

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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Teach Your Children Respect; The Culture Doesn't!

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother,' which is the first commandment with promise: 'that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth'" (Ephesians 6:1-3).

Dr. Leonard Sax, practicing physician and author of "The Collapse of Parenting," wrote in the Wall Street Journal (Dec. 17, 2015), "Kids are not born knowing how to be respectful. They have to be taught." He tells of his patient Kyle, who "was absorbed in a videogame on his cellphone, so I asked his mom, 'How long has Kyle had a stomach ache?' Mom said, 'I'm thinking it's been about two days.' Then Kyle replied, 'Shut up, mom. You don't know what you're talking about.' And he gave a snorty laugh, without looking up from his videogame. Kyle is 10 years old."

One source of such disrespect comes from devaluing parents. According to Dr. Sax, "America's children are immersed in a culture of disrespect: for parents, teachers, and one another. They learn it from television, even on the Disney Channel, where parents are portrayed as clueless, out-of-touch or absent. They learn it from celebrities or the Internet. They learn it from social media. They teach it to one another. They wear T-shirts emblazoned with slogans like 'I'm not shy. I just don't like you.'"

Parents, train your children to respect you by being respectful to one another, and to others. Train them to honor you by placing value on God, on faith, and on every human being. Children can only be respectful by learning it. So, be respectable - especially when the culture does not value it - or you.

- Joe R. Price

How Are Your Eyes?

How are your eyes? The average American gets an eye exam every 2 years. Most people would probably say their eyesight is the most valuable of their senses. We have all kinds of techniques today that are able to improve our vision. But how recently have you checked your spiritual eyesight? Jesus says that just because we can see physically, it does not mean we are able to see. In Matthew 13:15 He quotes the prophet Isaiah saying, "their eyes have closed." He says His disciples were blessed because they saw with their eyes and heard with their ears in verse 16. Jesus will call us blessed as well if we use our spiritual eyesight to discern His teachings. What are some spiritual eye problems we see in the Bible?

Some people in the Bible had eyes which were spiritually blind. Jesus condemns the Pharisees in Matthew 15:14 saying that they were "blind leaders of the blind." By their decision to reject Jesus' teachings and abide under the Old Law and their own traditions, they became hypocrites, leading those astray who follow them. In 2 Corinthians 4:4 Paul says there were some in the church whose unbelief had blinded them. By turning to another "god of this age", they had veiled the gospel to themselves. We become spiritually blind by turning to our own ways and rejecting the light of the gospel which could give us sight. In John 1:9, we see Jesus described as the "true light" and He "came to His own, and His own, did not receive Him." in verse 11. The Jews of that time, who had been waiting hundreds of years for their Messiah, were spiritually blind and unable to recognize the Son of God in their presence.

There are also some in the Bible whose eyes were spiritually out of focus. In 2 Corinthians 4:18 we see Paul's encouraging words not to lose hope due to their physical sufferings. He says, "we do not look at the things which are seen..." but, our eyes must be fixed upon the unseen. The trials we deal with in our physical state can be discouraging, but they cannot be allowed to let us take our eyes off the prize of Heaven. The things we see and endure physically in this life are temporary. "We have a building from God" as 2 Corinthians 5:1 reveals, showing that this body is not our permanent residence. There is something far better ahead if we keep our eyes spiritually in check.

We also see some folks whose eyes were shortsighted. In 2 Peter 1:9, we see that the one who fails to grow spiritually is shortsighted. Peter lists off ways that we need to be growing as Christians. If we are not remembering our sins are forgiven, and what a wonderful blessing that is, we are shortsighted and are not going to Heaven.

When we are not looking spiritually, we'll miss out on opportunities. Jesus describes the harvest time in John 4:35. Those who are not looking for opportunities spiritually are those

who say "there are still four months and then comes the harvest." Jesus says we need to be like those who lift up their spiritual eyes and look for spiritual opportunities.

Our eyes are very important and make the majority of our lives easier. The same is true for our spiritual eyes. If we are facing eye problems spiritually, they cannot be cured by corrective lenses. Look to Jesus to cure spiritual blindness. Focus on Heaven to bring our eyes into focus. Continue to grow spiritually to not be shortsighted. Let us apply these to our lives so we can have healthy eyes.

- Michael Baker

Google Celebrates 50 Years of LGBTQ Pride

My home page on my web browser is Google. When I logged on to the internet on Tuesday morning (June 4th), I was told that Google was "celebrating 50 years of pride."

For those who didn't know, June is Pride Month. Google was celebrating how gay pride has gained momentum over the past 50 years. I don't know how this could have escaped anyone's notice, but Google (along with everyone else who supports the homosexual agenda) feels the need to shout it from the rooftops.

What was my initial reaction to the message from my homepage? I decided I didn't need the internet that day. I immediately logged off. I must confess that I did log back on to do some banking and check my email, but my on-line time on that day was a fraction of what it usually is.

I will not be celebrating, lending endorsement to, tolerating, upholding, defending, etc., the sin of homosexuality in any shape, form, or fashion.

I do not hate homosexuals, nor anyone in the "so-called" LGBTQ community.

I hate the sin of homosexuality. Yes, I said "hate." As the psalmist said, "Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way" (Psalm 119:104). When we understand God's righteousness, we learn that it is appropriate to hate every way that opposes what God has established.

I hate what this sin has done to the minds of people and to the moral standards of this nation. Homosexuality is against nature. "For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one

another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due" (Rom. 1:26-27). It is a perversion of that which nature tells us is right. Once accepted, it leads to further perversion. Don't think so? Fifty years ago it was just "gay pride." Today it is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (or Questioning) pride. Who knows what other letters will be added as we continue to plunge down the slope of moral depravity?

Celebrating 50 years of pride? More like celebrating 50 years of rebellion against God. Think about that. Fifty years. Our God is a patient God, isn't He?

Dear Christian, please remember that we do not combat sin by joining in the celebration of sin. Nor do we combat sin by engaging in hatred or violence against our fellowman. Instead, we are to be "blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2:15).

- Heath Rogers

A Comment from Yesteryear:

"... examine the language of David – Psa. 51:5 : "Behold I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." Whatever may be the meaning of this passage, it *can not be the imputation of sin to the child*. "In sin did *my mother* conceive me;" that is, *she* acted wickedly when I was conceived. Were the wife to say, "In *drunkenness* my husband beat me," or the child that "in *anger* my father whipped me," surely no one would attribute drunkenness to the wife or anger to the child; neither can they impute the *sin of the mother* to the child."

- T.W. Brents (1874), *The Gospel Plan of Salvation*, pp. 133-134.

Jesus disproved man's theory that guilt is inherited from parents and resides within each person from birth in Matt. 19:14, "But Jesus said, 'Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"

> "The driver who has had a few quick ones is bound to have a few close ones!"

> "What the old folks called humble pie tasted awful but it had a lot of nourishment in it!"

- > "Do your givin' while you're livin' - Then you're knowin' where it's goin'!"
 - > "Don't be discouraged if you stumble, a worm is the only thing that can't fall down!"
 - > "You can't keep right with God spiritually if you don't keep right with Him financially. Try it on your neighbor. Cheat him out of a dollar and see what it will do to your friendship. Generous giving helps a person successfully defy one of our greatest spiritual foes - covetousness!"
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THIS WEEK'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: *"What Is Your Burden?"* (Text: Matt. 11:28-30); Sunday evening: *Bi-monthly Singing!*