

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Aug 10, 2014



CHRISTIANS AND HAVING FUN

"That's no fun." "Let's do something fun." "That was the most fun I have had in a long time." These are common statements that both Christians and non-Christians make. At one point in our life, we may think constantly about doing things that we consider to be fun. Later in life, however, many people, while they still have playful thoughts, begin to think much less about fun stuff, their definition of "fun" changes, and the activities in which they participate "just for fun" may be different.

Some folks seem to have the idea that Christians should never be happy, never smile, never have fun. In their minds, being a Christian is a life of drudgery, burdens, and void of any fun. God wants us to work (2 Thess. 3:10-12), but there is also the reality that having days off from work, going on vacation/holidays, or simply having a change of routine can be helpful to a person's mind and health – a time for rest, relaxation, and revitalization. Jesus once told His apostles, "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while" (Mark 6:31).

When we consider the Bible's teaching, we see in it no command or principle which would forbid God's children from having fun. Loving life is something the Bible portrays in a positive way. "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile" (1 Peter 3:10). In addition, it is written: "A merry heart doeth good [like] a medicine" (Prov. 17:22). There are, indeed, benefits in being able to enjoy life, laughing, and, yes, even doing "fun" stuff. While that is true, it is essential that we keep ...

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).

**VISITORS,
WELCOME!**

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

1:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes for
all ages & Pew Packers
each Sunday at 12:30

P.O. Box 321

2008 Hwy. 306

(1.2 miles east of I-55)

Coldwater, MS 38618

(662) 622-7951

emailus@coldwatercofc.com

www.coldwatercofc.com

ELDERS

Billy Bland

Seth Daniel

Jim Jackson

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

Joe Owen Tim Wilkes, II

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

... matters in proper perspective. With that in mind, here are a few reminders for each of us to keep in mind.

1. It is okay to have fun, but it is not okay to become obsessed (going to excess) with having fun. Being “lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God” (2 Tim. 3:4) does not please our Master. We must learn to practice self-control in our approach to fun things. Even for fun activities which are lawful, let us each share Paul’s mentality: “I will not be brought under the power of any” (1 Cor. 6:12). It certainly is not a laughing matter when a person becomes addicted to video games, sports competition, or texting with friends. Covetousness is idolatry (Col. 3:5), and so is being obsessed with fun affairs.

2. It is okay to have fun, but it is not okay to have fun in away that is a violation of God’s will. Sinful fun is off limits for the saints of God. Make no mistake about it: sin is pleasurable (Heb. 11:25), but the Lord charges us to “abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul” (1 Peter 2:11). So, as we consider our options of fun things to do, we need to choose those which do not endanger our souls or the souls of others. The world’s idea of “a good time” often involves drinking parties (1 Peter 4:3), unrestricted sexual activity (1 Thess. 4:3), cutting down other people by rude and inconsiderate words (Col. 4:6), driving recklessly, dancing/lewdness, and pornography. The discerning disciple knows that participating in fun-filled activities which involve the works “of the flesh” will prevent a person from inheriting the eternal kingdom of heaven (Gal. 5:19-21).

Surely it goes without saying, but it never hurts to remind ourselves, having “fun” during our worship assemblies is the height of irreverence (Psalm 95:6). Sending text messages, whispering jokes, or engaging in some type of competition with others during worship are such blatant actions that we find it repulsive to even mention them. Yet, some members of God’s church do those very things as they sit in a worship service. The saddest part? They are not at all ashamed and do not know how to blush (cf. Jer. 6:15)!

Another form of forbidden “fun” is the type of activity which brings harm to people. Some find it enjoyable to destroy the personal property of others. Others think it is cool to say things that hurt another person’s feelings, self-esteem, or even their reputation. The followers of Jesus are supposed to be compassionate, tenderhearted, and considerate (1 Peter 3:8), treating others in the fashion we would like them to treat us (cf. Matt. 7:12). Though some consider it fun, there is nothing spiritual about being obnoxious, mean-spirited, and a jerk.

3. It is okay to have fun, but it is not okay to allow fun to interfere with our ...

... **commitment to God.** Our God is more important than doing something fun! Our hearts must be set on spiritual things, not the affairs of this world (Col. 3:1,2). Our priorities must be clear and inflexible: God comes first above everything else (Matt. 6:33). That includes having fun. When our commitment to “fun things” conflicts with the worship time of God’s people, worship takes precedent over fun! When family gatherings are scheduled at the same time as the services of the local congregation, God still comes first! When we make expenditures in fun-related activities, let us not spend money in such a way that we are forced to reduce our contribution to the Lord. Fun is fun, but it is not fun when marriages struggle because a spouse(s) is obsessed with fun hobbies.

4. It is okay to have fun, but let us not forget that God expects us to be wise stewards of the time and resources He has placed in our hands. “It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2). God is not opposed to us being happy and having fun. But, let us strive to keep our longings for fun under control. Good, clean fun is great. Soul-damaging fun is not.

–written by Roger D. Campbell
adapted from Seek The Old Paths

*Love one another,
for love is of God*

1 John 4:7

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

- 1. August 23: Memphis Redbirds Game
Not just for youth; for all ages!
- 2. August 29: Fifth Friday Youth Devo
@Andy & Molly’s House
- 3. September 27: Memphis Zoo Trip
Also for all ages!

Sermon Review

RECOGNIZING SIN, PT 1
(Matthew 5:3, 1 John 1:8)

- I. **Rebellion** -- Cain, Judas Iscariot
- II. **Reservation** -- King David, Corinthian Brother

RECOGNIZING SIN, PT 2
(Matthew 5:3, 1 John 1:8)

- I. **Rebuke** -- Simon the Sorcerer, Apostle Peter
- II. **Readiness** -- Praying Publican, Cornelius

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Payton Jackson, as he begins college away from home; **Seth Daniel**, taking medication equivalent to chemo, which causes great fatigue and sickness; **Wiley & Betty Tuggle**; **Helen Bowman**.

NetCasters
Fishers of Men
Far East Missions

Family & Friends

Family of Charlie Daniel, passed Wednesday, cousin to April Kinney & Shelly Cates; **Sherry Hillam**, Betty Duke's oldest daughter; **Ray Hendrix**, lymphoma; **Carole Livsey**, Clifton's aunt, stage 4 lymphoma; **Charles Savage**, recovering from prostate cancer treatment; **Janet Colvett**, Jeffrey's mother, leukemia; **Trent Childers**, at home recovering from colonectomy; **Amanda Cummings**, young mother with cancer; **Danielle Key**, young mother with cancer; **Andy's grandmother**, hospice; **Carla Carlson**, cancer, continuously receiving chemo; **Janie Brister**; **Ava Roten**, **Brett Rutherford**, **Jason Spencer**; **Frankie Burfield**, cancer; **Jack Higginbotham**; **Tasha Higginbotham**, on donor list for kidney transplant; **Lauren Harrell**, breast cancer; **James Cooper**, Jan's brother, cancer; **Marie Sims**; **Renee Loya**, Parkinson's, MS, & dystonia; **Eli Williams**, cancer returned, receiving treatments; **Ray Maples**; **John & Anita Simpson**; **Martha Hatfield**, Lynn's grandmother, stage 4 cancer; **Virginia Johnson**, stage 4 lung cancer; **Joy Angel**, various health problems; **Linda Perkins**, leukemia; **Mac Owen**; **Bob Spurlin**; **Ally Jo Kelly**, toddler with leukemia; **Brad & Sheri Daniel**; **Joe & Josephine Johnston**, and their sons, Charles and Chris.

Birthdays

8/10	Larry Campbell	8/21	Sue Cobern
8/15	Carolyn Davis	8/25	Addi Bayless
8/16	Clifton Angel	8/26	Jim Jackson
8/19	Helen Bowman	8/28	Jerry Davis
8/19	Ron Johnson		

Anniversaries

8/2	Jared & Rebecca Brown
8/5	Tren & Toranda House
8/6	Tim II & Rachel Wilkes
8/18	Ron & Anna Johnson

Get Involved!

Providence Place Devo -- TODAY -- 2 PM

Memphis Redbirds Game -- Aug 23

Sign up sheet on table in foyer
For all ages

Coldwater Singing -- Aug 27 -- 7 PM

Fifth Friday Youth Devo -- Aug 29

@ the house of Andy & Molly

Bible Bowl -- Sep 20 -- 4 PM

Genesis 34 – 36

Coldwater Gospel Meeting -- Oct 19 – 22

Wayne Rodgers preaching
Theme: "His Grace Reaches Me"

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, August 10

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jeffrey Ferrell
Announcements	Jerry Davis
Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Jerry Davis
	Jared Brown
Assist	Sammy Williams
	Jeremy Moore
Opening Prayer	Andy Ratliff
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Johnny Bayless

Afternoon

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Opening Prayer	Joe Owen
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Jerry Davis
	Jared Brown
Closing Prayer	Billy Bland

Wednesday, August 13

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Prayer	Timothy Wilkes, Sr.
Invitation	TBA
Prayer	Ron Johnson