

# The Old Hickory Bulletin

## *Old Hickory Church of Christ*

841 Old Hickory Blvd.

Jackson, TN 38305

[oldhickorycofc.com](http://oldhickorycofc.com)

---

July 03, 2016

Volume 36, # 27

---

## **How Have You Managed To Stay Together For Fifty Years?**

On July 25th, the Lord willing, Jean and I will celebrate our Golden Wedding Anniversary. I know a good many couples who have reached the half century mark in their marriage, but I know far more who didn't. Some because of death and others because of divorce. We feel fortunate and honored to have reached this mark. There have been many congratulations both from fellow Christians and those outside the body of Christ. I have been surprised at the questions I have received, especially from young people and young couples. The most prominent question is: "how did you manage to stay married that long?" They seem astounded that a husband and his wife should stay together for such a long period. Regarding our own case, we do not consider it unusual at all, but from their view it seems almost impossible. This question springs from the modern view that marriages are "not supposed to be lasting." This idea is incorrect! Jesus said of marriage, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matt. 19:6). But, the leading question needs an answer so, from our viewpoint let me try to answer it with a "few simple points." In all likelihood they will work for you too.

## **We Never Thought About Quitting**

We were blessed from the beginning because we had both been taught that you marry for "keeps. " We never entertained the idea of quitting, only the idea of permanence. If most couples worked as hard to improve their marriage as they do to get out of their marriage, there would not be many failures. Divorce has been glorified and depicted as the solution for any trouble in a marriage. Therefore, many couples never look for an alternative.

## **Don't Mess With Our Marriage**

We started out with a understanding that God gave us "marriage" to enjoy while on this earth. At the same time we recognized that it was "our home" and we didn't want anything or anybody to "mess it up." We had something that was dear to us and we refused to allow family, friends or the world to interfere. We never discussed our private or secret things with others, only with each other.

## **Good Friends**

Very early in our marriage we became "good friends." We have remained good friends to this present time. I have had many other friends along the way and so has she, but none like each other. Our interest in things, other than "spiritual" are not always the same, but with an understanding that we are not identical we extend a reasonable amount of freedom and understanding in such things and we remain best friends. It makes me sad to see couples who are living as husband and wife and fulfilling most of their duties, but they have never been good friends.

## **Spiritual Interest**

Through the years we have been blessed with a mutual spiritual interest. When the rails on a railroad track run parallel with each

other there will be no train wreck. When the rails move too far apart there will be a disaster. When a husband and wife are both true Christians, then you may be sure, at least seventy-five percent of a successful marriage is already established.

## **Harmony**

"I guess," someone says, "you have never had a cross word in this wonderful marriage of fifty years." Guess again! When you have two people who have minds of their own there will be differences. But, a difference in view does not have to damage a marriage. Good communication and a love for the Lord and each other will allow any difference to be solved in peace without a long delay. From the beginning we have both hated "fussing." I don't like it in the church and I don't like it in the home. Talking can be valuable, but "fussing" is a total waste of time and energy. We have been spared this nonsense in our relationship. I could write pages on this matter, but this is enough for now.

- W.R. Jones, via Guardian of Truth, 10/15/92

---

## **Thoughts on Marriage**

The divorce rate in America is now around 50%. "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?" (Mat. 19:3). "Not so," said the Lord. What happens that changes those moments of starry-eyed splendor into unconcern and apathetic feelings? Consider these observations:

- He married her because, among other things, her hair looked so beautiful.

He divorced her because she spent too much time fixing her hair.

- He married her because she was such an adept conversationalist.

He divorced her because she talked all the time.

- She married him because he enjoyed her home cooking.

She divorced him because he never took her out to eat.

- She married him because he was a “real sport.”

She divorced him because he refused to give up his “sport.”

- He married her because their families shared a common background.

He divorced her because her family interfered in their affairs.

- She married him because he was so attentive to little things.

She divorced him because he was oblivious to important things.

An ideal marriage is not one in which people marry to be happy, but to make the other happy. This means to give as well as take; to forget as well as to remember, to love as well as to be loved.

- Author Unknown

---

## **Are You In Charge of You?**

Heard this lately? "If you give a pig and a boy everything they want, you'll get a good pig and a bad boy." Wise King Solomon noticed the danger of overindulgence and warned that too much of even a good thing can be bad — Have you found honey? Eat only as much as you need, Lest you be filled with it and vomit" (Proverbs 25:16). Solomon's words remind us there are people who will not draw the line. Religious writer John Phillips wrote about touring a chocolate factory in Pennsylvania. He told about looking at the fancy candies and delectable delicacies surrounding him until his mouth watered. But he also noticed none of the employees in the factory seemed to be the least bit

tempted. The guide leading their tour explained: "When a new employee joins the staff, he is invited – even encouraged – to eat all the chocolate he wants. He is not allowed to take any out of the factory, but there are no limits on how many he may eat while he is at work. Usually a new employee will indulge his love for chocolate to the full – for the first few days. After a while, however, he becomes sick of the very sight of them. Indeed, in a few weeks' time he rarely so much as tastes one. He is satiated" (The John Phillips Commentary Series: Exploring Proverbs, Volume Two; p 329). Solomon himself tried all the "honey" this world had to offer (read Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:10). From wit and wisdom to wealth and wine to works and women — Solomon ate all the "honey" he could find. He threw moderation and self-control to the wind and gorged himself on all this world's sensual delicacies. In his words, "I became great and excelled more than all who were before me in Jerusalem . . . .Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure" (2:9, 10). Solomon denied himself nothing of this world's pleasures. He "made a pig of himself" until his senses and appetites were stuffed full. But, alas, his uncontrolled binge on worldly experiences left him nauseated and dissatisfied. He was forced to admit, "all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun" (2:11b). Too much sweet had turned to sour. The words of 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 beg for a wider hearing in over-indulgent America and from over-indulgent church members: "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. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified." Like elite athletes striving to win an earthly prize, Christians must practice self-control if they are to win the eternal prize God gives

the faithful. Don Loftis recently wrote, "We live in the midst of an indulgent society which has a hard time saying 'NO' to premarital sex, drugs, pornography, debt, overwork, divorce, and fourths at the buffet" (Old Hickory Church of Christ bulletin, 4/15/12). The self-evident truth is that our national failure to control our appetites is eating us alive. Do you have power over yourself, or does your "self" and your appetites have power over you? Think about it – are you in charge of you?

- Dan Gulley

---

- > "People take your examples far more seriously than they take your advice!"
  - > "Great truths are simple: So are great men and women!"
  - > "If you look back too much; you may soon be headed that way!"
  - > "Every true believer in Christ recognizes him as "the resurrection and the life!"
  - > "There is no true co-operation between "the flesh" and "the Spirit!"
  - > The English preacher John Newton once said: "When I get to heaven I shall see three wonders. The first will be to see many persons there whom I did not expect to see; the second will be to miss many whom I did expect to see; the greatest wonder of all will be to find myself there!"
- 

**THIS WEEK'S LESSONS:** Sunday morning: "*Facts About Fornication!*" (Text: Eph. 5:1-8); Sunday evening: "*Kill The Weed of Envy!*" (Prov. 14:30).

**GOSPEL MEETING 2016:** Our Gospel Meeting is scheduled for July 24-29, with Josh Thornhill, of Wildersville, preaching ( It's just 3 weeks away!).