

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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TAKE AN INTEREST IN OTHERS

There is no doubt that we know what we like and dislike. This will usually cause us to be drawn to or driven away from certain people, places and things. When we are interested, we look for ways to invest time, money and conversations so that we can continue in our own interests. This is easy and natural. However, what is not so easy and natural is looking to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:4-5 says, "do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,".

Sometimes our likes and dislikes aren't the same as others, and that's okay. However, that doesn't mean that we should not care for them and their different interests. In fact, at the beginning of this chapter in verse 1 that we are "encouraged in Christ", to look after the interest of others and not just our own.

We need to keep this in mind. WHY? Well number one, the Bible says so. But there is also something else that lurks upon us and I'm afraid that we don't realize it. Usually, if you don't have anything in common with someone else, there is an unintentional separation. With that separation, there is lack of communication. With that lack of communication, there comes of lack of interest in that person. With the lack of interest, there's a lack of love. And folks ... this is where we can fail.

Christ had the interest of all in mind. He had the interest of the FATHER in mind as He submitted Himself to GOD's will. He had our interest in mind when He left the throne of Heaven to die on the cross for you and me. He had His own interest in mind, which was love for all.

As Christians, followers of Christ, we will put others above ourselves because that's what Christ did.

I'd like to "encourage you in Christ" to do something before you scroll on, put your phone down or turn off your computer. Call or go to someone that you've unintentionally separated from because of things you don't have in common. Take an interest in their

soul. Let them know that you're there for them. Remind someone, GOD is Good and has a place prepared for HIS children and Jesus is the Way.

- Scott Richards

No amount of violence is acceptable in marriage!

Being married does not mean a wife must overlook her husband's abuse or make excuses for it. God does not want us to value marriage above life, safety, one's relationship with God, and the need for spousal repentance (ultimate goal).

Scripture says we are to honor our spouse. Scripture says the way we treat one another has a direct bearing on our God relationship. Scripture says our spouse is not *only* our spouse, but a child of God. For example, when a husband abuses his wife, he desecrates the sacred image of God in her.

This is serious stuff.

When a spouse becomes so angry that he loses control, the irony is... loss of control is used to maintain control. Sadly, the victim often self accuses: "I must have done something to cause this..." (backwards blaming) when, in fact, anger is not so much provoked as it is exposed. Anger exposes the heart. Jesus said that (Luke 6:43-45).

Kicking things - Breaking things - Slamming things - Blocking the door and badgering - Driving aggressively to scare her - Following around the house yelling/demanding - Violence, intimidation, and retaliation is not anger out of control, but the opposite. The oppressor/aggressor uses it to exert control.

"Marriage is honorable..." It's time we honored each other, bringing glory to the One who brought us together. No amount of violence is acceptable in marriage. It is sinful and... souls are at stake.

- Wilson Adams

Google Celebrates 50 Years of LGBTQ Pride

(2019)

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" (Romans 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" (Philippians 2:15).

- Heath Rogers

Fight Against Moral Decay!

American newspaper columnist Jack Anderson (1922–2005) was not the first, nor the last to document a statement such as this: "The greatest danger facing this nation or any nation is moral decay!" This principle has been proven repeatedly both in Biblical and secular history. Merely observe American culture and investigate our national government and the results of rejecting the Lord God and His Holy Bible are obvious, even to the blind!

Anderson's advice for reversing moral decay in America remains powerful today, seventeen years after his death: 1. "If it isn't right, don't do it!" 2. "If it isn't true, don't say it!" 3. "If it isn't yours, don't take it!" The entire world would be blessed by upholding such a standard! Wise Solomon's principles record: "Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to any people." (Proverbs 14:34).

"If it isn't right, don't do it!" The Lord God has blessed mankind with the perfect standard of right and wrong, of good and evil: it is the Holy Bible, the Word of God! The apostle Paul states, concerning the gospel of Christ: "For in it the righteousness of God is revealed" (Romans 1:17). If you are fortunate in that you have been taught from the Word of God, you may realize what King David wrote many years ago:

"The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward." (Psalms 19:7-11).

If you hold this teaching in your heart and conscience, even if you learned it orally as non-readers have passed it from generation to generation, you can overcome temptations to do wrong. You can do what is right. If it is wrong, don't do it!

"If it isn't true, don't say it!" It should be obvious that there are things we should say and things we should not say. Righteous people should say many things which glorify the Savior; they must speak: "the utterances of God" (1 Peter 4:11); how to "live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age" (Titus 2:12); "make a defense" of the hope of the gospel (1 Peter 3:15); "sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1); "speak the word of God without fear" (Philippians 1:14); "truth" (Ephesians 4:25); we should speak "to stimulate one another to love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24); "God's wisdom" (1 Corinthians 2:7); etc. Righteous people must refuse to say many things: "evil" and "deceit" (1 Peter 3:10); "deceptions" (2 Peter 2:13); "arrogant words of vanity" (2 Peter 2:18); words "against" a brother (James 4:11); we are to "malign no one" (Titus 3:2); "disgraceful" things (Ephesians 5:11-12); "falsehood" (Ephesians 4:25); speech emanating from "enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions," (Galatians 5:20); "slander" (Proverbs 10:18); etc. If the righteous fail to expose and condemn sin who will do it? Care must be taken to speak only the truth with love, gentleness and wisdom. If you do not know all of the facts or what is true, then don't say it!

"If it isn't yours, don't take it!" To take anything without permission to do so from the owner is stealing. The Scriptures are clear: stealing is sinful (Romans 13:9; Ephesians 4:28). In some societies of the world, a bicycle left in the open overnight will be there the following morning. In other societies, every home is surrounded by high walls or fences with broken glass, barbed wire, or razor wire on top. In any nation, sins that are tolerated will increase! If something does not belong to you, don't take it!

- Gary Smalley

- * "Jesus is the only fountain who can satisfy the thirsty soul!"
 - * "Spoiled children are given what they want; wise parents give them what they need!"
 - * "No one ever grows fat on excuses, but everybody gets fed up with them!"
 - * "If a sermon pricks the conscience, it has some good points!"
 - * "All people make mistakes; that's why they put erasers on pencils!"
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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)