

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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Seven Faces of Failure

In their book *The Conquest of Frustration*, Maxwell Maltz and Raymond C. Barker list seven facets of frustration that produce failure. I am listing them below along with a text of scripture that contains an answer to the problem.

Fear: ``There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love" (1 John 4:18).

Aggressiveness: ``Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21).

Insecurity: ``I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

Loneliness: ``For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (Hebrews 13:5).

Uncertainty: ``For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (2 Tim. 1:12).

Resentment: ``And be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32).

Emptiness: ``But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

It is not so much a matter of doing as the old song said, ``powder your face with sunshine, put on a happy face." It is more a matter of power your soul with God's help and you'll have a happy face!

- by John Clark

Legalism: The Un-Sin

Since the church began, the devil has concocted any number of diabolical schemes to ensnare God's people. One of his most successful gambits has been the invention of the pseudo-sin commonly called legalism. More people consider legalism to be a sin than consider 7-UP to be a cola, but they are all mistaken. Legalism is the UN-SIN.

Legalism is defined as "strict, literal or excessive conformity to the law or to a religious or moral code" (Webster's Dictionary). Simply put, a legalist follows the rules.

I was not there when the devil and his angels dreamed up this strategy for getting Christians to commit more sin by convincing them that legalism is a sin. But I must say that it was a stroke of genius. Just think of it -- being able to actually convince people that not committing sin is a sin!

Satan must have noticed that early disciples "continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine" (Acts 2:42), and that they were expected to be "obedient in all things" (2 Corinthians 2:9). At some point however, Satan also

became aware that the apostles and prophets of Christ were teaching Jewish Christians that they could not rely on their obedience to the Law of Moses for their salvation; it would do them no good to strictly follow the Law of Moses. And that's when Satan hatched his scheme. He knew that if he could convince Christians that the apostolic warnings against becoming "entangled again with a yoke of bondage" (Galatians 5:1) were talking about strictly keeping the commands of Jesus, then he could get them to stop being concerned with commandment keeping.

This is what has happened. Millions of people today who call themselves Christians believe that strict obedience to God is a sin called legalism. They believe that to be a faithful Christian one must not be too concerned with actually doing exactly what Jesus said to do. Their leaders write things like the following:

"Stringently striving to obey Christian rules and regulations doesn't enable the Spirit-filled walk; it often kills it" (2 Corinthians 3:6). [Neil Anderson, Freed From Legalism].

Please note that in the verse cited by this anti-legalist, the apostle Paul states that God "made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life." What is "the letter" in this passage? Is it "Christian rules and regulations" as Mr. Anderson states? We don't have to guess, for Paul tells us in the next verse. The letter that kills is called "the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones" (2 Corinthians 3:7). "The letter" is plainly the Law of Moses! It was written on tablets of stone.

Over and over again the apostles of Christ warn that striving to strictly follow the Law of Moses will lead to death, not life! But NOWHERE do they state that strictly following the commands of Christ will do the same.

The New Testament never condemns the strict keeping of the commandments of God. It always commends it. Even the hair-splitting, herb-tithing, commandment-keeping Pharisees were not condemned for keeping God's commandments too well. They were condemned for

keeping the small requirements while leaving off the big ones. Jesus told them that they should have kept BOTH! "These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone" (Matthew 23:23).

My friends, those who love God will keep His commandments. "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3). Those who don't keep God's commandments, don't really know Him. "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:3-4).

- Steve Klein

Brethren, Let's Get Real!

Some who make the plea for the continued restoration of New Testament Christianity are caught up, quite erroneously, in the pipe dream of a golden era of the church when there were neither problems nor divisions. But when was that? Churches of Christ have always been plagued with strife (Phil. 1:15-16), false teachers (2 Peter 2:1-3), perverse and destructive leaders (Acts 20:29ff.; Jude 4), the preaching of a false gospel (Gal. 1:6-9), servants of Satan (2 Cor. 11:13-15), and divisiveness (3 John 9-10). This is why Jude exhorted Christians "to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3b). This is why Paul admonished Christians to "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong" (1 Cor. 16:13, NIV).

Thus, what the kingdom of God needs right now is more soldiers of the cross and less spiritual namby pambys who get their feelings hurt when someone challenges them to give a spiritual reason for the hope that is in them. You know the ones I am talking about — the ones who have become so proficient at bemoaning what they claim is a lack of love among

brethren, and who frequently point their accusatory fingers at those whom they consider to be much too strident in their defense of the gospel.

Brethren, let us not be fooled, i.e., let's get real! If Satan can transform himself into an angel of light, then it should not surprise us that his servants sometimes masquerade as ministers of the gospel (2 Cor. 11:14-15). From such a vantage point, and all in the name of "grace," "love," and "mercy," these spew forth some of the most bitter rhetoric imaginable at those who are standing against their attempted, and very underhanded, onslaught.

The objective standard, which is none other than God's word, says their end shall be according to their works, and their works are, indeed, damnable. In the meantime, let us "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong" (1 Cor. 16:13, KJV). In other words, it is time for men of God to start acting like men!

- Allan Turner

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.

If a child lives with fear, he learns to be apprehensive.

If a child lives with pity, he learns to feel sorry for himself.

If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.

If a child lives with jealousy, he learns what envy is.

If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with encouragement, he learns to be confident.

If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.

If a child lives with praise, he learns to be appreciative.

If a child lives with acceptance, he learns to love.

If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.

If a child lives with recognition, he learns that it is good to have a goal.

If a child lives with sharing, he learns about generosity.

If a child lives with honesty and fairness, he learns what truth and justice are.

If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith in himself and in those about him.

If a child lives with friendliness, he learns that the world is a nice place in which to live.

If you live with serenity, your child will live with peace of mind.

With what is your child living?

- Dorothy Law Nolte

- Works speak louder than words.
- Grace does not change the enormity of sin; it only magnifies the extent of it.
- If you have a "hit or miss" religion, you will probably miss heaven.
- If you read your Bible and pray every day, when the church meets it will be hard to keep you away.
- Too many times when men are lifted up, their hearts become lifted up.
- If we don't pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17), we will de cease without praying (Luke 18:1).

Elders: Gregg Needham, 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)