

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Josh Berryhill

Opening Prayer: David Key

On the Table: Head - Billy Box
Servers - Ralph Burleson
Greg Lowery
Eddy Dickinson

Closing Prayer: Charles Berryhill

Preparing the Lord's Supper: Katie Berryhill

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Leonard Key / David Key
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

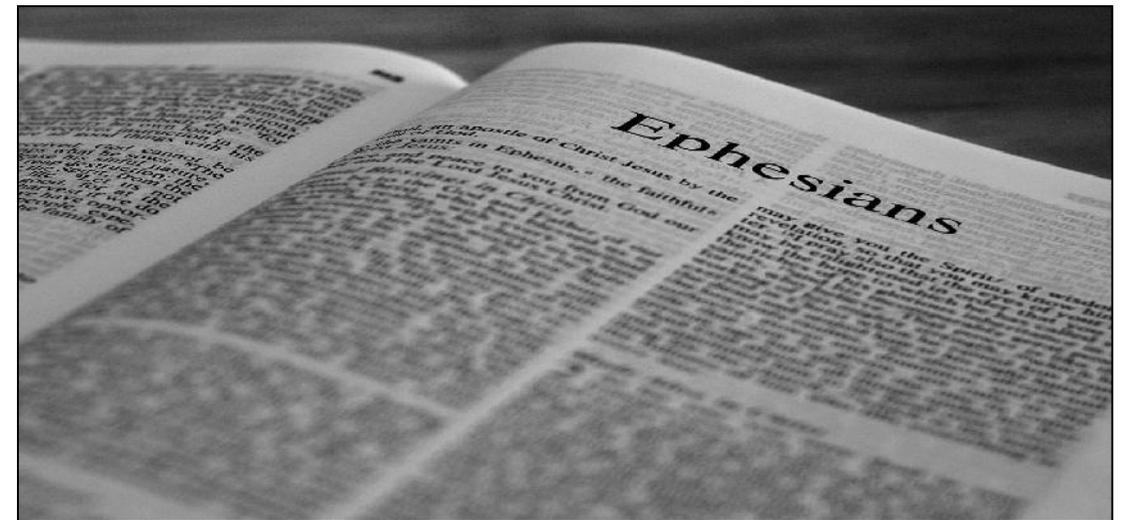
Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

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Handling Congregational Problems



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



People Problems

By Doug Dingley

Check your bible. The Lord’s church in first-century Rome certainly had its challenges. So did the church in Corinth – there’s were colossal, widespread, and very well-documented in God’s eternal record. The first-century congregations of Christ’s church in the Galatian region were certainly shown to have grappled with their fair share of struggles. The Ephesian, Philippian, and Colossian congregations were surely not without their conflicts either. Neither were the congregations of Thessalonica, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, or Laodicea without their problems, conflicts, or issues. In fact, it is somewhere between extremely difficult and downright impossible to even peripherally read through the majority of some of those epistles and not come to the conclusion that the main reason they were written in the first place, was to address and correct some of the multitudinous problems in those congregations.

And even in first-century congregations of the Lord’s church which were not necessarily mentioned in the Scriptures, you can be sure that they certainly endured and had to deal with a plethora of seemingly impossible internal problems as well. Why? Because the church is the people. And wherever you have people seeking to work together in close proximity, you can count on having, and having to deal with, problems – even, and sometimes especially, in the church.

Several congregations that I am currently, personally (even if only peripherally) acquainted with through some of its members whom I know and love, either has had, or seems to be having, some measure of “people-problems” over the past few months. This is nothing new. This is to be expected. This is what will eventually, inevitably happen, anywhere and everywhere you have a plethora of imperfect people seeking to work so closely together. Even amongst some of Jesus’ closest and most spiritually intimate first-century disciples, they couldn’t always get along, and therefore had to learn to endure, resolve, and overcome some pretty nasty pride and personality problems (Matt. 20:20-28; Mk. 9:33-37, 10:32-45; Lk. 9:46-48, 22:24-27; Jn. 21:20-22; Acts 15:36-40; Phil. 4:2-3; Jms. 3:2-5:9)! And the reason is: because the church is the people. And wherever you have people seeking to pull together over a lengthy period of time, you can absolutely count on encountering, and having to endure and deal with, some sort of “people-problems” – even in the church. And sometimes, especially in the church. And here’s how and why...

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Maylene McWhirter: her blood gases are showing signs of myeloid leukemia, please be praying for her and her family

Jack Waldon: {Linda’s Brother-In-Law} is under hospice care, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Billy Lee: {Carolyn’s Brother} diagnosed with renal failure, please keep him in your prayers

Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Sister}: is in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray that her health continues to improve

Arthur Ewing: has lung cancer, please pray that he will be able to receive treatment that can help him

Robeana Green: has been diagnosed with cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer can be defeated

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

Billy Wayne Burleson: is home and doing better, please continue to keep him in your prayers

Don Lawrence: dealing with some heath issues, please continue to keep him your prayers

Winfred York: home continuing to rehab from hip surgery, please keep him and Vertie Mae in your prayers

Buddy Frazier: undergoing cancer treatments, please keep him in your prayers

Upcoming Events

Today	Tri-County Singing {Here}	2:00 pm
April 7 th	Country Place	2:00 pm
April 14 th	Nursing Home	2:00 pm

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Angie Ganey Gardner: had surgery Thursday (3/21), please pray that this cancer will be treatable

Amy Weeks {Donna’s Niece}: has asked for prayers to help overcome addictions, please pray that she will turn to God for help and strength

Wyatt Spann: is currently fighting a brain tumor, please pray that with medical help he can win this fight

Connie Autrey: has a brain aneurysm and is also taking treatments for cancer, please be praying that doctors can help her with these serious problems

Bobby Sanderson: keep him in your prayers that his health continues to improve

Al Corkren: broken tibia from recent fall at work, please pray that this break will help completely with no further problems

Jeff Self: recovering from recent surgery for cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Whenever one repents and is baptized into Christ (Acts 2:38-41), they are to bury the old man of sin there and rise to walk in newness of life (Ro. 6:1-11). However, the old man of sin doesn’t always stay dead, down, and drowned. He, with all of his ego-driven, pride-powered, selfish ambition and self-promoting sin won’t stay down without a constant and hard-fought daily fight to keep him there. Don’t think so? Then why did the once-humble sister servant-saints of Philippians 4:2-3 still have a problem? Also, please reconsider Colossians 3 if you would. It was written to those who were already Christians (Col. 1:2, 2:11-15, 3:1-4). And yet, what does the apostle Paul tell his Colossian brethren by divine inspiration in verses 5-17? ‘You’ve got to keep putting the old, sinful, selfish, petty and prideful man of sin to death!’ In other words, it is a continual, everyday, and ongoing process (2 Ptr. 1:1-11)! It is an everyday battle we all must personally fight (Lk. 9:23-25; Ro. 7:14-24; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Phil. 3:12-14).

But sometimes we slip up, and the old man of sin slips out. Sometimes, someone will push just the right button, at just the wrong time, and before we can even begin to take the proper precautions, he shifts his ‘wait,’ sheds his shackles, and shoves his way past the ivory bars that have held him back and in check for so long. And when he breaks free, it all breaks loose. Feelings get hurt; friendships get sunk; relationships are severed; and reputations are ruined. And in some of the more tragic scenarios entire congregations can get ripped apart... while under the withering onslaught of such satanic and sinful immaturity and criticality, many blood-bought and priceless eternal souls can be lost forever, becoming spiritual casualties as a result of getting caught in the crippling, congregational crossfire of such needless warfare.

But while the church is the people; and where you have people you have problems; Jesus has and is the answer, having not changed in all the centuries since He was here. Whenever such personality and pride-driven conflicts erupt, they are the same types of “teachable moments” that Jesus’ disciples were continually given the opportunity to learn godly wisdom from (Matt. 20:20-28; Jms. 1:2-5) as are we. The Great Physician’s all-soothing, all-healing balm of Gilead (Jer. 8:22) can be abundantly found and applied, from God’s divinely-inspired prescriptions for all such certain-to-happen problems, in places like: Jn. 13; Rom. 12-16; 1 Cor. 1-3, 8, 12-13; Gal. 5-6; Eph. 4-6; Phil. 2-4; Col. 3; 1st Thess. 2-3 and other chapters, as well as entire books like James and 1st John.

Yes, the church is the people. And yes, wherever you have people, you will inevitably have problems – in the world or in the church. But the difference in the church, is that we have the divinely-inspired and all-powerful antidote and cure for all such issues directly at our fingertips! This, in the form of the eternal written word and wisdom of the almighty God of peace Himself! What a gift! May His people diligently learn, apply, and utilize it on a daily basis! "...For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another... Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God" (Rom. 14:17-19, 15:5-7).

Obtained at: www.churchofchristarticles.com

Looking in the Wrong "Cupboard"

By Dan Jenkins

Sometimes when we are looking for help, we look in the wrong places to find it. Then, when we get to the right place, we look in the wrong "cupboard" to find it. Think about how often this applies when we are seeking help to improve our marriages. The tendency is to go talk to a friend without considering if that friend would be a good source of help.

Many years ago, I was counseling a young couple in Birmingham on a weekly basis. They had real problems, and both evidently wanted to try to save the marriage. Then, a pattern developed. At the end of each session, both husband and wife seemed to agree on things each should do to solve the problems. However, when we met next, the wife was on a totally different page. The husband said that shortly after we met each week the wife changed. I finally asked him what were the influences in her life that brought this about. He mentioned that she had three close friends at work.

She thought those friends' advice should help. However, it turned out that all three of those close friends were divorced. The wife thought surely their counsel should become part of her life. How wise is it to ask those who are failures in their marriages for advice about marriage? If I wanted to learn to fly a plane, I would not try to learn how to fly by asking someone who had crashed three planes! The wisdom gained by crashing a plane or "crashing" a marriage may not be wisdom at all.

Solomon said, "In a multitude of counselors there is safety" (Prov. 24:6). Think about this and recognize that because we go to the right place (multitude of counselors) to find help we may look in the wrong "cupboard" when we get there. You cannot just ask anyone for help. Hear the words of David, "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly" (Psa. 1:1). The help found in the "cupboard" of ungodly counsel does not help. The verse implies that to seek counsel from the ungodly may not bring blessing but a curse! Think about that counsel given the wife by her three ungodly friends!

One other point about this is that all counsel be tested against what the Bible says. The words of James give great insight. "The wisdom from above first is pure, then peaceful, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy" (Jas. 3:17). Make sure that when you look in any "cupboard" you use James' words to measure what is there.

Hear the wisdom of Solomon again. "There is no wisdom or counsel against the Lord" (Prov. 21:30). Need help in making any decision? There is wisdom in many counselors, but those counselors must be godly!

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