



“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

Attitudes Toward Your Home

Randy Carr

Ephesians 6:1-4, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth. And you fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”

Family is so very important! All too many children find ‘home’ to be simply a place where they eat and sleep (sometimes). It needs to be much more than that. It needs to be a place of warm acceptance and understanding; a place where we can be absolutely honest with each other; a place of love and affection in spite of any shortcomings and wrongdoings. The home and family is a place to grow up — not merely physically, but emotionally, socially, intellectually, and especially spiritually.

The home and family is a place to develop memories...good memories! Traditions are not deliberately started, they grow. We need to develop good traditions that will strengthen our children and our family for a lifetime.

Your children (and grandchildren) will have an attitude toward home and family. Will it be good, or will it be bad? You can, and will, influence that attitude and the memories that come with their experiences.

Consider the words of this poem written by Denis Waitley:

“Take a Moment to Listen”

Take a moment to listen today,
To what your children are trying to say;
Listen today, whatever you do.
Or they won’t be there to listen to you.

Listen to their problems, listen for their needs,
Praise their smallest triumphs, Praise their smallest deeds;
Tolerate their chatter, amplify their laughter,
Find out what’s the matter, Find out what they’re after.

So tell them that you love them every single night.
And though you scold them be sure you hold them;
And tell them “Everything’s all right,
Tomorrow’s looking bright.”

Take a moment to listen today
to what your children are trying to say;
Listen today, whatever you do,
and they’ll be there to listen to you.

As parents (and grandparents) we have an awesome responsibility before us; to raise our children in the way and manor that God expects us to. Consult God’s Word — it is full of practical advice and instruction. The kind of home you make for your children here on earth will determine whether or not they have a home in Heaven. Make sure they have a good home, good training, and good memories and when they leave it, they will long for every opportunity to come back to visit mom and dad (grandma and grandpa, too).

Brother and Sister Whomever Have “Snuck” Back into the Church

Tom Bright

The word “snuck” in the title above is in quotation marks for a purpose. As you well know, this is an incorrect form of the verb “sneak,” but everyone knows what I mean by this word. Likewise, when you finish reading this article, you will know why I chose to use it.

The pattern is the same, regardless of whether it be north, south, east, or west. Brother and/or Sister Whomever have become slack in their attendance of the worship services (which implies their slackness in all that pertains to their Christian living), maybe one or both have quit attending altogether for a period of time. Encouragement from faithful brethren does no good, they persist in

following this path. Concern is shown, prayers are offered on their behalf, but nothing seems to help the situation.

But one day we notice that they are attending more regularly. As the weeks and months progress, their “faithfulness” grows. By the time several months have elapsed, maybe even a year or two, we wake up to the fact that they are now regarded as “faithful” once again. She is now a teacher in the Bible class program, he is used regularly in the distribution of the elements of the Lord’s Supper, used to lead prayers, leading singing, teach a class, etc.

But wait a minute!! We begin to think back; have Brother and Sister Whomever, in any way, ever acknowledged the sin of forsaking the assembly? Have either admitted the unfaithfulness of several months ago? Has any remorse been shown for their desertion of the only way that is right? The answer is obvious, indeed they have not! You see, they have been allowed to “sneak back into the church.”

Brother and/or Sister Whomever are guilty of sin. Time has not “taken care” of what they have done. All of the “good works” has not “earned” them the forgiveness of those sins, such actions have not overturned the damage done by them in that period of time when they totally disregarded the way of righteousness.

I think that it is sad that such has been allowed in the New Testament church. Is it because we are more interested in numbers than Truth? Is it because we do not want to “hurt their feelings?” Is it the case that we are more concerned about what they feel than what God thinks about the matter? Do we think that God has accepted them back into His divine favor? Are we ready to affirm that if they die in such a situation, that they will hear, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou has been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord” (Matthew 25:21)?

When a person sins before God, the only way he can be forgiven is for him to repent. Paul commanded, “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you,” (Ephesians 4:32). Has God ever forgiven a sinner who has not repented? Friends, this is the only “unpardonable sin” that exists, the one of which any person will not repent!!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us all join hands and walk together under the blood-stained banner of the Lord Jesus Christ, in love seeking the good of others, striving together for the good of the most precious cause that has ever existed. May we be deeply concerned with those of “like precious faith” who have wandered astray, always speaking the truth in love, yet pointing out that sin unrepented of is sin unforgiven. Let us strive to be patient, yet steadfast, in kindly showing that such actions are not only sin against God, but the blood-bought body of Christ has been stained by such actions. Paul said that Jesus gave Himself for the Church, “That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” (Ephesians 4:25-27). Even though such will be true in eternity, Paul refers to this life.

So let us have the strength and courage to say as did David, “I have sinned against the Lord” (2 Samuel 12:13), and not try to “sneak back into church.”

Observations and Concerns

March 20, 2024

Welcome Visitors! We are grateful you have decided to visit us today.

Praise in Psalm: “Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, *bless* his holy name” (Psalm 103:1).

Declaration of Appreciation: Let’s remember this week to give thanks to our Father in heaven for the institutions of marriage and the home.

The annual Oologah lectureship begins Friday, March 22-24. This year’s theme is “**Conversions in Acts.**” Please plan to attend and invite others. Flyers are available in the foyer.

Remember, there will be a *potluck dinner* on Saturday at noon for all who attend our lectureship.

Azalea Gospel Meeting: April 14-17; Matt McBrayer

Weleetka Gospel Meeting: April 7-10.

We extend our sympathy to the Moses family on the passing of *Tricia Moses*. The Moses family are long-time members at the Ramona congregation. Tricia’s funeral will be Saturday at 10:00 AM at Caney Valley High School gym.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Bill Dilks** had a cat scan on Monday.
- ▶ **Walter Jackson** fell this past week and was not able to be with us on Sunday.
- ▶ **Darla Smith** was unwell and unable to be with us on Sunday.
- ▶ **Pat Taylor** continues to struggle with her health. She was scheduled to have a needle biopsy on her thyroid today. Surgery on her carotid artery is scheduled for May 14th.
- ▶ **Glen Beaman**, brother of Dicie Jackson, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Schedule of Services	Assignments		
	Wednesday, March 20	Sunday, March 24 AM	Sunday, March 24 PM
Sundays			
Bible Classes 9:30 AM	Doyle Jackson	Chris Nelson	Doyle Jackson
Worship 10:30 AM	Doyle Jackson	Chris Nelson	Doyle Jackson
Worship 5:00 PM (except 2 nd Sunday – 2 PM)	Bill Dilks	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen
		Ross Swearingen	Chris Nelson
Wednesdays		Chris Nelson	
Bible Classes 7:00 PM	Chuck Northrop	Chuck Northrop	Chuck Northrop
Website: oologahcofc.org	Chris Nelson	Bill Dilks	Bill Dilks
	Chris Nelson	Chris Nelson	Chris Nelson