



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

January 7, 2020

When Misunderstood

It will happen, at least occasionally. A remark you make gets taken out of context, will not be correctly heard, or will be heard through the personal filters of the listener. Your facial expressions and body language may not accurately express your feelings or at least not tell the whole story. People may ignore the adage, "Believe none of what you hear and only half of what you see." While that truism may be naive and certainly not entirely true, we've all been on the receiving end of others' misunderstandings of what we've written, said, or done. What do we do when we feel we've been unfairly treated by the misunderstandings of others? Consider the following:

- Try to understand others better. Everybody has been through the same thing. I need to make sure I've not misunderstood intonation, intention, motivation, emotion, or information. It's easy to happen.
- Don't obsess over the hurt. The world has enough victims, and the perpetual victim is exhausting. I cannot afford to fixate on the fracture. I am usually best served to let it go.
- Rejoice in the great company you are keeping. Jesus' whole life and ministry was misunderstood by the religious leaders of His day. Their misunderstanding was certainly not the meat of His mission. His eyes focused on the bigger picture. He was perfectly sinless and still unjustly treated. I can rejoice when I'm in a similar position, sinful though I am.
- Turn to God, not gossip. This is hard! The urge to lash out and retaliate can seem irresistible, but it's definitely possible. How much greater peace and harmony would come if we resolved to pray (even for the "misunderstander") when misunderstood?
- Redouble your efforts to spread salt and light. I may be tempted to throw up my hands and say, "What's the use? If this is what I get, I quit." That doesn't sound so good when I can read it in print. Instead, I need to strive harder to do good.
- If necessary, clarify but with utmost love and kindness. But, let me do some serious soul-searching and ask, "Is it really necessary?" Can I turn my cheek(s) and move on? If I truly cannot, I need to cleanse my heart of sinful anger and act in genuine love and kindness toward my "aggressor."
- Remember that wisdom is justified of her children. Ultimately, the body of work that is your life will leave a clear impression. Most people who know us know more about us than we think. They see what side of the ledger our lives are lived on and they draw conclusions accordingly. I just need to be characterized by righteousness and good works.
- Be sure you are communicating clearly. Communication is a problem in every medium and relationship. Some do better than others, but all make mistakes. When I am misunderstood, I need the humility and honesty to step back and ask if I asked for a reaction through unclear meaning or veiled messages.

I hate to be misunderstood. But as with every other trial, I can often find blessings even in these distasteful situations. My prayer is that I will not be conformed to the world (or the worldly), but I can be transformed by the renewing of my mind. That's going to turn out for the best (Romans 12:1-2). ~ copied

Characteristics of a Growing Church

Phenomenal growth characterized the early church. Starting with about 3000 conversions on Pentecost Day (Acts 2:41), it wasn't long until the number of men reached 5000 (4:4). When we get to 5:14, "believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women." Dizzying, isn't it? What characteristics produced such growth? Can we develop those same qualities?

Obviously, our first-century brethren were intensely evangelistic. Even when threatened with severe punishment, they proclaimed the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and salvation through Him (Acts 3 & 4). But it doesn't stop there. Evangelism bears fruit only when people are listening. What motivated the crowds to hear?

The early church had credibility, and for good reason! Generous brethren gave bountifully to supply the needs of the less fortunate (2:44, 45). As a result, the church enjoyed "favor with all the people" (2:47). Someone has observed that "people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." By demonstrating the love of Jesus, the Christians in Jerusalem earned the right to be heard.

A couple of them, however, sought to be praised rather than to be helpful. Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, lied about their contribution, claiming to have donated the full proceeds from selling a possession when, in fact, they gave only part of it. Peter affirmed that they had every right to keep a part for their own use (5:4). Their sin was in lying about it. Ananias was struck dead instantly, carried out, and buried without ceremony; Sapphira, appearing later, suffered the same fate. "So great fear came upon the church and upon all who heard these things . . . but the people esteemed them highly" (5:11, 13). Here was a church that upheld high standards! Even worldly people respected that. In our day, when so many are afraid to say or do anything that might seem "intolerant" or "judgmental," we might take a lesson from Acts 5!

Besides being evangelistic, being generous, and upholding high standards, these brethren were unified. "And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch" (5:12b). Nobody complained when Ananias and Sapphira were severely disciplined. None were introducing strange new doctrines or practices. Such unity attracts people who are weary of the world's chaos. They crave the rest that Jesus offers. No wonder they listened to the gospel. No wonder the church grew!

~ Joe Slater

YOUTH NEWS!


- ◇ Our youth will be participating in NAYPE (New Albany Youth Prayer and Evangelism) every other Wed. night following evening services. The next time they will meet will be Jan. 15th.
- ◇ The Area Wide Youth Meeting will be held Sun. Jan. 12th at the Oak Ridge congregation near Baldwyn. The van will leave at 4:15.
- ◇ This month's Youth Devo will be held Jan. 26th, following pm services. *Richard* and *Kathy Jennings* will be hosting.



The Time is Brief

Because the longest life is brief
I must be swift in keeping
The little trusts with kindness,
Before the time of sleeping
I must be swift in reaching out,
To those whose hearts are yearning;
O, swift indeed to love them much
Before the long road's turning!
Before a sudden summons comes,
I surely must be saying
The words that I have failed to say ~
The prayers I should be praying.
~ Grace Noll Crowell

SENIOR NEWS!


 The Senior Group will be going to Ripley for supper Fri. Jan. 17th., at Biscuit's Steakhouse, formerly called Country Inn Too. The van will leave the building at 4:30. If you have any questions please see *Shane Crotts*.

LADIES BIBLE CLASS

Ladies Bible Class will meet Mon. night Jan. 13th, at 6:30 in the annex building. All ladies are invited.



BIBLE QUIZ

1. Melchizedek was a high priest, but also a king of where? _____ (Gen. 14:18; Heb. 7:1) 
2. Which gospel records the fewest of the miracles preformed by Jesus? _____
3. At what place did the writer of Thessalonians say he'd been given rough treatment? _____ Th. 2:2
4. What was the name of the Sorcerer Paul met on the island of Cyprus? _____ Acts 13:8

PRAYER LIST



Cynthia White, daughter-in-law of *Dixie White* was injured in a car accident last week which required facial surgery. She is at home recovering.

Arles Dye, father of *Tim Dye* has a blockage in his Cortaid artery. He will be scheduled for surgery soon.

Jason Taylor, friend of *Jason Jennings* suffered a light stroke Sun. He was to have an MRI Monday.

Novene Robertson is at home suffering from pneumonia.

Helen DePriest remains in room 566 of the Tupelo Hospital, undergoing rehab. She hopes to be released Jan. 14th.

Eleta Grimmert underwent a bronchoscopy this past week. The results of this procedure will determine her treatment plan.

Madison West, fiancé of *Shaler Grigsby* is in Peru on a Medical Mission Trip. She is to return Jan. 17th.

Continue to Remember:

Michelle Bell, Greg Clayton, Molly Clayton, Daniel Cross, Shane Crotts, Prebble Foster, Paul Franks, Phillip Haynes, Janie Huggins, Ronnie Miller, Elizabeth Phagen, Shannon Sciara, Levi Smith, Mildred Shackelford, Josie Tidwell, Angela Victory, Donnie Wilson

Shut-Ins: Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Nancy Petrowski, J.D. Stroud

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Bill DePriest, Joe Downs, Jerry & Lucille Gibson, Price Senter

Military List:

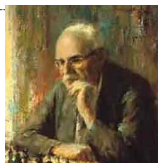
Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Chase Seals

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:13-17)
2. Believe the Gospel (Acts 15:7; Mark 16:15, 16)
3. Repent of Sins (Acts 3:19)
4. Confess Faith in Christ (Acts 8:37)
5. Be Baptized for the Remission of Sins (Acts 2:38)
6. Be Faithful (Revelation 2:10)

I've Learned...

Even a mosquito doesn't get a slap on the back until he starts to work.



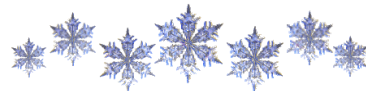
HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- January 09. William Sloan
- January 11. Alvin Parks
- January 15. Jake Crotts
- January 15. Jason Jennings
- January 15. Kelsey Petrowski
- January 16. Pam Conquest
- January 17. Amy Jennings

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- January 11. Greg & Kim Clayton
- January 12. Olen & Linda Clark



CARE GROUP 1 MEETING

Care Group 1 (*Kurt Clayton & Dane Coggin's* group) will meet Sun. Jan. 26th, following morning services at the fellowship building. A meal will be provided by the team leaders but a donation to offset some of the cost would be appreciated. This will be their first meeting of 2020.

MISSION TRIP

Audrey Anna Young will be going on a mission trip to Costa Rica during spring break with a group from Freed-Hardeman University. If anyone would like to help with the cost of this trip please see *Audrey Anna*. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

T-SHIRTS

T-Shirts for are being ordered for anyone in the congregation who would like to purchase one. These will be used when attending events like CYC, Lads to Leaders, etc. The cost will be \$10 (more for x large sizes) if we have more than 48 to order. They will be gray with NACOC 2020 on the front pocket area and New Albany Church of Christ on the back. Your order forms need to be turned in by Jan. 12th, along with the amount for the shirt/ shirts. If you have any questions please see *Madison Griggs*.

UP-COMING EVENTS

- The Area Wide Youth Meeting will be held Jan. 12th, at the Oak Ridge congregation.
- 3rd Sun. night fellowship will be Jan. 19th.
- Youth Devo. Sun. night, Jan. 26th.

Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.us>

Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com

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Volume 01

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30
 Morning Worship.....10:30
 Evening Worship.....6:00
 Wednesday Bible Study....6:30

MINISTER

Shaler Grigsby....Youth/ Assoc.
256-263-9137
 Office 534-4649

ELDERS

Richard Jennings316-1305
 Troy Robertson316-3163
 Phil Young.....316-2059

DEACONS

Greg Clayton.....252-9762
 Roger Clayton 538-8195
 Shane Crotts.....266-0195
 Jason Jennings..... 801-3260
 Randy Wall 316-9255

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Brian Carpenter
 A.M. Prayer..Randy Wall
 Closing.....Steve Todd
 P.M. Prayer.....Dillon Clayton
 Closing.....Larry Cobb
 Wed.1/15.....Richard Adams
 Wed.1/15.....Matt Jennings
 Lock 1/12.....Greg Clayton
 Usher 1/12.....Greg Clayton
 Security 1/12.....Richard Adams

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....107
 Sunday A.M.....133
 Sunday P.M.....96
 Wednesday.....79
 Contribution.....\$3,557.30
 Budget.....\$4,095.92

PANTRY ITEMS



Shampoo

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 148, New Albany, MS 38652

How's Your Prayer Life?

It is not wrong, or offensive to ask God for whatever is on your heart. Speaking only from personal experience and observation, it seems that there are more "give me" prayers than "thank-you" prayers. It is very possible for "give me" prayers to have a tendency to treat God like some cosmic bell-hop, always there on standby waiting to provide me with amenities that will make life more pleasant.

On the other hand, if we combine our "thank-you" prayers with more "make me" prayers, I believe that our prayer life will take a dramatic turn for the better. "Lord, make be a better husband, a better wife. Help me love my mate as Christ loved the church." "Lord make me a better parent. Make me patient and understanding through adversity and experience. Help me to model faithful living by following the example of Jesus' life." "Lord, You have placed a difficult challenge before me, but I trust that You desire only the best for me. I lean on Your strength to provide what I need to rise to the occasion." That's not so hard to do.

We read in Luke 11:1 of the disciples of Jesus asking, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples." This week try being more aware of your prayers. Don't pray "give me" prayers exclusively, but rather try "make me" prayers.

--Dennis Russell (Santa Maria, CA)