

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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Fleeing Temptation

There are times when running away is the proper response. In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul said to “Flee sexual immorality” (I Cor. 6:18) and “Flee from idolatry.” (I Cor. 10:14). Fleeing is especially important when we encounter temptation. We sometimes make the mistake of putting ourselves in situations where we are tempted, thinking that we are strong enough to handle it. Sometimes we are, but often we are not.

Remember when Joseph was tempted by Potiphar’s wife? She “cast longing eyes on Joseph and she said, ‘Lie with me.’” (Gen. 39:7). Joseph refused to commit adultery with her, but she persisted to the point that finally Joseph needed to flee. “He left his garment in her hand, and fled outside.” (Gen. 39:12).

There may not be a Potiphar’s wife in your life, but there is likely some temptation which you find difficult to resist. If alcohol is your temptation, flee. Make a decision to avoid people and places where alcohol will be readily available. If sexual impurity with a boyfriend or girlfriend is a temptation, flee. Make a decision to avoid situations where you are alone and the temptation is stronger.

The worst mistake any of us can make is to think that “I can handle it. I know this is a strong temptation but I won’t give in. I’ll hang around close, but I won’t cross the line.” The real question we need to consider is this: “Who (or what) do we want to stay close to?” Because fleeing is not just running away from something; it is also running toward something.

“But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.” (I Timothy 6:11)

- Alan Smith

Social Networking Issues

All of us dread having issues with our computers. Viruses, crashes, malware, tracking 'cookies', and other such things that affect the proper working of our machines are a constant concern. Those who do not take steps to protect against these dangers are certain to suffer the negative consequences.

However, we are concerned that Christians need to open their eyes to a growing threat that has nothing to do with their computer's hardware or software. The threat we have in mind involves their spiritual well-being, and is generally known as 'social networking.' Many brethren enjoy being able to contact folks via Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, etc., but we are alarmed that some are not exercising a proper degree of caution. Consider these issues when engaged in 'social networking':

1. Inappropriate photos and text: Some are guilty of sending photos of themselves dressed immodestly or while participating in activities that are, at best, questionable. Likewise, texts are sent out that convey things that a Christian should never say or think. Several 'red flags' are obvious. Why are you doing such things? Why are you thinking and saying such things? And, why are you effectively destroying your influence and example by publishing such things? Many need to be reminded of: 1) their duty to God, and 2) their responsibility to "let your light shine" (Matthew 5:16).

2. Excessive loss of valuable time: Without putting a stopwatch on any specific individual, it is easy to conclude that some are wasting way too much time on these sites. Various studies have concluded that they have an addictive potential. Can we be blunt? **TURN OFF THE COMPUTER AND GET BUSY!!!** Your family, the Lord's church, your job, and many other important things need your attention. Some are neglecting their duties while spending excessive time on social networking sites. As a child of God you are responsible for "making the most of your time" (Ephesians 5:16 – NASV).

3. Fellowship implications: Think about the terminology that describes these websites. They are called ‘social networking’, and those who participate are identified as ‘friends’, etc. The problem, as we see it, is that some are interacting without regard to those who have been disciplined by local congregations. We are obligated to sever our social dealings with such brethren until they repent. We are told “not to keep company” with them (1 Corinthians 5:11), and to “have no company with him, that he may be ashamed” (2 Thessalonians 3:14). If we join with them – ‘keep company’ with them – on these social networking websites (as though there is no problem) how have we fulfilled our duty to “admonish him as a brother” (2 Thessalonians 3:15)?

We are sure that Satan is thrilled to have a whole new array of weapons to use against us. Beware of how he can use our own computers to our spiritual demise. Think!

- Greg Gwin

“Home” School

“Get an education!” And so, many parents put great stress on their children to get an education that will equip them to make a living when they leave home. And while all would surely agree that education is necessary, the emphasis on “the 3-R’s” and related subjects must not overwhelm the first parental responsibility in educating their children.

The school I’m concerned about has little to do with where a child gets his secular education. Wherever children get such education, be it at home or in a private or public school, fathers and mothers must personally know what their children are, and are not, being taught. “Home” school, as I see it, is spiritual instruction in the family where fathers instruct by word, by

example and by their presence, in addition to whatever other “book learning” is taking place.

The Lord commended Abraham, saying, “For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord” (Gen. 18:19). Concerning the words of the Lord, the Law of Moses required parents to “teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall write them upon the door posts of your house, and upon your gates” (Deut. 11:19,20). Solomon wrote, “My son, hear the instruction of your father, and forsake not the law of your mother” (Proverbs 1:8). These passages imply that a father is to actually give instruction. Mother also has a “law” to be heeded.

We are expected to “Train up a child in the way he should go” (Proverbs 22:6), and we cannot pass off this responsibility to the child, or an educational institution, or the government, or even the church. Neither is there some magic birthday, such as eighteen or twenty-one, where godly parental responsibility ends and we are exempt from using our good influence on our children. Eli had a responsibility to “restrain” even his grown sons (1 Samuel 3:13).

Fathers are charged to bring up their children “in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4). There is no recess from this work at “home!” This involves us in real instruction, communication, conversation and contact, as well as our being examples of living “soberly and righteously and godly in this present world” (Titus 2:12) And while we are at it, we need to teach them good manners, to be patient, polite, thankful, courteous, thoughtful of others, and to be friendly – all of which will cause them to increase in favor with God and men.

“Home” school is always in session. Give us more Joshuas who will boldly say, “As for me and for my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).

- Karl Diestelkamp

Hypocrites in the “_____”

“I want no part of religion, because there are hypocrites in the church.”

Of all the hypocritical excuses, that one is bound to rank with the most hypocritical of all! To be hypocritical is to be an actor, a pretender. A movie star may act like a doctor, but not actually be a doctor. He may play the role of a lawman, etc., but not be such in real life.

So it is with the one who says, “I won’t go to church because there are hypocrites there.” He is pretending that this is his reason. But he’s only acting. For in real life, he will not resort to the following:

- 1) “I won’t go to the amusement park, because hypocrites go there.”
- 2) “I’m not going to the lake, because there are hypocrites on the lake.”
- 3) “I’m not going to the football games, because there are hypocrites in the stands.”
- 4) “I’m not going to the restaurant anymore, because hypocrites go there.”

Hosts of individuals go and enjoy such places and activities. Why? Because they want to do so. Hypocrites sure can’t keep them away! But they don’t go to church. Why? Because they don’t want to go to church. They just pretend as if their reason is because of hypocrites in the church. This pretentiousness is itself hypocrisy.

- J. Princeton Simons

Elders: Gordon Percell & Gary Smalley

Evangelist: Gary Smalley

Sunday AM: 9:30 & 10:30

Sunday PM: 5:00

Wednesday PM: 7:00



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

HEAR THE GOSPEL

(Romans 10:14-17; John 20:30-31; Romans 1:15-17)

BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST

(Acts 8:37; John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6)

REPENT OF PAST SINS

(Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30)

CONFESS CHRIST

(Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37)

BE BAPTIZED

(Romans 6:3-4; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-39; 1 Peter 3:21)

LIVE A FAITHFUL LIFE

(Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-11; John 15:1-8; Hebrews 10:23-25)