list of 60 pet peeves. A peeve is defined as a minor annoyance. But some things really irritate so much that they tend to dominate our lives just like our pets. Pet peeves are those for which one is compelled to let the perpetrator know just how irritated one is.

Someone may be thinking that there really are genuine faults. People do wrong things that need correcting. Am I not supposed to try to help with the correction? Galatians 6:1 (KJV) says, *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.* Two things to be noted about this scripture will make all the difference to the one being corrected. First, it must be done in a spirit of meekness or gentleness. Second, gentleness will be helped tremendously if the one

Members Needing Our Prayers

John Thompson, Mary and Riley Mae Weatherholt, Joyce Bolton, Rick Small, Benny Poynter, Janet Brundige, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayer

Barbara Ivey, Cassy Neal, Glenda Miller, Michael Edwards, Alyse Nash, Mary Bishop, Helen Thomas, Patty Hill, Eli Kempton, Sophie Brown, Fay Thomas, Glen Perkins, Edra Bernard, Valari Jones-Butler (Valari is Gina Seabolt's former co-worker. Her daughter is undergoing chemo for breast cancer. Her 21 year old nephew was killed in a shooting), Charlie Hoy, Marc Nations, Janice Parsons, Veronica Bowman, Charles Bishop, Allison Walker, Mark Nickles, Dwayne Harrod, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon, Patty Hill

To Our Guests

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doing the correcting keeps in the back of his mind that he might be the one in need of correction in the future.

Fault finding flourishes in an atmosphere of discontent and fear, and it breeds such divisive interactions as grumbling, murmuring, distrust, gossiping, envy, and many others, all of which God's people are warned against. *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. {Ephesians 4:29}. ³Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? (Matthew 7:3-4).* Worldly reasons for discontent are all around us, constantly threatening to tear us away from God and each other. Fear and distrust are everywhere to be found, calling for people to resort to finding fault in others in order to feel better within themselves.

Giving thanks to God, University Heights Church of Christ is not a fault-finding church, but it could be. However, it will never be as long we continue heeding divine instruction.

¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11) ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, (Romans 15:5) but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31) John Thompson

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
	Marcus Lake	
	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	James Weatherholt	

