

# The Old Hickory Bulletin

## *Old Hickory Church of Christ*

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## **Selling Out on Morality**

Ohio Senator Rob Portman recently announced that he now supports same-sex marriage. This makes Portman the first sitting Republican senator to take this position, and is especially noteworthy since he was a supporter of the “Defense of Marriage Act” in 1996. That act defined marriage as between a man and a woman.

So, what could cause this dramatic change in a previously conservative politician? Well, it seems that Portman’s son has “come out” as a homosexual.

We could spend time identifying the Bible proof that homosexuality is a sin. We could answer all the arguments of the many— including many “religious” types – that claim otherwise. But our point of emphasis here is on the fact that this man totally changed on an important moral issue because a loved one is involved. We wonder what it would take to get Mr. Portman to “sell out” his morality on other issues. Could he be swayed on abortion - Portman is currently “pro-life” - if he had a daughter

who was caught up in that sin? Would he “cave” on pedophilia if a loved one was found guilty? What if another of his sons turns out to be a thief? a rapist? a murderer? Where does one stop once he surrenders his moral convictions?

Unfortunately this compromised senator is not alone. Too many – and not a few Christians – fail to stand up for what is right when their own families are entangled in sin. How often have we heard otherwise “sound” brethren who offer excuses, failed arguments, and illogical explanations when their children or other loved ones are engaged in sinful conduct? Drinking, fornication, gambling, dancing, unscriptural divorce and remarriage . . . the list goes on . . . are all defended if it gets ‘too close to home’. Parents, grandparents, siblings, and other relatives and friends become “enablers” of such sins by their refusal to stand firmly for what is right.

Instead of this spirit of compromise, we must “earnestly contend for the faith” (Jude 3). Think!

- Greg Gwin

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## **Are They All From God?**

Let us suppose that an evangelist comes to our community to conduct a religious meeting and proceeds as follows:

- At the first service he preaches that salvation is by faith only. but at the next one he contends that it is by faith exercised in obedience to the gospel rather than by faith alone.
- At the third service he declares that sprinkling, pouring or immersion is baptism, but at the fourth service he plainly shows that immersion is baptism.
- At the fifth service he says that penitent believers are the only spiritual subjects of baptism, but at the sixth service he teaches that babies should be baptized due to “original sin.”
- At the seventh service he preaches once in grace, always in grace, but at the eighth he tells the people that it is possible for them to fall from grace, that some have fallen, and that the Bible tells how to keep from falling.
- At the ninth service he teaches that it is right to have human creeds, but at the tenth he declares that we should take the Bible as our only guide in religion.

No thoughtful person would continue to listen to ONE preacher like that, but the majority of people 'are perfectly willing for TEN preachers to preach these conflicting ideas. They say that if one man should preach that way he would contradict himself and be inconsistent, but what kind of a God do they suppose we have if He endorses all these conflicting doctrines and has sent out these preachers to present them?

- Leslie G. Thomas

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# Wake Up!

I have never tried it, but I am told that if you drop a frog into hot water, he will jump out. However, if you were to place a frog in a kettle of cool water and gradually heat the water, the frog would stay put and perish in a boiling death. Perhaps you wonder how even a frog could be so stupid as to be unaware of his gradually changing surroundings. Are we any wiser?

When I was growing up, most Christian parents were terribly concerned about the immoral influence of Hollywood films. Those are the old movies that today are shown on TV and judged innocent and harmless - "family pictures." Now TV news, commercials and entertainment are saturated with lust and violence. Years ago people were saying, "If it gets any worse, I'm going to toss my TV set out." Has it gotten worse? Are we a bunch of slowly cooking frogs?

- Marvin A. Noble [edited]

**Heb. 2:1** -- "For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away *from it*."

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## Them Squalin'Kids

Now and then a baby will cry out during worship and break our concentration . . . but instead of being upset, it ought to be bringing us a smile as it reminds us of something . . . and I don't mean "Thank you Lord that all mine are grown up"!

It ought to make us thank the Lord for the children. When properly trained and taught they will one day take their part in the work and worship of the church. We think sadly of congregations where most everyone is old . . . in just a few years the congregation could be gone.

It ought to remind us to be thankful for families who come to worship together. In an age where families break up and marriage is considered old-fashioned we may smile at the thought of a mother who endures the difficulties of half-heard sermons and fidgeting armfuls of babies because to her the worship is that important.

It ought to make us think about good young couples wanting to raise their children up in the nurture of the Lord. At a very young age children are being taught that worship of the Lord is part of life, their life. While the children of this world are only going to be getting older the children who worship are going to truly be growing up because of help and leading from their parents.

So, moms and dads, the next time that little gal or guy throws a toy four rows up, or a coin for the plate down the aisle, or starts singing "Jesus Loves Me" loud and clear while everyone else is finishing "Bless Be The Tie That Binds", just remember: we love you, we thank the Lord for you, and we're on your side. You are

doing one of the most important works that the Lord has for you to do. And He blesses you for it. We pray you will keep right on keeping on!

- Robert Hines

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On her golden wedding anniversary, my grandmother revealed the secret of her long and happy marriage. "On my wedding day, I decided to choose ten of my husband's faults which, for the sake of our marriage, I would overlook," she explained. A guest asked her to name some of the faults. "To tell the truth," she replied, "I never did get around to listing them. But whenever my husband did something that made me hopping mad, I would say to myself, 'Lucky for him that's one of the ten.'"

- Roderick McFarlane, in Reader's Digest, Dec., 1992.

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- > "An archaeologist is the best husband a woman can have; the older she gets, the more interested he is in her." (Mystery author Agatha Christie, who was married to one.)
  - > "Better to be rebuked by God than entertained by the devil."
  - > "Repentance, for many, will take place in the grave."
  - > "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." (Prov. 3:6)
  - > "Kindness is difficult to give away, because it keeps coming back."
  - > "Be Fishers of Men ... You catch 'em, He'll Clean 'em."
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**THIS WEEK'S LESSONS:** Sunday morning & evening: *"The Collection for the Saints!"* (Text: 1 Cor. 16:1-2).

**GOSPEL MEETING 2015:** Our Gospel Meeting is scheduled for July 19-24, with Jerry Crolius, of Conway, AR, preaching.