

# **The Old Hickory Bulletin**

## *Old Hickory Church of Christ*

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### **Have you made any non-Christian friends lately?**

One clear warning in the New Testament is the inevitable and gradual destructive effect of one's association with wicked people. Paul said, "Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good morals." (1 Cor. 15:33). Those who have responded to the call of the gospel are now "children of God" (1 John 3:1), who must take great care to remain "unstained by the world" (Jas. 1:27), and prevent being overcome again by evil influences of the world (2 Pet. 2:20). Every believer must maintain a clear separation from the things that will choke the word of God out of our hearts so that we become unfruitful for our Lord (Mark 4:19). Christians find their beneficial associations among other Christians, maintaining their fellowship with each other and with God (1 John 1:3; cf. Eph. 5:11; 2 Cor. 6:14).

The great care Christians exercise to prevent compromise with evil things of

the world is not to be understood as a directive to isolate ourselves from all unbelievers. Even as Paul said, achieving such isolation would necessitate our departure from the world (1 Cor. 5:10). Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty *again*? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” (Matt. 5:13-16). One cannot demonstrate, teach or preach anything to save some in the world if he is invisible to the world through self-isolation.

Some of Jesus’ contemporaries, the Pharisees, segregated and isolated themselves from some people in society that they could have helped. On the other hand, Jesus was known as “a friend of tax collectors and sinners” (Matt. 11:19). He associated with people that the Pharisees avoided. He led many of them to salvation.

Christians follow the example of Christ when they “show hospitality to strangers” (Heb. 13:2) and love their neighbors (Luke 10:29-37), as did the good Samaritan. Kindness shown to lost person will go a long way in breaking down barriers and will allow him to hear what you have to say about Christ and His offer of salvation “for all those who believe” (Rom. 3:22; cf. 1 Cor. 1:21).

Open your lives to non-Christians in your world. No other person has the access to the same people that you do. Open your home and family life to people around you who are not Christians. Be hospitable and kind; build on

common interests. If you are sensitive to their needs, you can be the first person available to offer practical help when they need it.

We need more of what the Savior had when “the common people heard him gladly” (Mark 12:37, KJV). With Christ, evangelism was a way of life. People wanted to hear His words. He had time for people – all people. His followers must learn from Him. If you reach out to people who need Jesus, you will certainly enliven your spiritual experience. You will be following the example of Christ. Best of all, you can lead others to the Giver of eternal life!

- GFS

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## I Know Who Holds Tomorrow

I don't know about tomorrow,  
I just live from day to day;  
I don't borrow from its sunshine,  
For its skies may turn to gray.  
I don't worry o'er the future,  
For I know what Jesus said;  
And today I'll walk beside Him,  
For He knows what lies ahead.  
Many things about tomorrow  
I don't seem to understand;

But I know who holds tomorrow,  
And I know He holds my hand.  
I don't know about tomorrow,  
It may bring me poverty.  
But the one who feeds the sparrow  
Is the one who stands by me.  
And the path that be my portion  
May be through the flame or flood,  
But His presence goes before me  
And I'm covered with His blood.  
Many things about tomorrow  
I don't seem to understand;  
But I know who holds tomorrow,  
And I know He holds my hand.

by Ira Stanphill

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## **Divorce Times Four**

Jesus is very clear about those who take marriage vows lightly as if they can be dismissed: "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery." (Matthew 19:9, NKJV).

It is entirely possible that four people could ultimately lose their souls because of what one person did when he put away his spouse. Count them with me . . .

The man who divorced his wife without scriptural cause . . . the one whom he marries . . . the one whom he divorced . . . the one that she marries . . . four people lost! Let all of us who are married keep our word (our vows) to each other with all the strength that God has given.

- Bob Hines

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- > It is always safe to trust an unknown future to the known God and His will.
  - > He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. (Luke 16:10)
  - > The world is moved by men who cannot be moved by the world.
  - > You cannot hide your influence - either for good or evil.

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**SUNDAY'S LESSONS:** Sunday morning: *"Implanting A Work Ethic In Our Children!"* (text: 1 Thess. 4:9-12); Sunday evening: *Jesus Christ: A Closer Look – Jesus Returns To Heaven!* (Mark 16:19-20).