

# **The Old Hickory Bulletin**

## **Old Hickory Church of Christ**

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### **Let's Teach Our Boys**

The following quote was furnished to me by a member here at Pekin. It was observed in the New York cottage at the Tamassee Daughters of the American Revolution School, Tamassee, South Carolina. "It's not enough to teach our girls to say "No! We must also teach our boys not to ask." As I think of this quote, I am made to face the fact that we have more often taught on women's dress and responsibility in this area than we have on the men's. Perhaps this article will help overcome in some measure that deficiency.

The Bible helps us see how men need to learn not to ask women for sexual favors to feed our lust. Just look at the matter of the adultery between David and Bathsheba. This is recorded for us in 2 Samuel 11:1-5. This whole matter began as David observed Bathsheba bathing. He did not have to look upon her with lust in his heart. He had wives and concubines, but he allowed lust for her to cause him to send for her and commit adultery with her. She became pregnant from this encounter and then David was led to try to cover his sin by further sins, even to premeditated murder. The son born to this affair died, and David's family was never the same again. It was filled with deceit and similar things throughout his life. How the story could have been different had David just looked away without calling Bathsheba to this house!

David apparently failed to teach his sons about the danger of allowing lust to grow in their hearts because we read of a similar thing in his son Amnon. Read 2 Samuel 13:1-39. Amnon lusts for his half-sister Tamar and arranges a plot that leads to the rape of Tamar. Following that event Amnon is eventually killed by Tamar's full brother Absalom. This results in Absalom's exile from Israel for a while. Just think of all this family disturbance and turmoil because Amnon allowed his lust for Tamar to go unchecked. Do you think that the pleasure of his sin satisfied him? Do you think it was worth the pain it caused for himself and others?

After teaching our boys about these real-life situations and showing them the consequences that befell those who allowed their lusts to lead them to this kind of sin, let

us teach them what Jesus said. He said, "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matt. 5:28). We must teach our boys to control their lusts. Paul told Timothy, "Flee youthful lusts" (2 Tim. 2:22). The first step in flight from fornication might well be just to look away. In 1 Corinthians 10:13 God has promised that we will not be tempted beyond our ability to resist, but will provide a way of escape. Seek that escape from this sin.

We need to teach our boys that this sin will condemn us before God. Hebrews 13:4 teaches, "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled, but fornicators and adulterers God will judge." Some young people seem to think that their God-given desires are normal and that they ought to be fulfilled.

However, we can never allow ourselves to be deceived into thinking that this justifies fulfillment of those desires in unlawful ways. God will judge fornication in all cases. If a person cannot control his desires, Paul says, "but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion" (1 Cor. 7:9 NKJV). The only way to avoid sin in sexual matters is to be married or deny yourself. Let us teach our boys these simple choices.

In the reading of 2 Peter 1:5-11 we see that the virtue of self-control must be added to the Christian's character if he is to be saved. Are we teaching our boys to learn self-control? It seems to me that in too many cases we excuse our boys' lusts as something that just can't be helped or controlled. We say, "Boys will be boys." Boys may be boys, but boys can be taught to control themselves. As a matter of fact they must learn this to be saved. We are remiss as parents and older Christians if we do not teach them.

Let us teach our boys respect for God, girls and themselves in this matter of fornication.  
- Darrel Haub, via *Guardian of Truth*, 02/18/1993

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## ***Share a Quote ...***

To be righteous is to be free from guilt. If a man never sinned, he would be righteous by his own works. But all have sinned and are under condemnation. If no plan had been devised by which guilty sinners might be made righteous, the whole world would be lost without remedy. Some power had to be brought to bear on the sin-polluted sons and daughters of men that would make them clean and holy, or all were lost. Paul affirms that the power which accomplishes that very thing is the gospel. "But thanks be to God, that, whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto ye were delivered; and being made free from sin, ye became

servants of righteousness" (Romans 6:17, 18). When a sinner obeys the gospel, he is made free from sin; he is then in God's sight as free from sin as if he had never sinned; he is justified; he is righteous; he is clean. If the gospel did not accomplish this for the sinner, it would not be God's power to save. Such a person is not righteous because he has always lived right, but because he has obtained righteousness by becoming obedient to the gospel.

- Robertson L. Whiteside, *A New Commentary On Paul's Letter To The Saints At Rome*, 20-21.

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## **I Wanted to Change the World**

When I was a young man, I wanted to change the world.

I found it was difficult to change the world, so I tried to change my nation.

When I found I couldn't change the nation, I began to focus on my town.

I couldn't change the town, and as an older man, I tried to change my family.

Now, as an old man, I realize the only thing I can change is myself, and suddenly I realize that if long ago I had changed myself, I could have made an impact on my family.

My family and I could have made an impact on our town.

Their impact could have changed the nation, and I could indeed have changed the world.

- Author Unknown

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## **THE EASY WAY?**

One of the nagging problems with our generation is the elevation and popularity of the preferred way of doing things: "take the easy way!" Granted, there are many things to which this principle wisely applies. I had rather cut firewood with a chain saw than with an axe. I had rather cross the river as a passenger on a bus than an oarsman on a rowboat. But students of the Bible quickly realize that when the subject is living life as a servant of God, the guiding principle is NOT "take the easy way!"

The Lord God of heaven runs a challenging school, and any school of excellence employs discipline! We should not shrink back from the trials designed to refine us (cf. James 1:2-

4). Running from difficult lessons guided by the desire to find an easier way plays into the hand of our most vicious Adversary (cf. Matthew 4:8-10).

Christ, by His example, teaches us that the primary guiding principle is not: "take the easy way!"

For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. (1 Peter 2:21-24).

When we follow the steps of Christ, we follow the steps of suffering. When one takes Christ as his Lord he expects to suffer, and he values those trials because God has established such perseverance in them as greatly benefitting one's character (This works to sustain our hope, Romans 5:3-5.). The Philippian Christians rightly regarded suffering for Christ's sake as a great blessing: "For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake," (Philippians 1:29).

The apostles of Christ were not following any easy way when they defied the Jewish Council's orders to stop speaking in the name of Jesus, and a flogging did not deter them. They "went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name." (Acts 5:41). Moses, one of the great examples of faithfulness known to God's people, rejected the royal and easy path before him in the court of Egypt, "choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin," (Hebrews 11:25).

Had these faithfully strong Christians operated under the principle of "take the easy way," they would have strictly avoided saying and doing anything that would serve to generate wrath out of ill will from other people. By taking the easy way they would have avoided hatred, ridicule, and cruelty, but they would have also avoided the path of their Master. Paul declared that "we are children of God, ... heirs also ... of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him." (Romans 8:16-17). He went on to say, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us." (Romans 8:18; cf. 2 Corinthians 4:17).

To retreat from suffering for righteousness sake by choosing rather an easier way is to fail in gaining the reward. "It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will

deny us;" (2 Timothy 2:11-12). Christ suffered by preaching repentance and faith in Him as God's Son in the establishment of His kingdom. All citizens of the kingdom of God endure suffering for the sake of Christ. Failure in this is equivalent to disowning Him.

Are you taking the easy way?

- Gary Smalley

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\* "Today is the harvest of yesterday's sowings. Tomorrow will be harvest of today!"

\* "Before you flare up at anyone's faults, take time to count ten – ten of your own faults!"

\* "Since your life is your message, what message are you sending?"

\* "Many of us would like to move mountains, but few of us are willing to practice on small hills!"

\* "Prayer should be a significant part of our lives, and thanksgiving should be a significant part of our prayers (1 Thess. 5:17-18)!"

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## ***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)