

THE ONE BODY

The church is the body of Christ, "And he is the head of the body, the church (Col. 1:18). There is only one body, one church. "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (Eph. 1:22-23). The New Testament teaches that there is only one body; this one body is the church. We are "fellow heirs of the same body" (Eph. 3:6). We are "reconciled to God in one body" (Eph. 2:16). Christ is founder of only one church. "Upon this rock I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18). Jesus did not say that we would build a church, His church or one of His churches. He said, "I will build my church." The word "church" signifies singularity. Jesus did not build many different churches, but one! None should encourage any to seek the church of your choice, but the church of Christ's choice, that is, the one that is Christ-built, blood-bought (Acts 20:28), the one in which He is the Saviour of (Eph. 5:23).

Since there is one, and only one church and since Christ saves only those in that one church; thus, if one living today is not a member of that church (Rom. 16:16), then he is not saved.

Do You Just Belong?

- Are you an active member?
- The kind that would be missed?
- Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?
- Do you attend the meeting and mingle with the flock?
- Or do you stay away to criticize and knock?
- Do you take an active part to help the work along?
- Or are you satisfied to only just belong?
- Think this over, my dear friends:
- I know you won't go wrong.
- Are you an active member, or do you just belong?

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

*A faith that will not take us to worship will not
Take us to heaven!*

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3
- Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24
- Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30
- Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27
- Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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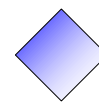


Schedule of Assembly

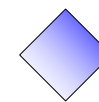
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

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

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The Voice of Truth



May 13, 2012

The Bible Is the Blueprint for Human Conduct

By Jimmy Pettigrew

The word of God, the scriptures, offers to mankind principles to help them make decisions in all areas of human conduct. For many years, atheistic, pagan philosophers have assumed the duty to teach what they feel is right for human conduct. "Every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25). These men have failed every time because they have failed to consider what God has said in His words on a given conduct pattern. "They have rejected the word of the Lord; and what wisdom is in them?" (Jeremiah 8:9). "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12). The Bible offers a clear voice, and throws light on how we are to live.

Listen carefully: there can be no morality without God! Why? Because God is the absolute standard of good (Matthew 19:17; 1 John 1:5; 1 Samuel 2:2; Psalms 147:17; Isaiah 45:19; Hosea 9:11; Habakkuk 1:13). We are told that the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared unto all men, "teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:11-12). Peter added: "According as his divine power hath given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue" (2 Peter 1:3). Man cannot know right and wrong by reasoning on his own: "O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith Jehovah. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

The world about us makes little effort to follow the blueprint of the word of God. People have rejected God's standard. We are living in a time when little attention is given to the word of God and much attention is given to doing what pleases the desire of men. Many have no regard for the moral teachings of the Bible. There is simply too much

of "Hell" in the world today. The sinful world has always condoned evil practices, such as dancing, immodest dress, profanity, gambling, fornication, and the use of alcohol. We must return to the teaching of God's standard found in His word (Galatians 5:19-21). It must be taught what God has said about the sins of adultery, homosexuality, fornication, immodesty, drinking and any form of loose living. People believe they have the right to act as they wish. Wrong! What we do in word or deed we are to do all in the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:17). "Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).

The word of God provides us with righteousness (Proverbs 14:34; Psalms 33:12). "Every word of God is pure" (Proverbs 30:5). There is a standard of behavior that God expects men to follow, and it's in His word, the blueprint of human conduct. All men everywhere need to return to the wholesome purity Jesus stressed in Matthew 5:8. God's word is man's light, lamp and path (Psalm 119:105); it is man's hope against sin (Psalm 119:11); it sanctifies (John 17:17); it cleanses (Ephesians 5:26); it gives us understanding (Psalms 119:130); it has the power to produce godliness (2 Peter 1:3); to produce a new life (James 1:18; Romans 6:17-18).

Notice what Ezekiel told the children of Israel, "And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean" (Ezekiel 44:23). God's word does that for us today; it is our blueprint for human conduct. The Bible moral code is wonderfully practical; every moral rule that God has given is for our good. The gospel changes the heart or thinking; the mind is renewed (Romans 12:1-2).

Man is incapable of directing his steps in life. The Israelites had attempted to direct their lives; they had forsaken God's way: the result is captivity! The scriptures

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must be the foundation of any moral restoration. The Bible

alone is our answer! It is past high time that God's morality found its way back into the lives of men and women. ♦

"Attitudes We Need To Avoid"

By Jarrod Jacobs

There are some people who are guilty of wrong attitudes, which result in wrong actions. We are not immune to such wrong dispositions. The Bible tells us of some who had wrong attitudes, and as a result, sinned. Let us consider the following.

Some Have A Proud Attitude.

Perhaps pride is one of the worst attitudes. It has raised its ugly head on many occasions. Pride is a dangerous attitude we are warned about on many occasions in the Bible. The Holy Spirit, through Solomon, warned of pride many times in the book of **Proverbs**. *"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate" (8:13). "When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom" (11:2). "In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride..." (14:3). "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (16:18). "A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit" (29:23).*

We see several in the Bible who displayed pride. Consider Diotrefes who loved *"to have the preeminence" (III Jn. 9)*. Because of his pride, he *"receiveth us not."* He not only used malicious words against John and others, but did not receive brethren, and *"forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church."* This man was so lifted up with pride, that he was literally out of control. He would allow nothing and no one to question his preeminence he had in that local church. Friends, this is as wrong as it can be!

Other examples of pride include King Nebuchadnezzar, who lost his kingdom for a time because he thought he was a "self-made man." This was wrong. (**Dan. 4:30-37, 5:20**). Ultimately, his grandson Belshazzar lost the kingdom forever because of his pride (**Dan. 5:22-31**). **Hosea 5:5-7** records that even God's people Israel were guilty of pride. As a result, God withdrew Himself from them.

God has no part nor lot with a proud man. One with pride cannot be God's child. He uses those who are humble (**I Pet. 5:5-6**). Friends, do you have a proud attitude? If so, you need to change, for God hates that attitude (**Prov. 6:16-17**).

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and by him all things consist." Consist means *"to set together, i.e. (by impl.) to introduce (favorably), or (fig.) to exhibit; intrans. to stand near, or (fig.) to constitute:--approve, commend, ... make, stand (with)" (Strong's)*. The NAS says, *"in Him all things hold together."* In other words, were it not for our Lord, nothing would even exist! How dare we think we are self-sufficient in any way? How many times have we sang, *"I Need Thee Every Hour"*? Do we really mean that? Or, is our attitude toward Christ one of "don't call me, I'll call you"?

Some who had a self-sufficient attitude include the rich fool of **Luke 12**. Jesus, in speaking of him, showed that this man thought he had provided all of this for himself. Notice in **Luke 12:16-21**, that the personal pronoun "I" is used by him 6 times in this short account. He had not thought about God, nor thanked Him for the bounty. He was merely concerned for himself, and lost it all in a night!

The Christians James wrote to thought they were self-sufficient as well. James told them, *"Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil" (Jas. 4:13-16)*.

Their proud, arrogant boasting was evil in God's sight. They thought they were self-sufficient, could provide for their own, and did not need to include God at any point. They were wrong then, and we are wrong today if we think we do not need God. We do not know what may come tomorrow (**Prov. 27:1**). Therefore, we need to remember who holds tomorrow, and live for Him!

Some Have An Apathetic Attitude.

To show apathy is to not show interest or concern.

Things That Impress Visitors

1. Members that day dream or sleep through sermon; talk during observance of the Lord's Supper.
2. Members that open a bottle of pop during services which makes a noise each time it opens.
3. Scribbling in and playing with the hymnals.
4. Members who whisper, talk, write notes, and pass pictures, etc. during services.
5. Members who are privileged to serve during the worship, but are so over medicated that they sound drunk.
6. Persistent late-comers who disturb and distract the worshipers.
7. Members who do not speak to visitors. ♦

Therefore, those who show apathy toward the Lord and His church show no concern or interest for the Lord and His church. This can do nothing but damage people spiritually. Yet, there are many today so caught up in worldly pursuits, that they have no interest, nor concern for the things that are most important.

There are many apathetic people mentioned in the Bible. Consider the fact that Paul had to remind those *"that are rich in this world"* that they had a responsibility to the Lord and His cause (**I Tim. 6:17-19**). If they were not careful, they would only show their interest in material pursuits, and no interest in the Lord. Another who was apathetic was Agrippa. When faced with the greatest decision one can make in this life, he refused, saying, *"Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian" (Acts 26:28)*. He was very aware of the doctrine of Christ (**v.26**), but had no interest or concern in it, nor for his soul. In fact, there are many today who show that their interests lie in other things beside the gospel. When people show apathy toward the Lord and His church, it shows that we need to watch ourselves lest we also become apathetic (**I Cor. 10:12, 15:33**).

Conclusion

As always, we need to examine ourselves (**II Cor. 13:5**). Let us make sure we are not guilty of these wrong attitudes, for they will develop into wrong actions! In some, it is already apparent what attitude they have. Let us do our best to live by the Bible, to follow its precepts, and love the Author. If we are guilty of harboring any of the attitudes we have studied, then let us repent and turn from those things while we have the time to do so. May God help us all to have the right attitude, to live for Him, and look forward to Heaven when this life is over.

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦