



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

February 2, 2021

You Don't Hit A Friend

By Tim Dooley



I stopped to pick up David at pre-school one day and the teachers informed me that they had not had a very good day. It seems as though David, for some reason, got mad at his best friend and hit him. Things apparently deteriorated from there. David and I, after stopping in to tell his mother what had happened, headed home for a little father and son "talk." I asked him how he thought his friend felt. David simply replied, "Sad." "And how does David feel?", I asked. "Sad." I explained to him that no matter what happens, you don't hit a friend.

This brought to mind a conversation I had engaged in with a friend who attended another congregation. My friend was going through a very tough time in her life and had made some brave, yet difficult, decisions. She was a faithful Christian woman whose only desire in life was to serve God and help bring as many people to Christ as possible. This she was doing with great sacrifice! She went to an elder of the congregation where she attended seeking help and support, but she left feeling let down and frustrated. It was as if she had been hit by a friend.

I have heard of brethren who are afraid of and/or intimidated by their elders. These men certainly are not the caring shepherds the Bible describes, but abusive friends. They lord over Christ's body, instead of caring for the needs of their physical and spiritual health. What are they thinking? The Bible makes it clear that they will have to answer for the souls that have been entrusted to their care. Notice carefully what the Hebrew writer says, *"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you"* (Hebrews 13:17). Now notice that we are to obey them. But not if they are not watching out for our souls with joy and guiding us as loving shepherds. An elder should look at each member of the church as he would his own mother or father, son or daughter. Paul said, *"For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?"* (1 Timothy 3:5).

But this principle is not something unique or limited to elders. Preachers, Bible Class teachers, deacons, and fellow Christian can be just as unloving, unkind, and unfriendly. Consider the fact that we as brethren in Christ are to have the same care one for another (1 Corinthians 12:25). When Paul wrote to the church at Philippi he said he was sending Timothy because there was *"no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state"* (Philippians 2:20).

Consider the story of the "Good Samaritan." Here we have the quintessential example of the kind of care we should have for everyone, especially those who are our brothers and sisters in Christ (Galatians 6:10). The man of Samaria was not concerned about the time he lost, the money it cost, the danger he might encounter, or the reputation or image that might be portrayed. He was only worried about the good of someone else. God did the same thing by sending His Son to die for our sins (John 3:16). Christ did the same thing by leaving us an example for us to follow (1 Peter 2:21). Each of us as brothers, sister, children of God, and friends need to remember, "You don't hit a friend." Be faithful!

Get It Done!

Philosopher and author William James said, "Nothing is so fatiguing as the hanging on of an uncompleted task." At one time or another, we have all felt the burden of an unfinished job. Some are motivated by that feeling and work hard to get the job done. Others ignore the feeling, avoiding their responsibilities. But, as British civil servant and economist Sir Josiah Stamp observed, "It is easy to dodge our responsibilities, but we cannot dodge the consequences of dodging our responsibilities" (John Maxwell, *Talent Is Not Enough*, pp. 55-56). In other words, it all catches up with us.

Jesus often spoke of His burden—the unfinished work He was obliged to complete. In a discussion with His disciples following His interview with a Samaritan woman, Jesus said, "*My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work*" (Jn. 4:34). Jesus felt the burden of His mission when He prayed, "*Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done*" (Lk. 22:42). The agony of providing, in Himself, the atoning sacrifice for our sins is seen in the fact that, as He prayed, "His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground" (vs. 44). Jesus did not dodge His responsibility, but went to the cross where He bled and died for our sins. But, as He was about to give up His spirit, He cried out and said, "*It is finished!*" (Jn. 19:30). Jesus completed the most burdensome job ever accomplished by mortal man and, in the process, proved Himself to be the Son of God (Mt. 27:54).

Years later, looking back on the work of Jesus, the inspired writer of Hebrews described our Lord as "*the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God*" (Hb. 12:2). His work in providing atonement for our sins is done, but His work continues in as much as He abides as our high priest, mediator, advocate, and intercessor.

Our call to be workers in the kingdom of God is a lifetime responsibility. Our work for Him is never completed. This side of heaven, there will always be something we need to do in the name of the Lord. The joy set before us is doing the Father's will. Each service rendered is an act of love for the One who has done and is doing so much for us. John said, "*For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome*" (1 Jn. 5:3). Any burden we may feel is lightened as we lose ourselves in loving service to the Lord. The burden that overwhelms us is the burden we ignore—the burden we do not bring to the Lord for the strength we need to get the job done.

—Glen Elliott—

"As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he...." Proverbs 23:7

Places In the Heart



What the heart is and does:

A. Intellect:

1. Thinks— Gen. 6:5; Prov. 23:7
2. Reasons— Luke 5:22
3. Understands — Matt. 13:15
4. Believes — Rom. 10:9,10

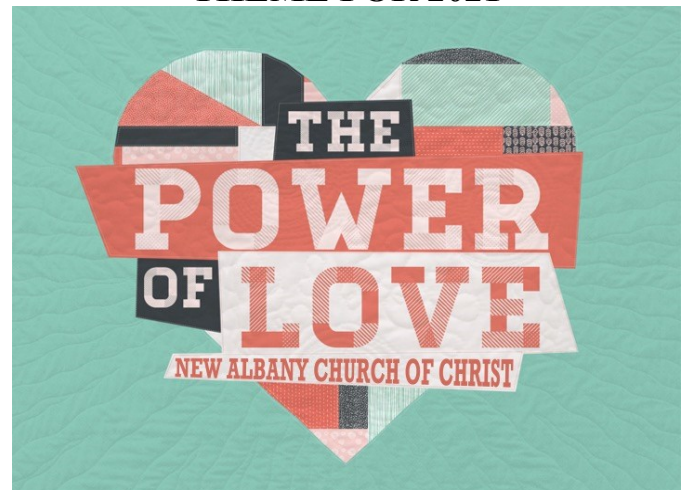
B. Emotion

1. Loves — Matt. 22:37
2. Despises — II Sam. 6:16
3. Desires — Rom. 10:1
4. Trusts — Prov. 3:5

C. Will

1. Intends — Heb. 4:12
2. Purposes — II Cor. 9:7
3. Determines — I Cor. 7:37
4. Obeys — Rom. 6:17,18

THEME FOR 2021



YOU TUBE ~ LIVE STREAMING ~ Sun. @ 9:30; Wed. @ 6:30

PRAYER LIST



Lucille Gibson was taken to the hospital Sunday after becoming dizzy and passing out.

Luke Jennings, is dealing with allergy and asthma problems.

Andrea Hill, is improving following her recent surgery.

Harold Russell will have surgery Feb. 3rd, at NMMC for an aneurism.

Grandmother and 2 aunts of Tim Dooley have been diagnosed with Covid. They all live in Florida.

Shane Crotts, has been sick with Covid for over a week.

Sympathy: We express our sympathy to **Amanda Coggin** and family in the death of her father **Ronnie Miller**. *Mr. Miller* passes away Sun. Jan. 31st. Funeral services will be held Tues. Feb. 2nd.

Continue to Remember:

Ricky Adams, Chris Bradley, Kathy Clayton, Shelly Clayton, Shane Crotts, Earnestine Dye, Kathy Dye, Prebble Foster, Ron Griggs, Eleta Grimmitt, Madison Hardy, Debra Harville, Greg Hicks, David Holmes, Alfred Jones, Gloria Jones, Sue Marques, Olivia Pounders, Joe Reed, Ansley Thompson, Lake Tremble, Terri Turner, Charles Ulmer, William Wilson family, Sarah Grace Wise

Shut-Ins:

J. L. Eaton, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Bill & Grace Lyon, Nancy Petrowski,

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Bill & Helen DePriest, Joe Downs, Lucille Gibson

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Luke Goff, Chase Seals

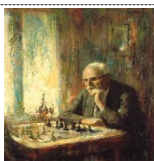
CLOTHES CLOSET

We have a church clothes closet in the making, and can use your help by providing slightly used clothes and shoes. This work has been approved by the elders and is being overseen by *Madison Griggs* and *Madison Grigsby*.



I've Learned

Without hearts there is no home.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



February 05.....Paige Young

February 06.....Owen Clayton

February 15.....Greg Clayton



THANK YOU NOTES

Words cannot really express our thanks for your thoughts, prayers, and the wonderful food you prepared for us during our time of grief. We could feel your love through the wonderful food prepared. Keep us in your prayers. I miss you all so much.

In Christian love, Sue Stroud & family

Words cannot adequately express how much we appreciate our Christian family remembering us during the passing of our father. The calls, texts, cards and especially your prayers have made this difficult time a littler easier. Please continue to remember us in your prayers.

In Christian love, Terry & Yolanda Stubblefield

TEACHERS NEEDED

We are in need of teachers for the Pre-K-K class and 1st-3rd grade class for the spring quarter. If you can help with these classes please sign the bulletin board, or let *Jason Jennings* know. The spring quarter begins March 7th.



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- NAYPE (New Albany Youth Prayer & Evangelism) will begin meeting again Feb. 3rd. They will meet every other Wed night following Bible study.
- There will be an elder's, deacon's, preacher, meeting Sun. morning Feb. 7th.
- The youth are invited to *Greg & Kim Clayton's* home Sun. Feb. 7th, for a Super Bowl Party. The time will be announced later.
- Youth to attend CYC in Pigeon Forge TN, Feb. 26-28th.
- Remember to bring Care Group items.
- Help is needed to host the Youth Devo's through out the year. Please sign up to help.

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

Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com

THE INFORMER

February 2, 2021

Volume 05

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

MINISTERS

Tim Dooley.....859-486-4215
 Shaler Grigsby...Youth/ Assoc.
256-263-9137
 Office.....662-534-4649

ELDERS

Greg Clayton.....252-9762
 Tim Dye.....316-2527
 Richard Jennings316-1305
 Troy Robertson316-3163
 Phil Young.....316-2059

DEACONS

Kurt Clayton.....316-6420
 Roger Clayton 538-8195
 Shane Crotts.....266-0195
 Jason Jennings..... 801-3260
 Mark Jennings....731-609-3309
 Randy Wall 316-9255

TO SERVE

Communion.....Joe Owen
 Scripture.....Paul Ormon
 A.M. Prayer.....Perry Jones
 Closing.....Alvin Parks
 P.M. Prayer.....
 Closing.....
 Wed Feb.10th.Richard A/ Roger C
 Lock.....Greg Clayton
 UsherJason Jennings
 SecurityRandy Wall

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....93
 Sunday A.M.....106
 Sunday P.M.....
 Wednesday.....72
 Contribution.....\$3,945.20
 Budget.....\$4,219.62

PANTRY ITEMS

Canned Pineapple



THE INFORMER (USPS 581-500)
 Church of Christ
 511 Hwy. 15 South, P.O. Box 148
 New Albany, Mississippi 38652
 (662)534-4649

Periodical
 Postage Paid
 New Albany, MS

POSTMASTER: Send address changes
 (Form 3579) to: The Informer, P.O. Box
 148, New Albany, MS 38652

Love Grows Up By Tom Kelton

“When I was a child I spake as a child, I thought as a child, but when I became a man I put away childish things” (1 Cor. 13:12). Life brings no greater blessing than a child, but it is a heartbreaking tragedy when the child never develops, physically or mentally. And some people never mature. Several characteristics of little children are: (1) Children become very upset over any personal hurt. If pins prick the flesh they cry as if deadly wounded. They are not concerned about the suffering of others, but weep mostly for themselves. (2) Children want to be the center of attention. They are jealous of others about them. They are willing to play if they can choose the game. They demand applause and appreciation. (3) Children have to be taught to be thankful. Gratitude does not come naturally for them. They take the blessings anything. They desire to get all they can, but they feel little obligation to others. They rarely think of what they owe parents, or the world they live in. (5) Children of life as a matter of course, as somehow deserved. (4) Children owe nobody are self-centered. They live in a world that revolves around them.

When one grows up and puts away childish things it does not mean tears never come to his eyes. It means that tears are reserved for causes that deserve them. A mature person can and does weep over his personal hurts, but more often the tears of love are for hurts of others.

When one grows up he still appreciates approval from others, but goes on living, working, and serving even when unrecognized by others. Gratitude and appreciation are the flowers of mature love. Love is always glad to say thank you. Love feels a deep sense of obligation to others. Mature love is “a debtor to Greeks and barbarians, both to wise and unwise” (Romans 1:14). Love feels its obligation to serve (Galatians 5:13). Love puts away childish things. It grows up.