



Midtown Messenger

Volume 4

February 7, 2021

Issue 6

Be Kind

By: Chuck Webster

Several years ago one of my kids was withdrawn and quiet—a reasonably rare occurrence at our house in those days—so I asked him what was wrong. He hesitated, then with a little prodding told me that it was because I had spoken harshly to him earlier that day.

I wish I could say it was a case of childish hypersensitivity on his part, that he was wearing his feelings on his coat sleeves, that he needed to toughen up . . . but it wasn't that at all. I knew it was true when he said it. I had been impatient, critical, and unkind, and it was bothering him (as it should have).

The Spirit convicted me with Paul's words in Ephesians 4.

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. . . . Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you (vv. 29, 31, 32).

Use your words to build one another up, Paul says, and be kind. The Bible contains a lot of theological mysteries, stuff most of us will never really understand, and then there are a few things that are completely clear. One of them is this: Christians ought to be kind.

On a blog that I read, the writer posted some comments about interviews he had had with people who had left Christianity. At the end of the interview, he asked them what it would take to get them to come back. A com-

ment he heard dozens of times was, "I would consider coming back if I knew people in the church would be nicer." Many of them had apparently been burned by the unkindness of Christians—either as recipients or spectators.

Maybe Paul's words are a needed reminder. Maybe some of us treat strangers more kindly than we do our spouses and kids and siblings. Maybe some of us have forgotten that the church ought to be a safe place where everybody lives by the law of kindness.

Build one another up. Be kind. Be nice.

Christianity certainly can't be adequately described with only those admonitions, but can it be described at all without them?

Chuck Webster preaches for the Hoover Church of Christ, Hoover, AL.

Ephesians 4:32 (NKJV)

³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Appoint Elders In Every City

By: Todd Clippard

One of the most fundamental differences between the churches of Christ and all other religious institutions can be seen in the matter of church organization. In Titus 1:5, Paul left specific instructions for Titus to appoint elders throughout the island of Crete. Given what the New Testament says concerning elders and local congregations, we understand that Paul here speaks of each city having a single congregation, and not of a hierarchy overseeing a multiplicity of congregations.

From the earliest days of the church, even in the days when the apostles were still active, the local church was overseen and led by elders. According to the biblical record, James was the first martyr among the apostles in Acts 12. But at the conclusion of chapter 11 we see relief from the brethren in Antioch being sent to the elders of the church in Jerusalem (11:27-30). Even Peter himself, being an apostle, also served a local congregation as an elder (1 Peter 5:1-4).

When Paul and Barnabas made their journey into Pamphylia, Pisidia, and Cilicia (Acts 13-14), they made it a priority to appoint elders in every church (Acts 14:23).

Paul's second journey into that region led to the establishment of the church at Philippi. Yet, in the short time after that event, Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, specifically addressing the overseers, also called elders (cf Titus 1:5, 7).

Finally, in Acts 20, Paul called for the elders of the Ephesian church to meet him in Miletus (v 17). During this meeting, the elders are also identified as "overseers" who were to do the work of shepherding the flock (v 28, cf 1 Peter 5:2).

But what kind of leadership or oversight do we find among most groups today? Among evangelicals, most are committed to the one-person "pastor system." The New Testament never presents a church as being led or overseen by one person called the "pastor." The only time "pastor" is found in the English text is in Ephesians 4:11. In

every other instance where this word is translated, it appears as "shepherd."

In the New Testament, elders, overseers (poorly rendered "bishops"), and pastors (properly, "shepherds") all refer to the same men functioning in the same office.

God's plan for church leadership is a plurality of men serving to lead, feed, and oversee the work of the local congregation. These men must meet the largely parallel qualifications enumerated in Titus 1, and 1 Timothy 3.

Todd Clippard preaches for the Burleson Church of Christ, Hamilton, AL.

Mercy

On at least two different occasions, Jesus said, "Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice'" (Matthew 9.13; Matthew 12.7). It's quoted from Hosea 6.6, but in multiple other passages God tells us that He prefers obedience over going through the motions of worship (Isaiah 1.11ff; Amos 5.21; Micah 6; Mark 7).

This is NOT saying that worship is less important than obedience, since obedience causes us to worship. It does show God's attitude toward those who claim to follow Him, but whose actions say otherwise.

Listen to the force behind His words in Amos 5.21, "I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies." Israel had adopted some religious and social misconduct.

Do our actions cause God to wince at our worship? Israel was God's chosen nation, but when they neglected to show mercy, justice, compassion, or faithfulness, God rejected their worship and sent them into captivity.

So what kind of worship does God love? Obedience, mercy, pursuing good, showing compassion to those less powerful, integrity, justice, and being morally pure (Amos 5.11ff).

-Selected-

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of February 7, 2021

****subject to change****

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Kevin Sheeran

Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobes

Lord's Supper & Offering

Communion: Lupe Escojido

Offering: Clifton Rutherford

Prayer

A.M. Opening: Bryant Siegel

A.M. Closing: Ron White

P. M. Opening: Kevin Sheeran

P. M. Closing: Will Burleson

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Rick Bass

Sun. P.M.: Isaac Jobes

Wed. P.M.: Doug Jobes

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Greeters: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Mark FitzSimmons

Open/Close Building:

Men's Meeting Today

Men's Meeting is scheduled this afternoon at
3p.m.

Sermons are available on our website

www.midtowncoc.org

**MidTown's Bible Classes and Worship services
can be viewed livestream on YouTube. Search
MidTown church of Christ Victoria.**

Congratulations to Jesse and
Alex Moser on the birth of their
daughter, Athena Joy Moser, on
February 1st, 2021.



IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Kasi Jobes' grandmother, Sue Arterberry, who is in the hospital in Oklahoma City with COVID and is not doing well.

Happy Birthday: Letty Randle (7); Wayne Martin (8); Fred Sherffius (12)

Happy Anniversary: Ron and Mary Jo White (11)

Quarterly Canvassing Stats

On Sat. 1/30/21, around 200 households were given an informational packet that included: a personal letter from our preacher, a tract introducing the church of Christ and an invitation to study the Bible. Thank you to all who participated in this event. Lord willing, this effort will take place once per quarter. May we keep the momentum going into the new year and may the Lord use this effort to add to His church.

*****FRIENDLY REMINDER TO CONTINUE
PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING*****

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Ken and Sandra Marie
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Dee Gilpatrick
Faye Henderson
Charlie Mabe
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius

Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Class: 9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00 PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of January 31, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....54
A.M. Worship.....73
Sunday Evening Worship.....43
Wednesday Bible Class.....38

Offering : January 31, 2021.....\$3,241.00

Reading for this week:

This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position
of a bishop, he desires a good work.

1 Timothy 3:1

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony
Scherffius

GO PAPERLESS!

Want the digital version?

Email us at midtowncoc2017@gmail.com

To receive the MidTown Messenger in your inbox
or visit www.midtowncoc.org

MidTown Church of Christ

5901 N. Main

Victoria, TX 77904

(361) 573-0030

midtowncoc2017@gmail.com

