

PATIENCE vs TOLERANCE

Within this great fellowship of ours, problems sometimes arise that cause elders or the men of the church where elders are not yet ordained to take action. This action may be in the form of reproving one, correcting a little more firmly, warning, or withdrawing fellowship. The attitude and actions of the one involved determine the course to be followed.

In the first century the church in Corinth tolerated a man living in an immoral relationship with his stepmother. The congregation was not patiently working with him and trying to help him see the error of his way; they simply chose not to act at all. This, of course, was condemned by the apostle Paul, and rightly so. We cannot tolerate error, hoping it will go away, and be like the ostrich and stick our heads in the sand. False teaching has never left the church since the first century and is making a bolder attempt than ever to win converts!

Consider the messages of Jesus to the churches in Revelation two and three. They were told to repent and no longer tolerate sin or he would remove their candlesticks. Once a true church, does not guarantee that it will remain a true church. Toleration and patience are not the same. Patience is correct and biblical; tolerating sin is strongly condemned!

This writer has been in Bible studies in congregations where he has heard comments such as: “We have no right to withdraw fellowship from anyone as we are not perfect either.” While he would agree with the latter part of the statement that we are not perfect, we must withdraw fellowship from the ones that are not remaining in fellowship with God if we intend to remain in the right relationship. The Bible does not make this an option; it is an obligation!

A congregation that is not working with one who is a drunkard, immoral, covetous, an idolater, a swindler and such-like to get them to repent (literally to change their mind and life) is soon not a congregation of the Lord. This is serious and must be given a top priority.

The best way to overcome this problem is to teach and preach against sins such as these in classes and from pulpits. Take time to encourage all Christians to look at their lives and to make sure they are striving to imitate Christ. By bearing each others’ burdens and helping the weak become strong, a strong congregation will result. Following leadership and praying for wisdom from God is also necessary.

Be patient, brethren. Let all have time to grow and correct sins in their lives. Never, never, never tolerate sin and refuse to act! The Lord will hold us accountable as well as the guilty offender!

William V. Clary from *Firm Foundation, 1985*

FACT OR FICTION?

In certain locations the contour of hills gives a tremendous illusion that the law of gravity is askew. I have read about a hill near Los Angeles, California where thousands of motorists stop their cars, shut off the engines, release the brakes and seemingly roll up hill. But a plumb level placed on the ground where the cars “roll up hill” will show immediately that the cars are actually rolling down hill. The eye can be deceived; the level cannot.

In every aspect of life, we have to make judgments. We must be careful to make those judgments based upon an objective standard. Even our senses are not infallible guides, nor are our emotions. It is not safe, therefore, to form judgments solely on the basis of our senses or our emotions. We must prove all things, test all things (1 Thess. 5:21). These principles are of vital importance when it comes to our salvation from sin.

Our salvation is not based on the way that we feel. Our feelings (consciences) are much too fickle and subjective to be sure guides. In Acts 8, we read about a man who served as the treasurer for the queen of Ethiopia, who had been to Jerusalem to worship and was on his way back to his homeland. As he traveled in his chariot, he was reading from the book of Isaiah the prophet. A preacher by the name of Philip came to him and

asked if he understood what he was reading. The Ethiopian replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he asked Philip to study with him. “Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him” (Acts 8:35).

When Philip “preached Jesus” to the Ethiopian, he included the proper response to the good news of Jesus. For when they came to some water, the Ethiopian asked, “What hinders me from being baptized?” Then both Philip and the Ethiopian went down into the water where Philip baptized him. Now notice the effect that his obedience had upon the Ethiopian: “He went on his way rejoicing!” (Acts 8:39). Why?

Because he knew he had done what the Lord wanted him to do to be saved from his sins (cf. Acts 2:38). His feelings of gratitude and joy followed his obedience to the truth of the gospel of Jesus. His salvation was not based on the way that he felt, but knowing that he had obeyed the truth did stir his feelings.

Our salvation is not based on the way that we feel, but upon our obedience to Christ as commanded in the written Word of God. “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know you have eternal life” (1 Jn. 5:13).

Feelings come and feelings go,

And feelings are deceiving;

My warrant is the Word of God;

Nothing else is worth believing.

I’ll trust in God’s unchanging Word,

Till spirit and body sever;

For though all things shall pass away,

His Word shall stand forever.

Author Unknown from *Banner of Truth*

BIRTHDAYS

Louise Dodson, 01-23; Jillian Marcum, 01-23;
Ken Greer, 01-24; Keith Wilson, 01-25.

ILL

Sunday: Gary Cole, Mellissa Cole, Taylor and Brooke Nemechek. Bob Adams was admitted to Shawnee Mission Medical Center last Sunday and is undergoing treatment at this time.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, Diane Cannon, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these, as well as: Meredith Greer, Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Chris Edwards was in Tampa, FL last Sunday due to his flight being cancelled by the inclement weather in this area. George Thomas was in Omaha, NE on business this week. Robin Brown was working out of town this week.

BUDGET PRESENTATION

Our dedicated treasurer, George Thomas, will present the 2007 budget in the auditorium at 5 PM this Sunday.

INDIA MISSIONS

Jim O'Connor and John Shafer left for India on January 15 and will return on February 14.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 32; Sunday PM, Canceled due to inclement weather; Wednesday PM, 37.

"Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul." **Prov. 22:24-25**

Those To Serve

January 21, 2007

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Parish

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas
SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek
PRESIDE..... John Cody Carter
ASSIST..... Allen Scott
ASSIST..... David Adams
CLOSING PRAYER..... Charles Tullis

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Carter
CLOSING PRAYER..... Gary Cole
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Cody Carter

WEDNESDAY 24st

SONG LEADER..... John Cody Carter
INVITATION Ted Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher
Phone: (913) 764-2325
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