

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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

May 10, 2026

Volume 46, # 19

If My Companion Were Not A Christian

"Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; while they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear." (1 Peter 3:1-2).

The greatest desire of a believer should be the conversion of his companion who is not a Christian. If they are truly converted themselves, if they are completely devoted Christians, then they will want the unbelieving husband or wife to be a Christian, then I would do certain things that would assist in converting that companion to Christ.

I would see that the right kind of literature and study material was in the home.

I would show my love of the Bible and my consideration of its importance by reading it and studying it daily. And I would try to get my companion to study with me. I would be faithful to the church in its every assembly. I would allow nothing to interfere with my attendance at every worship service.

I would be Christ-like in the home with all conduct being governed by the gospel of Christ. In this behavior I would exemplify the joy and happiness to be gained in living the Christian life.

I would show the importance of Christian work by working in whatever capacity I was able so that the kingdom of Christ might advance and be successful.

I would make it possible for my companion to be associated with those who were Christians and who exalted the church in their living.

- Foster L. Ramsey

Motivation for Obedient Faith

Knowledge of the truth is essential in order that one be pleasing to God. Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32). But simply because we have knowledge does not guarantee that we will live in accordance with that knowledge. What then motivates us, what determines volition and choice, what moves us to action "unto obedience of faith"? (Romans 1:5).

Accountability. A strong sense of accountability is powerful motivation for obedience. "The wicked, in the pride of his countenance saith, He will not require it. All his thoughts are, There is no God." "He saith in his heart, God hath forgotten; he will never see it." (Psalms 10:4, 11). These false views of God, held by the wicked, reduce God to being either non-existent, or one who cannot see, cannot remember, and will not require man to account for the way in which he has lived. Such views are erroneous. God "commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent; inasmuch as he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness." (Acts 17:30-31).

Desire for righteousness. "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." (Matthew 5:6). Hunger and thirst are strong desires. Jesus is saying that one should have an intense desire for righteousness. Righteousness is the matter of being justified from sin, of being right with God. Those who have an intense desire for this relationship with God will be motivated to submit eagerly to His will.

Love. Jesus said, "If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments." (John 14:15). John wrote, "We love, because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19). Ideally, in the parent-child relationship, the child wants to do that which will please his parents, because he loves them. The child would not do that which would hurt and grieve his parents, if he truly loves them. When men and women love God, they will be moved to do those things pleasing to Him. When we have a keen awareness of how sin grieves the God who made us and loves us, we will leave off those things that are sinful.

Because of your accountability unto God, and the desire for righteousness, as well as love and gratitude which you ought to have, we encourage you to submit to the conditions of the Gospel. We would be happy to assist you.

- Leon Mauldin

Clippings . . .

BIBLE SUBMISSION

"To actually and truly stand upon the Bible then is to believe and do the things that the Bible teaches, and to leave undone everything that it does not teach. No man can allow his preference or his opinion to prevent him from doing anything that the Scriptures require; nor can he permit them to incite him to do anything as service to God that they do not authorize and command.

In no other way can anyone rightfully say that the Bible is his guide, and that he stands candidly, and fully on Bible ground."

- James A. Allen in APOSTOLIC TIMES, January, 1954

I Betrothed You!

In 2 Corinthians 11:2, Paul told the Corinthians, "For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin." Having an intense zeal and interest in these Christians is the good kind of jealousy, "godly jealousy." He was very zealous to present them to Christ as pure virgins, just as a father whose duty it is to assure the chastity of his daughter during this time leading up to the wedding, the betrothal period (an exclusive contract of marriage according to the Jewish marriage laws).

Under Jewish marriage laws, to be betrothed or espoused was a promise to be married to another that could only be severed by death or divorce. Infidelity during this time period, prior to the marriage ceremony and consummation, was punishable as adultery (cf. Mary and Joseph, Matthew 1:18-25).

As a father who had betrothed his virgin daughter to a man, Paul was the servant who brought the Corinthians to Christ by means of the gospel (1 Corinthians 4:15), "I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin." Consequently, it was Paul's solemn obligation to do all that he possibly could to keep these believers pure, without stain or blemish at the second coming of Christ, "the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless." (Ephesians 5:27), "made ready as a bride adorned for her husband." (Revelation 21:2).

- Gary Smalley

- * "Drifting people are like icebergs; wherever they go they lower the temperature!"
 - * "A smooth sea never made a successful sailor!"
 - * "You will never get ahead of the person you are trying to get even with!"
 - * "Kindness is the oil that takes the friction out of life!"
 - * "It is better to be despised for the right than to be praised for the wrong!"
-

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)