



"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..." Matthew 28:20

Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053

THOUGHTS ON UNITY/FELLOWSHIP

Tommy J. Hicks

Unity and fellowship are to be desired and worked for. In order to have unity, some well-intentioned, but misguided folks would even "extend the boundaries" of fellowship. These want "unity in diversity" even in matters of faith. They want to "agree to disagree" even on the most important of doctrinal matters. While these folks might have the spirit of unity, they will not have the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:3).

God, **not man**, has set the boundaries of fellowship. If man "A" is in fellowship with God, and if man "B" is in fellowship with God, then man "A" and "B" are in fellowship with each other. To be in fellowship with God, one must abide in the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9-10). The one abiding in the doctrine of Christ is not to bid Godspeed to one who fails to abide in the doctrine of Christ; therefore, there is a division, a lack of unity, and a lack of fellowship. The line of demarcation is drawn by God. No man has the right to redraw God's boundary lines for unity and fellowship.

Only those who are ONE, in unity, with God (John 17:21-23) can enjoy unity with one another. If man "A" is walking in the light, and if man "B" is walking in the light, it is logically safe to conclude that they **agree** because they must agree upon the same thing which makes a "walk in the light" possible. The only ones [that] one [who is] in the light can fellowship are others [who are] in the light. First John 1:6-7 states, "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

Paul instructed that Christians are to be, "Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Ephesians 5:10-11). Those who are in the light cannot have fellowship with those who are in darkness. Instead they are to reprove them. Fellowshiping those in error would mean partaking of their evil. ♦♦

Why Is the Bible Thought Dangerous?

Michael Greene

We learn that an Appeals Court has ruled it unconstitutional for Gideon International to hand out Bibles in public schools in Indianapolis.

It is all right to hand out condoms to 13-year olds in our schools. It is all right to graphically instruct junior high kids on how to have safe sex. It is all right to give out free abortion counseling to children as young as 14 without parental consent, but wrong to give them a Bible in America. However, you can give them out in Russia.

Now to an extent I can understand why our children need to be protected from the dangerous doctrines contained in the Bible. Have you looked in it lately? It has such dangerous concepts as "Love thy neighbor as thyself;" and "do not covet your neighbor's wife." And, of course, young ears should never hear such words as "do not commit adultery," or "flee fornication."

Oh no, we cannot, even under the principle of academic freedom which says that all competing ideas have a right to be heard, allow someone access to the Bible. Why, they might read and believe, and live by some of those "dangerous" concepts.

If that were to happen, the world as we know it would come to an end. Parents would be respected and obeyed, as would teachers. We wouldn't need policemen in every school. Hatred and bigotry would soon die. Teenage pregnancy and the perceived need to hand out safe-sex materials would soon be gone. By all means protect us from such a fate.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the Old Testament, there are 919 chapters, 23,545 verses of scripture, and 603,584 words? In the New Testament, there are 260 chapters with 7,956 verses and 170,551 words? In the whole Bible, both the Old Testament and the New Testament, there are 1,179 chapters, 31,501 verses, and there are 773,135 words?

So....!!! One who reads 100 words a minute (probably about the average) would take 7,732 minutes and 20 seconds to read the Bible through; or 128 hours and 30 minutes.....or sixteen days containing 8 hours of reading a day.

One who would depend on hearing the Bible taught in class and in preaching, using 10 verses per session would have to attend every service for 27 years to get through the Bible one time. That's if the teacher taught and preached it in sequence. The person who attends on the average of once a week would have to attend 60 and one half years. If a person missed class 10 times in a year, he would have to extend 6 months to his time.

Of course, this is theoretical since a preacher nor a teacher stays on such a schedule. The person who depends upon the class and the preaching for his knowledge can never cover the Bible in a lifetime.

What Can We Do about It? **Study the Bible Daily!!!**

E L S X M E G N B E T E S V I E G I
B Y S G D U F P O P G V J J N X O E
L S O I L T P X Z D Z V I R A Y D R
B Y E I R R P C E M T I F A K P L E
X B T U Z I U L H Y C Z H B U U I C
P D M I Z V W G N J T F A H G E N D
V H G D R O T E M P E R A N C E E L
B X B Y N A J Y G L H E S Y B Q S D
A Y F K N W H J I W O U L C M C S T
A D Z D M K B C L W F T Y U J J K L
B F T Y E P O J K W K X E O W D T X
Q M B H W F A U S P T V E Z E N F A
V G A M T H U T G Y A T O B V L L J
K U O Q M I L D I I O Z Z X Q S E D
R O Y P B D A L X E C L F I Q J H B
N N X T J J Q F W Y N F S T V A D E
S J J G F N F H C I E C Y W O V P X
Z S S E N D N I K Y L R E H T O R B

Find the words in bold
in the passage below
in the puzzle.

Words can go in any direction.

Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your **faith** **virtue**; and to virtue **knowledge**; And to knowledge **temperance**; and to temperance **patience**; and to patience **godliness**; And to godliness **brotherly kindness**; and to brotherly kindness **charity**."

2 Peter 1:5-7

“But godliness with contentment is great gain.” — 1 Timothy 6:6

A Touch Of Wonder

Author Gordon

Sometimes when you are feeling jaded or blasé, you can revive your sense of wonder by merely saying to yourself; “Suppose this were the only time. Suppose this sunset, this moon rise, this symphony, this buttered toast, this sleeping child, this flag against the sky... Suppose you would never experience these things again!”

Few things are commonplace in themselves. It's our reaction to them that grows dull, as we move forward through the years.

Observations and Concerns

January 25, 202

Welcome Visitors! We are excited to have YOU with us today.

“Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters” (Revelation 14:7).

Expression of Gratitude: We are thankful for parents and grandparents who prepare their young ones for Bible class and worship.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Alan Johnson**, grandson-in-law of the Hudsons, had quadruple bypass surgery. He is recovering at home.
 - ▶ **Chris Nelson** had the stints removed from his kidneys this week and continues to heal.
 - ▶ **Dale Jackson** is not doing well and facing many difficult challenges.
 - ▶ **Virginia Lively**, former mother-in-law of Kathy Orr, is on hospice care and not doing well.
 - ▶ **Donnie Nero** is having health problems.
 - ▶ **Nelda Hudson** is still seeking a diagnosis for her health concerns.
 - ▶ **Bill Dilks** continues his recovery from cancer.
 - ▶ **Ed Dindy**, father of Tia Swearigen, has cancer.
 - ▶ **Amanda Georgakus**, friend of Sherry Carmona, has metastatic breast cancer.

Extended Prayer List: ***Joyce Cash*** – ongoing health difficulties; ***Dan & Marcella Dennis*** – ongoing health issues; ***Bill Dilks*** – undergoing cancer treatments; ***Sammy Gray*** – continual health concerns; ***Chuck Northrop*** – blood disorder; ***LeAnna Shafer*** – undergoing chemotherapy treatments; ***Vance & Darla Smith*** – extended health problems; ***Pat Taylor*** – ongoing health issues; ***Dale & Betty Jackson*** – prolonged health issues; ***Sam Orr*** – extended health concerns.

Schedule of Services	Assignments			
		Wednesday, Jan. 25	Sunday, Jan. 29 AM	Sunday, Jan. 29 PM
	Announcements	Russ Earl	Russ Earl	Paul Praschnik
	Song Leader	Ross Swearingen	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen
	Prayer	Doyle Jackson	Chuck Northrop	Russ Earl
	Lord's Supper (speaker)		Russ Swearingen	Doyle Jackson
	Lord's Supper		Chris Nelson	
	Lesson	Chris Nelson	Paul Praschnik	Chuck Northrop
	Prayer / Door Attendant	Paul Praschnik	Russ Earl	Chris Nelson