

Let Us Not Forget!



"We can't all be heroes.

Most of us have to stand on the curb and clap as they go by."

Will Rogers

Praying for our military service men and women as they serve for peace and democracy for the world is a privilege. Paul, with authority wrote in 1 Timothy 2:1, *I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.* Remembering our veterans who fought in times past, those who lost their lives, is a privilege we have because of their service.

Our nation is being attacked as terrorists plot to destroy America and our belief in God. Our leaders need our prayers and support for wise decisions in protecting our freedom. We see by the oppression that is established in the Middle East that citizens are denied education and freedom of choice in religion and life.

Pray without ceasing, 1 Thessalonians 5:17. And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us, 1 John 5:14.

Truth For Teens

THANK YOU, GOD ***

Volume 5

October/November

Issue 5

Our Father, Which Art In Heaven, Hallowed Be Thy Name.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. – Psalms 95:2

Our thoughts this time of year are drawn to celebrations of holidays – Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year – but let's not forget how we got here. In the beginning God created earth and man, *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's, 1 Corinthians 6:20.* He has entrusted Christians to carry out the commandments laid out in the inspired scriptures, Matthew 28:18-20. Jesus spoke the words of His Father, John 8:28, and the Holy Spirit gave authority to the apostles on the day of Pentecost, Acts 2. To accomplish this, Christians rely on strength and courage from God through Jesus Christ, *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 1 Timothy 2:5.*

The holiday season brings family and friends together – be thankful. This is an opportune time to practice helping those in need – be thankful for your opportunity to share with others, and do these works all year. Giving is a blessing to the Lord, ... *God loveth a cheerful giver, 2 Corinthians 9:7.* Continue in steadfastness in worship – be thankful. *Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness, 2 Peter 3:17.*

Be thankful daily for the sound doctrine and the congregations that continue the spread of the Gospel to the world. Matthew 28:19-20. For our freedom to worship and praise God in truth – be thankful, *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth, John 4:23-24*

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TEEN LECTURES**

QUIT THE CHURCH?

**A PUBLICATION
FOR
TODAY'S TEENS IN TOMORROW'S WORLD**

“TRUTH FOR TEENS” – OUR MISSION

Truth For Teens is a publication with a circulation of over 500 to youth throughout the United States. This is possible because a group of men and women feel a need to provide healthy, helpful information to our youth as they deal with daily situations.

This publication is supported and funded by contributions of individuals and congregations of area churches of Christ. By their support we are able to continue the publication and mailing without charge to our youth. This missionary program is non-profit and tax deductible. All contributions are used appropriately for the printing and mailing of the issues. Financial help from those who would like to join in this outreach program to our youth will allow us to continue publication. Most important are the prayers of Christians for the success of this endeavor.

An account has been set up in the name of Truth for Teens Publication. Checks can be made to that account and mailed to P. O. Box 581, Manor, Texas 78653. This is a non-profit publication.

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“Teen Talk” Articles and Reviews

Truth For Teens is an avenue open to anyone desiring to write articles or reviews for the Teen features. If you would like to publish a message to your peers, inspirational, spiritual or covering everyday issues, you can send it through our web site, www.truthforteens.org, or mail to P.O. Box 581, Manor, Texas 78653, or email to tftpub@austin.rr.com. Space is limited to one column length [approximately 600 words in 11 point type]. It must include your name, address, school classification and place of worship.

Editor's note: We reserve the right to exclude items we deem unacceptable, using God's Word as our guide.

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**Are You Coming or Going?
Or
Are You Coming And Going?**

Almost everyone has seen, or at least heard, of the television game show *The Price Is Right*. The title of one of the games is attention getting and presents a question that everyone should ponder – “Are You Coming, or, Are You Going?” – as it relates to being a Christian.

The contestant is offered a prize and has the option of choosing a price, one that represents “coming” and one that represents “going.” The choice of the right price would determine whether they won the prize.

As a Christian, the question “are you coming” to Christ covers a wide range of decisions. After a person puts on Christ in baptism, it is still commanded that the continued duty of a Christian is to “come” to worship, Hebrews 10:25, and “come” to practice the fruits of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, Galatians 5:22. We are to bear one another's burdens in order to fulfill the law of Christ. It is a daily requirement to live with these attributes, Galatians 6: 4, *But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.* If a person decides to “go” to the works of the world, the Scriptures say that *those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God*, Galatians 5:21b. Galatians 5:16 reads, *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.* Verses 19-21 set out the works of the flesh, *Now, the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like,...*

A better choice is to “Come and Go,” “come to Christ” and “go teach the gospel” as is commanded in Matthew 28:19-20 and Mark 16:15: A Christian can win the prize – a hope of eternal life in heaven, Titus 3:7, *That having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life – without taking a chance, by accepting both options – choosing to serve God, Joshua 24:15, and keeping His commandments, If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love, John 15:10.*

The prize of the hope of an eternal home in heaven is the one to be desired. [NKJV].

When the church seems dead, and the work is slow,
When the attendance is off, and songs too low,
The prayers of the saints lack fervor and power,
When the preacher's sermons seem stale and sour,
Why not pause with self-examining eye,
And ask. “LORD, IS IT I?”

Psst!! DID YOU HEAR?

Today, through web sites, printed information and media, we are made aware of a person's character, public and private activities. Public interest from all walks of life comes through surveys, reviews, reports, analysis, and research, etc. Then there is the devil's lair, gossip among people in chat rooms, social networking sites and blogs from the internet, comments columns and personal conversations.

Information on public officials' behavior focuses the attention of the American public on the question of private versus public life. Their defense consists in part of a claim that what happens in their private life is not the public's business. The principle behind their defense is that public officials should be judged only on the basis of their public behavior. Comments and actions of public officials, religious persons, entertainers as well as private citizens have been picked up by microphones, photographers or reporters and publicized throughout the world. We know that these items are influential in keeping the media operating – sensationalism aids production; while placing judgment in the minds of the public. Respect from others is lost on those who are "caught" participating in unlawful and immoral activities, whether it is public personalities or friends, or whether complete facts are presented.

Why do people think that acts committed in private somehow do not count in determining what kind of person we are? The Scriptures tell us that God knows our heart. Not being caught by fellow man is not security from God. Behavior needs to conform to a high moral and ethical standard in all situations.

The Scriptures do not teach that stealing is wrong only if you get caught. Lying is wrong whether one lies in private or publicly about private matters or public business. The Bible doesn't present one moral standard for public behavior and another for behind-the-scenes conduct; nor does God condone behavior opposite His scriptural examples. In Psalm 139:11-12, David wrote, *If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.* Luke 16:15 reads, *And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts....*

The division of conduct in the world and in the church creates hypocrites as people try to present one image of themselves at school, work or play while following another identity in their dedication to the church. We should all try to live so that we would not be embarrassed if the nature of our private lives became public knowledge. Paul reiterated previous Biblical teaching when he wrote that God will judge even the secrets of men – *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commands: for this is the whole duty of man,* Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. Paul instructs the congregation in Roman, *In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel,* Romans 2:16. Jesus Himself indicated that we will give account even for every idle word we speak...and that includes those spoken in private (Matthew 12:36-37)!

God knows the hearts of those who act pious in church services and then live like the world the rest of the week! *The Lord knoweth the thought of man....,* Psalm 94:11.

Care should be given as we conclude our own opinions as to another's affairs. God will be the judge. Our purpose in life is to be a Christian, privately and publicly.

PARENTS HAVE RULES TOO!!

The following article describes a caring parent who practices a command of God as written in Deuteronomy 6:4-7, *Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

Another meaning of "mean" is "stand for," an appropriate definition for this testimony.

The "Meanest" Mom

We had the meanest mother in the whole world! While other kids ate candy for breakfast, we had to have cereal, eggs, and toast. When others had a Pepsi and a Twinkie for lunch, we had to eat sandwiches. And you can guess our mother fixed us a dinner that was different than other kids had, too! Mother insisted on knowing that if we said we would be gone for an hour, we would be gone for an hour or less.

We were ashamed to admit it, but she had the nerve to break the child labor laws by making us work. We had to wash the dishes, make the beds, learn to cook, vacuum the floor, do laundry, and all sorts of cruel jobs. I think she would lay awake at night thinking of more things for us to do. She always insisted on us telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. By the time we were teenagers, she could read our minds, and life was really tough.

She wouldn't let our friends just honk the horn when they drove up. They had to come up to the door so she could meet them! While everyone else could date when they were 12 or 13, we had to wait until we were 16. Because of our mother we missed out on lots of things other kids experienced. None of us have ever been caught shoplifting, vandalizing other's property, or ever arrested for any crime. It was all her fault. We never got drunk, took up smoking, stayed out all night, or a million other things other kids did.

Sundays were reserved for church services, and we never missed once. We knew better than to ask to spend the night with a friend on Saturdays.

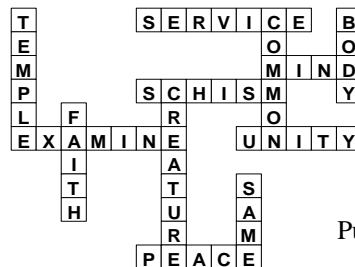
Now that we have left home, we are all God-fearing, educated, honest adults. We are doing our best to be mean parents just like our mom was.

The world just does not have enough "mean" moms anymore." Wit & Wisdom, July 30, 1998

¹*Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*

²*Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;*

³*That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.* Ephesians 6:1-3



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Camp 2006

Kirk Tooley

This was our seventh session for Summer Bible Camp. It again was a most rewarding experience and well worth the effort. I believe we experienced one of our best sessions this year. One of the campers said this session was the best camp ever.

How does one measure the success of a camp? I'm not sure that an empirical answer exists. Before trying to address the session's success, a most important issue must be addressed. THANK YOU! I speak for our Director, Dalton Lormand, as well as myself, in expressing our sincere thanks to all who helped in any capacity for camp. I honestly believe we enjoyed one of the best staff groups ever. Also, thanks go to the members of Las Vegas Trail church of Christ and Central church of Christ for the various donations that help make camp possible. Finally, thanks to the campers themselves for their great effort and behavior this week. May God bless each one of you with continued great blessings for your effort.

Now, to address the camp's success – First, one of our campers put on Christ in baptism. Second, we had eight diadem award winners. These campers earn every spiritual and camper award possible for the campers. Two of these received a \$500 scholarship to Faulkner University in Montgomery, Alabama. The two, from our congregation – Brandon Tooley and Marissa Wade – are to be congratulated for their achievement. Finally, the overall attitude and interest of our campers seemed higher compared to the past. Was it the best? I'm not sure, but it was certainly a success based upon the spiritual growth that was exhibited. We strive each year to be better – have a better message and better planning. Job well done! God bless, see you next year!

Dates for the camp in 2007 are set for July 22 through July 27. We hope you will reserve these dates on your calendar and spend that week strengthening your purpose to serve God and enjoying your association with members of your spiritual brothers and sisters. Invite your friends to come with you.

With the will of God, detailed plans for the theme and activities will be readied and made available the early part of 2007.

In this issue, we share with you four articles that were written by campers. If you would like to send an article for publication, follow the instructions and information on the inside cover of each issue. It will be shared with over 500 subscribers.

May God's blessing be with you until we meet again.

A Week at Camp Hensel

Camp Hensel must be the best camp I've ever gone to! The food is just like home, and the kids are just plain funny. But it has a lot of spiritual support for young people. We also have Crazy Team Olympic games, and the swimming is awesome.

This year we learned about Property of God, Creation. The soul of man, the church, and plan of salvation. And we also get to play Capture the Flag, football, kickball, and the crafts are awesome. The river has rope swings and a deck. They also have a big hill that they climb.

Even though camp only lasts a week, you will remember it for a lifetime. Jessica Lindner, Age 13, Giddings, Texas

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

In Daniel, we learn about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They put their life in place to follow the Lord, so they had great faith.

In Daniel, a King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream that troubles his spirit. Later, in verse 26, King Nebuchadnezzar asks Daniel if he can explain his dream to him. Daniel explains the dream in verses 27-29.

King Nebuchadnezzar makes a golden image, chapter 3, verse 1. In verses 5 and 6 he tells everyone to fall down and worship and in verse 7 he gives the consequence of not bowing down – “you will be thrown into the fiery furnace.” In verse 12, we learn that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego will not bow down and worship the idol or any other idol or god. When the king heard this he became furious and commanded that they be thrown into the fiery furnace. The king sees four men in the furnace, but he knows he only cast in three. He sees that he was doing wrong in verse 28 of Chapter 3.

We can learn some things from this: 1) If standing up for the Lord means putting our life on the line, we should do it, to be with our God in heaven, and 2) God will always be with you.

There is no other God. Helen Stockton, Age 13, Cibolo, Texas

All Authority in Jesus Christ

In Matthew 28:18, Jesus says, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth in religious matters. In John 12:48-50, Jesus says that we will be judged by his words, which are God's words – not friends, family, teachers, your thoughts, etc.

God's will is made clear in the plan of salvation. You need to hear the word (Romans 10:17), believe in Jesus (John 8:24; Hebrews 11:1, 6), repent (Luke 13:3), confess Jesus as Christ (Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 8:36-38), be baptized into Christ (Acts 2:38), and be faithful until death (Revelation 2:10). If we do these, God will give us a home in heaven.

To be faithful until death, you must be a faithful Christian. To be faithful Christians, you must: 1) study God's word [II Timothy 3:16-17]; 2) do God's will [Matthew 7:21]; 3) worship in spirit and truth [John 4:24]; 4) keep His commandments [John 14:15]; 5) attend worship diligently [Hebrews 10:24-25]; 6) pray often and fervently [I Thessalonians 5:17]; 7) put forth a Godly influence [Matthew 5:16]; 8) live righteously [Galatians 5:22-25]; 9) Despise evil and error [Ephesians 5:10-14]; 10) Care for and teach the lost [Matthew 28:18-20]; and 11) Be steadfast and faithful [I Corinthians 15:58].

By doing these things, you are living a Christian life. Marie Bull, Age 13, Fort Worth, Texas.

Property of God

When you say “Property of God,” what do you think it means? I think it means to actually own something of yourself, that is why I want to mention 1 Corinthians 6:19, *What, know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

Now, after reading it, did it change your exact thought as to “property.” One thing for sure is that it changed my perspective to a more complete thought of ownership. Now I know that God owns everything that He has made.

Believe it or not, He even owns you too. Elizabeth Evans, Age 14, Austin, Texas.

Reformation – Second Time Around?

To “reform” is defined as “to make better; to improve by removing faults or abuses.” “Non-denominational” groups are appearing in great numbers, distancing themselves from well-known denominational names but in some cases accepting financial help and practicing their doctrinal creeds. Needed today is the realization that Christianity should be “restored” to the New Testament church – to restore is “to bring back; establish again; to bring back to a former condition or to a normal condition.”

New Testament Fellowship, Community Church, Tampa Regional Church, Bible Fellowship Church, New Life Fellowship Church – these are just a few names of “churches” filtering into cities and communities. Their following in some cities runs in the thousands. In identifying them with religion, they come under the heading of “eclectic” churches. *Webster’s Third New International Dictionary* defines “eclecticism” as follows: “The selection of practices or elements from various and diverse sources according to their presumed utility or validity, usually for the purpose of combining them into a satisfying or acceptable style, system of ideas, or set of practices.” Their identity specifies “non-denomination,” but their practices suggest traditional man-made changes from what is the New Testament church that was established on the day of Pentecost. If we are going to call ourselves Christians and claim to belong to the New Testament church, we must teach and practice what the New Testament authorizes. One visible error of the “churches” is that their name does not recognize Christ’s name on their signs and billboards. They pale their affiliation with denominations.

The following is an article by Winford Claiborne of the International Gospel Hour, May 16, 2004:

Eclectic Churches

“No religious leader has the right to determine the nature and the function of the Lord’s church. What the church is and what it must do were decided more than two thousand years ago. Paul taught that truth very plainly in his great letter on the church. ‘Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world has been hidden in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: to the intent (or for the purpose) that now unto principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord’ (Eph. 3:8-11). The church is not some Johnny-come-lately so that modern preachers or priests or others can determine what the church must do in its service to God almighty. God decided that before the foundation of the world.

“Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the church? Paul informed the Ephesians: God ‘has put all things under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all (Eph. 1:22-23). In his letter to the Colossians, Paul affirms that Jesus Christ ‘is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence’ (Col. 1:18). Should the head of the church be the one who tells us what we must do to become members of his church, how we must live so we may enjoy fellowship with the Father, with the Son, with the Holy Spirit and with the faithful in Christ Jesus? John speaks explicitly to that question. ‘If we say 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 cleanses us from all sin’ (1 John 1:6-7). Christ chose all of this a long time ago. We choose – either to obey his will or to rebel against it. We do not choose the way to serve God. We choose whether we will do it.

“I have indicated that one of the crucial issues in ‘eclectic churches’ is authority. By what authority do churches imagine they have the right to choose what they will do and not do? Who gave them that authority? But there is another very serious matter involved in eclectic churches. They and all other churches must face the Judge of the universe and have to give an account of what they have done and why they have done it. Do you believe that? Are you willing to stand on your record in such matters? If there were no final judgment, you and I could do whatever we liked and nobody would have any reason to question our teachings and practices. But there will be a final judgment at which time we shall have to give an account of our behavior.

“A careful reading of the Old Testament would help us to know that God means what he says in his word. An acquaintance with Cain, Nadab and Abihu, Korah, Dathan and Abiram tells us in no uncertain terms that God will judge us for failing to abide by his word. The New Testament is no less explicit. Paul urged the members of the body of Christ at Colosse not to allow any man to rob them of their reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels... And no holding fast to the Head (Col. 2:18-19). Some of the false teachers, probably Gnostics, were engaging in practices that were contrary to God’s will. They were observing the commandments of men. They were engaging in what Paul called ‘will worship’ (Col. 2:22-23). Did you know that eclectic churches are practicing ‘will worship’? They are doing what the human will dictates – not what God’s inspired will requires.

“There is no greater honor in this world than to be a child of the living God. There is no greater responsibility than to do what God says do in the way he says do it.”

But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. Matthew 15:9, see Isaiah 29:13.

The "Can" Cans

Can I Believe In God ?

Can I Show My Belief In God ?

Can I Be a Role Model ?

Can I Be An Influence and Not Be Influenced ?

Can I Be Active In The Church ?

Can I Stay Focused On The Sermon ?

Can I Live Morally (No Sex, Drugs or Alcohol) ?

Can I Overcome My Hate ?

Can I Save Myself ?

Can I Be Saved From Eternal Punishment ?

Can I Be Unscripturally Baptized ?

Can I Be Certain That I Am Going To Heaven ?

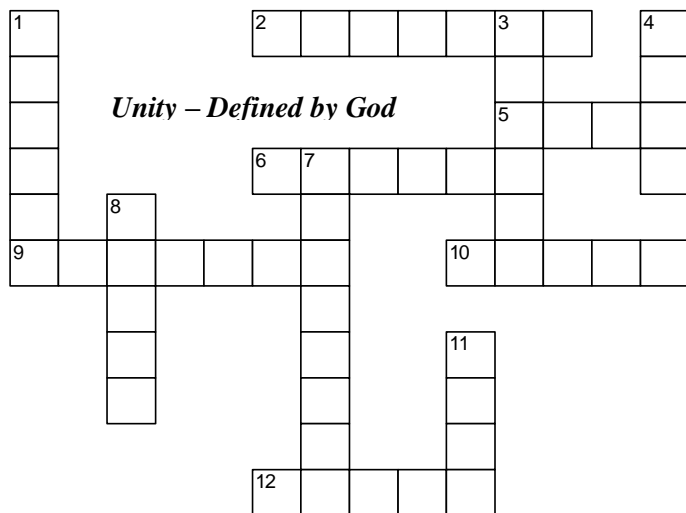
Singing, Small Groups, and

Q & A Session

8th Annual Central Texas Teen ~~Lectureship~~ *Straight Talk*

November 18, 2006

Central church of Christ (512) 670-3803



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

Solution on Page Three

Across

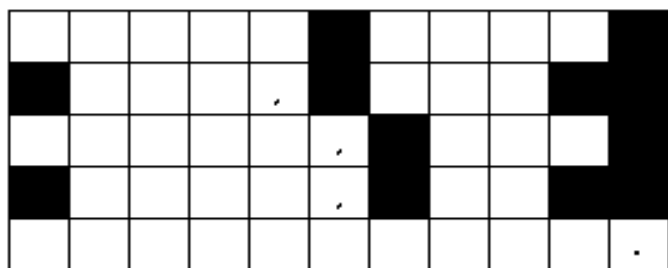
- 2 With good will doing ____, as to the Lord, and not to men. Eph. 6:7
- 5 Finally, be ye all of one ____, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous. 1 Pet. 3:8
- 6 That there should be no ____ in the body, but that the members should have the same care one for another. 1 Cor. 12:25
- 9 ____ yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.... 2 Cor. 13:5
- 10 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in ____! Psa. 133:1
- 12 Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of ____ . Eph. 4:3

Down

- 1 Know ye not that ye are the ____ of God, ... 1 Cor. 3:16
- 3 And all that believed were together, and had all things ____; Acts 2:44
- 4 What? Know ye not that your ____ is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, ... and ye are not your own? 1 Cor. 6:19
- 7 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new ____: ... 2 Cor. 5:17
- 8 Till we all come in the unity of the ____, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, ... Eph. 4:13
- 11 Be of the ____ mind one toward another... Be not wise in your own conceits. Rom. 12:16

Greeting!!

Answer on Back Page



U O C B T
 E L U E N E
 M L O T E L A D D
 P Y A C I A I N O
 M E R V Y P U N E D

Friendship

Two are better than one; because they have good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will life up his fellow: but woe unto him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

"You can make more friends in two months by becoming really interested in other people, than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you." -- Bernard Meltzer

Little Johnny asked his grandmother how old she was. She answered, "39 and holding." Johnny thought for a moment, and then said, "And how old would you be if you let go?"

A palindrome is a word that reads the same from left to right as it does from right to left. For each of the definitions below, suggest a palindrome:

- 1. Midday
- 2. Title for a lady
- 3. Tier
- 4. Sound a chick makes
- 5. Part of the human body
- 6. Something that fails to work
- 7. An entertainer's short-term job
- 8. Short, quick, down-and-up motion
- 9. Screwball
- 10. Sound a horn makes

Answers on back page

LEBBI 21 18 8 2
 RIOSHWP 11 4 10 6 24
 YRPA 13 16 17
 GINS 9 25 19 26
 MECNUMO 14 22 23 20 1 7
 HECAT 5 3 15 12

One Mind, One Accord

Answer on Back Page

1 2 V 3 4 5 6 7 8 7 9 10 , 11 12 7 13 7 5 14 11 7 12 15 V 2
 16 8 4 7 15 17 16 5 5 15 18 19 3 D , 8 7 5 20 10 11 16 8 K 21 17
 5 12 7 9 16 22 3 4 20 8 7 , 8 7 5 20 9 23 24 19 D 5 6 7
 10 16 22 7 5 6 25 1 26 .

WHY DO PEOPLE QUIT THE CHURCH?

A feeling of isolation can be a “faith test.” Sometimes a person will slack off in participation when her “best friend at church” gets married or his golfing buddy gets transferred to a different city. Some new converts, and those who transfer in, never really feel like they belong. They long to have someone who smiles when they see them, greets them warmly, comes over to talk to them, sits near them during services, and goes out to eat with them after services. Those who study church growth explain that the failure to establish close, warm relationships with other members is usually a primary reason people drop out. Such experts suggest that if people can make five or six close friends in the church, they will probably never drop out. While we do not go to church services to “fit in,” it makes it easier to worship and work for God if we do.

Sensitivity to this problem and efforts to incorporate new members, timid members, and misfit members can help save souls and retain members. There is much emphasis in the New Testament on greeting one another warmly [Acts 20:27; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:26; 1 Peter 5:14]. The Lord requires us to “condescend to men of low estate” [Romans 12:16] and to “... lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees [Hebrews 12:12]. The New Testament church is often called the body of Christ [Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; the Book of Ephesians], a metaphor that implies closeness, acceptance, nourishing, and cooperation. Is it worth it? Paul reminds us: “Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary” [1 Corinthians 12:22; cf. Matthew 16:26].
– Allen Webster, House To House, Heart To Heart.



An old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people.

He said, "My son, the battle is between two "wolves" inside us all. One is Evil. It is **anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego.**

The other is Good. It is **joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."**

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

[Editor's Note: Some things from the internet are worth noting.]

Forward and Backward: 1. noon; 2. madam; 3. level; 4. peep; 5. eye; 6. dud; 7. gig; 8. bob; 9. kook; 10. toot

Fallen Phrase: Jude 2, Mercy unto you, and peace, and love. Be multiplied.

Double Puzzle: Philippians 3:16 – Bible, worship, pray, sing, commune, teach.

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We reserve the right to exclude items we deem unacceptable, using God's Word as our guide.

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