

# The Old Hickory Bulletin

## Old Hickory Church of Christ

841 Old Hickory Blvd.  
Jackson, TN 38305  
*oldhickorycofc.com*

---

July 19, 2020

Volume 40, # 29

---

### Partisanship and Morality

President Trump is a lightning rod for controversy. His pugnacious personality, outsider status and vulgarity is shocking to the sensibilities of both media and political opponents.

The criticisms of the President are well deserved on his part, as he is not a pleasant person. What is obvious to the unbiased, however, is that partisanship plays a large role in the criticism.

It is striking how often there is a willingness to overlook the failings of one's own champion, while excoriating any perceived imperfection in the opponent's man or woman.

Those who are familiar with recent American history know of the immorality of our leaders, especially our Presidents. Lyndon Johnson was known to be a prideful, profane manipulator of people. John Kennedy was a serial adulterer, as was Bill Clinton. Richard Nixon was a liar and a crook. The use of profanity by most or all of these men, and others who have held the office, is well known and documented.

The oval office has been occupied by racists, misogynists, criminals and liars throughout its existence. Part of this is because the pursuit of power itself is a leaven which tends to corrupt men. Part of it is because men themselves are imperfect, and often unrighteous.

The same kind of imperfections, biases and corrupt motives lead people to overlook such evil when it suits them. This is so evident to one "side" today, but it was equally evident to the other "side" less than a decade ago. This is what partisanship is, and leads people to "speak evil of dignitaries" (Jude 8). Note that in this verse, Jude was identifying people who were unrighteous and condemned.

How does this impact the Christian? Simply, we need to be careful we do not fall into partisanship in our interactions with others. While politics is the obvious application of this principle, there are many other places where this might be done.

“For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? For when one says, ‘I am of Paul,’ and another, ‘I am of Apollos,’ are you not carnal?” (1 Corinthians 3:3-4). It is carnal, fleshly and unrighteous to be divisive. While Paul’s admonition was to the church in Corinth, and the internal relationships among them, the contribution to “envy, strife, and divisions” is always carnal.

This does not mean that division and conflict will not come. However, it does condemn the Christian being a cause or contributor to it. “If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men” (Romans 12:18).

Getting back to politics. It is wrong for a Christian to spread unfounded, unprovable, and often false “news” about another. This is true whether the one is a champion or opponent. It is wrong for a Christian to attribute motives to another. It is equally wrong for a Christian to rationalize the ungodliness of any man or woman just because you agree with the policy he or she espouses.

Put simply, a Christian is bound by principles such as honesty, righteousness and love for his fellow man. Because men are imperfect, voting is always a process of choosing “the lesser evil.” There will be times when Christians may differ on what the “lesser evil” is. There are times when Christians may have different qualms of conscience in these matters. Christians should never compromise their integrity in order to rationalize support for any man! To do so is an exchange of the soul for this world (cf. Matthew 16:26).

- Stan Cox

---

## "Do To Others"

The Lord gave me a yardstick by which to measure every relationship in my life. It is easy to understand, and easy to apply if I have the will to do so. It involves no complicated formula; it is with me every wakeful hour. Its strength is in direct proportion to my weakness; binding me with cords of my own weaving, or freeing me as I free my own heart. It comprehends my whole duty to man.

While yet a child I learned it as: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you;" but later I found it is properly stated: "All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." (Matthew 7:12; see Luke 6:31).

"All things" is very broad. This includes my driving on the highway, selling a rifle, working for an employer, living with my wife, writing to my brethren, or about them.

"Whatsoever ye would --" is not "whatsoever they do." This rule does not depend on the other fellow -- it is determined in my own heart. How would I like to be treated? The rule is so reasonable, so unquestionably just, that it defies objection. It asks no pound of flesh, because its regulator would give none. It prescribes fair, honest treatment, because the party of the first part desires such. Self-interest, which so often blinds me to my duty to others, becomes the very indicator of those duties. God made the rule, but I am left to apply it -- with the intensity gendered by man's most powerful inner force, self-love. "No man ever yet hateth his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it..." (Ephesians 5:29).

"Do ye even so --" Lenski comments: "what we would like to have men do to us, whether they do that to us or not, we are to keep doing (poieite, durative) to them." Till seven times? Nay, but until seventy times seven. This regulates conduct, but it is far more than a law of "doing" -- it is a basic principle of attitude, of under-lying motive, which demonstrates itself in what we do.

"The law and the prophets" Jesus said; making it clear that this is no new rule, but one inherent in God's will for man in all times. Further, this clearly relates the rule to the giver of law, emphasizing the external authority of God. Those who seek to limit the "whole duty of man" to humanitarian obligations seem to miss this all-important point. 1 John 3:14-f clearly relates our love for our fellow man with our prior love for God. Because He laid down His life for us, we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren (vs. 16). "And this is His commandment, That we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment." (vs. 23).

Christians are in a position to understand and apply the "Golden Rule", as are none others. But the sad fact is that many so-called Christians make little practical application of this rule in their life, and seem a bit embarrassed if the preacher uses it as a text. Until we learn well the "second table of the law" (Matthew 22:39) we preach the "gospel" (?) in vain.

- Robert F. Turner, via *Plain Talk*, September, 1967

---

## **Do Not Be Embittered Against Them!**

The Apostle Paul commanded: "Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them." (Colossians 3:19). This is a short, yet very powerful instruction.

Love is the governing factor in the husband's relationship with his wife. The most excellent way of love is described by Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. Husbands would do well to read this often. The marriage will be what it ought to be if the husband, the loving head of the

wife, gives up himself for her as Christ gave Himself for the church (Ephesians 5:25). With this attitude, the husband gives his best and greatest devotion to an adored companion. The husband who puts his wife's well-being above his own lives this command from the Lord.

The alternative attitude, one opposite of that inspired by love, results in bitterness against her. "Do not be embittered against them." The idea is to not be harsh or virulent toward them. Don't indignantly malign, exasperate or irritate them. When a husband becomes embittered, he may express anger and frustration with force. Bitterness must be removed from its place in the heart and put away (Ephesians 4:31). Peter gave this instruction: "You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered." (1 Peter 3:7). The husband must try to understand the heart of his wife so that they will be drawn together in love. Kindness and goodwill are winners.

And so Paul says, "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity." (Colossians 3:12-14).

- Gary Smalley

---

## One Way To Use A Sample

A tobacco company sent some samples of cigarettes to some high school boys and girls with this explanation: "We are sending you a package of our purest cigarettes. We hope you will use them to your satisfaction and want more."

One of the boys used the cigarettes and wrote back to the company with these words: "I received the package of cigarettes and used them to my satisfaction. I put them in a quart of water and sprayed our bug infested rose bushes. Every bug died. These cigarettes are a good poison. I want more next year in case some of the bugs survive."

- Unknown, via The Instructor, November, 1964

---

> "Sin is not a toy, it is a tyrant!"

- > "Life affords no greater responsibility, no greater privilege, than the raising of the next generation!"
  - > "If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God!"
  - > "Guilt is concerned with the past. Worry is concerned about the future. Contentment enjoys the present!"
  - > "The trouble with most of us is that we would rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism!"
- 

**THIS WEEK'S LESSON:** The sermon for Sunday morning is: *Was It Not Necessary For The Christ To Suffer These Things?* (Text: Luke 24:13-27).

---

## ***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)