

listens to his brother in private that should be the end of the matter; no one else should ever know of the "sin."

2) This passage does not deal with "church discipline." The church is not commanded to do anything in this passage. The Bible has much to say about church discipline, but not in this passage.

3) Problems between brethren need to be dealt with quickly. *"Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath"* (Ephesians 4:26). If not taken care of promptly, problems between brethren will grow like a cancer.

4) **Matthew 18** does not deal with public sin, but private disagreements between brethren. Some mistakenly believe all rebuke of sin must be done in private first. Such an attitude is not in harmony with apostolic examples.

When Peter stopped associating with the Gentiles, Paul publicly rebuked him in the presence of many brethren. Paul said he *"rebuked him to the face, because he was to be blamed"* (Gal. 2:11). Peter's public hypocrisy was a blight on the name of the church and cried out for a public rebuke.

The fornicator at Corinth was publicly rebuked by Paul without the benefit of a private meeting first (1 Corinthians 5:1-13). Everyone at the church in Corinth already knew of his sin, and instead of mourning, they were *"puffed up."* Paul, *"absent in body but present in spirit,"* commanded the church to *"deliver such a one to Satan."* According to some, Paul should have gone to this man privately before writing the letter.

John warned "beloved" Gaius about Diotrephes in 3 John 1:9. Diotrephes *"loved to*

have the pre-eminence" among brethren. John said, *"if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church"* (3 John 1:10). It is obvious that John had not talked with Diotrephes before he wrote to Gaius. Public sin needs to be dealt with in public.

The children of God are not immune from sin. If our sins becomes public knowledge, let us have the courage to make public correction. *Credit: www.padfield.com* ♦

ONE MAN SAID

"I do not go to church on Sunday because I was never taught to go when I was young, so I did not form the habit," so said one man. Another man says: "I do not go to church on Sunday because I was forced to go when I was young, and it grew distasteful to me." Someone else said: "One excuse is as good as another when you do not want to do a thing." Still another man said: *"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord," Psalm 122:1.* We ought to pay attention to the wisest one! *-borrowed-* ♦

A pint of example is worth a barrel full of advice.

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*



*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com



The Voice of Truth



March 28, 2010

What Is Influence?

By Jimmy Pettigrew

Influence is that moral or spiritual force, or power, by which we have an effect upon a person. The power of influence is staggering! Webster defines influence as "The acts or power of producing an effect." Human behavior is **POWERFUL!**

The world urgently needs worthy examples of Christians. Christians are to imitate God in purity in order that the world may see God living in us! How is your influence???? ♦

HINDERING THE GOSPEL

By Jimmy Pettigrew

There is nothing more impressive than the influence of a pure Christian life. It is the most powerful, undeniable argument for Christianity; read carefully **Matthew 5:13-16**. Here Jesus is saying that the citizens of His kingdom are to have a saving influence in the world. Salt is good and useful for purifying and preserving. Faithful followers of the Christ are to the human race what salt is to food. They are to preserve the life of Christ in the world.

In **Acts 5:39**, Gamaliel warned the Sanhedrin to be careful concerning their treatment of the apostles, *"lest haply we be found even to fight against God."* The Sanhedrin were trying to stop the apostles from spreading the gospel of Christ (**Acts 5:27-28**). They were trying to hinder the gospel of Christ (**1 Corinthians 9:12**). They were foolish to hinder the progress of the gospel. It is a fearful thing to hinder the truth of God, and God's wrath is revealed against all who hinder His truth (**Romans 1:18**). Even church members often hinder the truth! How?

Jesus said if the salt has lost its genuine salty quality, it is fit for nothing; this is the reason it is cast into the street where it is trodden under foot of men. So, if the disciples of Jesus have lost their savor, they, too, are good for nothing, but to be cast out. The salt of Palestine is not made from clean salt water, but from marshes along the sea, and is so mixed with impurities as not to keep its quality very well. Sometimes it becomes utterly worthless, without taste and without value; it's good for nothing, but it actually destroys all fertility wherever it is thrown. This is the reason why it is cast into the street. A Christian who doesn't have that saving influence in the world is good for nothing, but actually destroys the cause of Christ! If Christians become untrue and degenerate spiritually, they cannot have a good influence on the world. Christians should guard against losing their identity in the world; rather, they are to influence the world to become Christ-like. The Christian is not worldly, but he is always touching lives of the world.

1. When we fail to live as we should (**1 Peter 1:14-15; Titus 2:12; Romans 12:1-2**).
2. When we do not attend the assemblies (**Hebrews 10:25; Matthew 6:33; Psalm 122:1**).
3. When we fail to develop and grow as Christians (**Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 Peter 2:1-2; 2 Peter 3:18**).
4. When we fail to depend on God (**Hebrews 13:5; 1 Peter 5:7; Psalm 37:5; 55:22**).
5. When we fail to give as we should (**2 Corinthians 9:6-7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Acts 11:29**).

These are some ways that we as Christians hinder the gospel of Christ. Satan is having a "field day" with many professing Christians. Brethren, *"Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ,"* **Philippians 1:27**. ♦

CONTINUED INSIDE...

“Why Bring Christ Back To Earth?”

By Jarrod Jacobs

The false doctrine of premillennialism (Christ's return to earth to rule for 1000 years) is deeply ingrained in our society. It is therefore necessary that we, as children of God, arm ourselves with the truth so that we can show people the truth concerning Christ's promised return (**Acts 1:9-11; I Thess. 4:13-18; etc.**). A study of the Bible shows us that Christ will not return to walk the earth. In fact, such teaching is contradictory to plain statements in Scripture. Therefore, “Why bring Christ back to the earth?”

His Mission Of Redemption Is Complete.

Ephesians 1:7-10 says, “*In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.*” Seeing that this age is the “fulness of times”, God has gathered “together in one all things.” Thus, we now have the Plan of Salvation in its fullness and simplicity, “in Christ.” Why do we need Christ to come back to earth? We have redemption now through Christ's shed blood (**Col. 1:13-14**).

His Revelation Is Complete.

Let us read **Jude 3**. “*Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*” Jude stated that “the faith” (gospel) was given once. This means that “the faith” was once and for all delivered unto the saints. Jesus is not going to reveal any “new” doctrine to man. It is not going to be delivered again. Humanity has had access to Christ's complete doctrine

since the first century.

His Authority Is Complete.

In **Matthew 28:18-20**, we read, “*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*” When Christ commanded His disciples, He did so by His authority. We know He had all authority back then, because it was exercised in the pardon of those baptized on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2:38**). They were convicted of sin, and wanted relief from that sin. They were told the conditions of salvation, and about 3000 were baptized “in the name of the Jesus Christ” (by His authority)! Jesus had as much authority then as He does now; **all authority!** How then can He return and claim more authority when He has all of it right now??

In addition to this, **Colossians 3:17** tells us, “*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*” All things we do must be by His name or authority. In like manner, the Philippians were told, “*Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*” (**Phil. 2:9-11**). The word “name” means “position, rank, and title.” A position calls for both rank and title, and this is what Christ has. Christ has authority no one else can have. He has a position no one else can obtain. Seeing these things are true, then to bring Christ to the earth would actually be a demotion in position, rank, and title! Why do this?

His Kingdom Is Complete.

The kingdom of Christ is with us today, for those who are Christians are “translated” (transferred/transplanted) into this kingdom (**Col. 1:13; Heb. 12:28**). **II Timothy 4:1** says, “*I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom....*” To follow premillennialism puts one in the position of believing either the judgment is too early, or the kingdom is too late. According to Paul, we are in the kingdom and will be judged by His laws. Who will you believe? The apostle Paul, or those promoting their own cause?

His Glory Is Complete.

Let us look now to **I Peter 1:19-21**. There it says, “*But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.*” Also, in **John 17:5**, we read, “*And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.*” These passages show us that His glory is complete. Just as His name was above every name, so His glory is the same. To bring Jesus to this earth again would only diminish the glory He now has.

His Work Is Complete.

In **John 17:4**, we read “*I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.*” In connection with this, read **John 19:30**: “*When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*” Jesus knew when His work was complete. In other words, there is nothing left for Jesus to do on earth! Jesus plainly said many times that He came to do His Father's work, and to please His Father. At the end of His earth-life He said, “*It is finished.*” Christ knew He had done all His Fa-

ther had commanded, now it is up to us to realize it!

We Are Complete.

The book of **Colossians 2:10** reads, “*And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.*” Christ has completed the work given Him. He has completed His institution, the church, and has made us complete in it. Why would Christ need to return to earth?

Conclusion

There is no need for Christ to return to the earth, for He has done all He is going to do, and has been given all glory, dominion, and power. Why bring my Lord and Savior to earth and demote Him? Friends, do not fall for the premillennial error!

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

Problems Between Brethren

By David Padfield

Problems between brethren are nothing new. Paul and Barnabas disagreed over whether or not to take John Mark with them on their second journey. Luke said, “*the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another*” (**Acts 15:39**). Paul would later write that John Mark was “*useful to me for ministry*” (**2 Timothy 4:11**).

What should you do when a brother in Christ sins against you? Jesus said to “*go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear you, take with you one or two more, that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector*” (**Matt. 18:15-17**).

A few observations about this much abused passage:

1) Jesus goes from the private, to the semi-private, to the public. If the one in error