

church, and in **Hebrews 3:6** it says, "but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end". In **Ephesians 5:23** Paul writes that "Christ is the head of the church". Those who are Christians, obedient to the gospel of Christ found in the New Testament are children of God, sons and heirs (**Gal. 4:7**). In **Galatians 3:26** we read, "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus." Therefore, being baptized puts one in fellowship with God and Jesus. One can conclude that all of God's children are in God's family, and God's family is the church, therefore all of God's children are in the church. (Roy E. Cogdill, The New Testament Church, p. 4).

This family relationship demands that there be a separation from the world. In **2 Corinthians 7:1** Paul writes, "let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit" which is very applicable for us today. In **1 John 2:15-16**, John warns one about the world: "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world". This relationship also demands obedience as children of God. Peter's instructions in **1 Peter 1:14-16**, "as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

This relationship further demands that one love the brethren. John the beloved apostle writes in **1 John 4:7**, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and eve-

ryone who loves is born of God and knows God". Again in **1 John 4:20-21**, "If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also" further demonstrates the interaction among Christians. One is to wear the name Christian.

In **Acts 4:11-12** Peter states, "This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved". Paul instructs us in **Colossians 3:17**, "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him".

Questions for thought: (1) If the church is God's family, how many churches does God have? (2) How do you become a child of God? and (3) Can a child of God be finally disinherited? (**1 Peter 1:3-5**).

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

NATURE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- The Holy Spirit is not an "it"
- He knows (**1 Corinthians 2:11**)
- He has a will (**1 Corinthians 12:11**)
- He loves (**Romans 5:5; 15:30**)
- He grieves (**Ephesians 4:30**)
- He can be insulted (**Hebrews 10:29**)
- The Holy Spirit is not an "it" or a force. He is the third personality of the God-head. (**See 2 Cor. 13:14**) ♦

**If a hypocrite is between you and God,
He must be closer to God than you are.**

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew

How to Contact Us	Our Address	Schedule of Assembly
Telephone: (920)499-5677 E-mail: hillcrestcofc@live.com  	1621 Hillcrest Drive Green Bay, WI 54313 	Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm* <small>*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month</small>
www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com		



The Voice of Truth



March 21, 2010

"IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD"

By Jimmy Pettigrew

James wrote, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up," **James 4:10**. This verse tells us that one is always in the sight of the Lord. "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil," **1 Peter 3:12**. We are prone to accept only that which is visible; and since we cannot see God watching, we are unmindful of His constant surveillance! So, it is difficult for any of us to remember always that there is an all seeing eye watching our every act at all times. Yet, we're told, "The Lord looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth," **Psalms 33:13-14**. God sees and knows all that takes place in the world. "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good," **Proverbs 15:3**. There is no possible way to escape this all seeing eye of God! "For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings," **Job 34:21**.

Since God knows all our goings, we should be aware of this, and live accordingly! We should have the same conviction as Hagar in saying, "Thou God seest me," **Genesis 16:13**. Are we conscious of this as we plan and proceed in our daily affairs? God sees and reads us constantly! Should we marvel that He watches and knows of our thoughts and deeds? "Hell and destruction are before the Lord: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?" **Proverbs 15:11**.

Man becomes utterly foolish in thinking that he can fool God and hide his sinful behavior! "Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?" **Isaiah**

29:15. "Be sure you sin will find you out," **Numbers 32:23**. "The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart," **1 Samuel 16:7**. Are we conscious throughout every day that God is very near, regardless of where we may be, and that He is silently observing our deeds and hearing our speech? Man cannot escape from Him! When the saints of God realize they are never alone, but are forever in the presence of God (**Hebrews 4:13**), they will act more like children of God! ♦

Behavior In Worship

By Gene Taylor

True worship, extended in the proper manner and spirit, will edify us and intensify the hope of heaven. But when our worship is not taken seriously, our actions are impotent and our spirituality weakened.

Worshiping God is a serious matter which should not be taken lightly. When Christians assemble for worship, Jesus is with them in a special way (**Matt. 18:20**). Therefore, whatever is done at worship services is done openly before Him and whatever hinders His people from worshiping Him affects Him (remember the teaching of **Matthew 25:31-46**, i.e., what is done to his brothers is done to Him).

Historically, as a people, we have had behavior problems at services. There is noise before services and distractions during services (in and out of restrooms, note-passing, talking, etc.).

The Heart Of The Problem

What is at the heart of these problems? Is it a lack of love? For some it is, especially

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young people. Some youngsters are only at services because their parents make them come. But for most this is not the reason. Is it a lack of desire? I do not think so. Most of those who are present desire to please God or they would not be there. The cause of these problems is a lack of appreciation for the sanctity of worship.

Too many people possess an attitude that is just too casual for proper worship. Some approach the worship services of the church with the same attitude they have in engaging in secular activities such as attending school, going to work or even going to the doctor. If problems with worship are going to be solved and people are ever going to worship properly, the attitudes with which they view worship must improve.

What Misbehavior At Worship Services Reveals

Misbehavior at services reveals a lack of respect for the speaker. The preacher or Bible class teacher deserves respect because of the word he is teaching (see **Heb. 12:25-26**). When people act improperly during preaching or in a Bible class, talking when the preacher or teacher is talking, interrupting in class, laughing and cutting up, etc., they have a disregard for both the messenger and the message. Too many, both young and old, view the speaker with the same attitude with which they view a secular teacher.

Misbehavior at services among the young shows a lack of respect for parents. Young people, your parents have often suffered to give you life, to care for you when you could not care for yourself, to clothe you, feed you, and stand by you. How do you think it makes them feel to learn you caused a disturbance during Bible classes or preaching? Consider **Proverbs 15:5**: "A fool despises his father's instruction, But he who receives correction is prudent."

Misbehavior at services shows a lack of respect for those sitting nearby. It is hard to teach and even harder to listen when there

are distractions and disruptions all around you. All people, young and old, need to be considerate of those around them. Also, they need to remember their behavior impacts visitors. Visitors may be watching and judging the Lord's church by your actions. Just recently I heard a visitor to our services comment to one of our members after services had ended that they had never seen so many people with weak bladders.

Misbehavior at services shows a lack of maturity. All young people are anxious to grow up and become adults. But when they, and those who are older, misbehave they are acting like children.

Misbehavior at services demonstrates a lack of respect for God. It is one thing not to respect the preacher or teacher but it is another thing altogether to show disrespect to the all-mighty God of heaven. Ask yourself, are the things you do when misbehaving at services (talking, giggling, laughing, gazing about, punching each other, writing notes, playing with trading cards, interrupting, making rude remarks, etc.) worth losing your soul over? God takes it that seriously. We should have His same attitude.

Some Suggested Remedies

Parents, begin training early. Do not just teach your children to be quiet. Teach them to reverence and respect God. Sit near the front where there are fewer distractions. Sit as a family. Do not let your children routinely go to the restroom. Do not let your children play. While toddlers may need something for entertainment, children of five or six years old and up can sit quietly and listen and participate. You will be amazed how soon they will learn the words of the songs and what they might glean from the lesson. Understand, it is not enough just to bring your children to services. They must be doing what is proper while they are here if they are to benefit from them and develop an interest in spiritual things.

Set a good example before your children. Show interest and attention. Do not sleep or

engage in activities which are secular. Show the proper respect for the speaker or Bible class teacher. Speak highly of worship periods in front of your children. Pray for God's help.

Realize where you are and who is there. When you are assembled with His people, you are in the temple of the living God (**1 Cor. 3:16**). Both the Father and the Son are present, so act accordingly.

Follow the advice of **2 Corinthians 10:5** to bring "every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

Conclusion

Worship is a blessed privilege that should be guarded with love, zeal and a realization of its worth and value. No one in his right mind should ever be guilty of misbehaving or acting inappropriately during worship services or Bible classes. All should act responsibly and properly before God.

Credit: www.padfield.com ♦

Church: The Household Of God By Mark T. Nevins

This is the second article in a series of articles on the church which came into existence on the day of Pentecost in **Acts 2**. The New Testament uses various descriptive phrases to describe the Lord's church and to emphasize a particular aspect of it. This study focuses on the description of a "household." All Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version unless otherwise specified.

When one thinks about a household, he may think of a house where the family lives and interacts with each other. In **Acts 10:2** one reads about Cornelius and his house. Cornelius was, "a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always". Another example of a household is seen when we read about Noah's preparation of the ark, "By faith Noah, being

divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith" (**Heb. 11:7**). There are other lessons found within these verses but for this article the focus is on the "household" which is seen to have individual family members interacting.

One sees the physical household within the New Testament, but what about any spiritual aspect that would pertain to the church? Paul writes to Timothy in **1 Timothy 3:15** and says, "but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." This passage shows the terms "house of God" and "church of the living God" used interchangeably. As one turns in the New Testament, Paul writes to the saints who are at Ephesus in **Ephesians 2:19-20**, "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone". In the verses before these, Paul makes the argument that Jesus through the cross reconciled both Jews and Gentiles into one body and through Him all can have access to God, the Father. Therefore we are members of the "house of God," which is built on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

In the physical household, you have those in authority (father, mother) and those that are subject to that authority (children). This same feature is true within God's family, the church. God is the Father of the church. In **Ephesians 3:14** Paul writes, "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Again in **Ephesians 4:6**, "one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all". Jesus in His ministry states in **Matthew 23:9**, "Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven". In **Colossians 1:18** one reads that Christ is the head of the