

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sep 7, 2014



Bitterness Should Not Be Found in the Lives of Christians (PART 2)

Galatians 5:13-15

“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. (14) For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. (15) But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. (16) This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”

Notice here the command to “love and serve one another”, it is a focus on the needs of others above those of ourself. Christians are to be more like their Master (**Philippians 2:5**) and in this we will see a formula to avoid bitterness from growing and consuming us. The Scripture here in Galatians actually states the effects of the wrong attitudes towards our brethren. Paul said *“but if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed by one another.”*

We see here a wrong attitude that brings about a wrong/ungodly and sinful consequence. When such attitudes exist, we are taught that it is because we are not being led by the Spirit’s Word. Fleshly brethren engage themselves in malicious gossip, character defamation, and hypocritical judgment and in so doing divide and disrupt the church.

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

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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

This is explained as feasting upon sinful selfish desires and destroying the lives of their brethren in the process.

The only cure for such bitterness is a humbling of one's self and a repenting to the Lord and to those who they have spitefully hurt in their sinful conduct. Often church problems are traced back through and there is evidence of a bitterness developing in the lives of brethren. Perhaps this began because they had sin in their lives and when addressed or confronted by it, they became embittered instead of being humble and repentant. What a shamefully sinful way to separate one's self from the forgiveness of God and how sad to tear apart the Lord's body because of this. But let us note that, even though this is the case of division and stumbling in the church, it is not too late for these brethren to totally humble their hearts and seek the Lord's forgiveness. Not only will the Lord forgive them, but so will their brethren. My prayer is that in such cases, that brethren will in fact humble their troublesome hearts and turn back to the Lord.

To close these thoughts I would like to state that bitterness and hatred of brethren places the souls of those who are ensnared by it in spiritual darkness. Not only are they in darkness but they are bringing shame upon the body of the Lord. If brethren are not repentant in their sin, if they do not repent and make right; it will be important for the church to discipline by way of withdrawal of such and in so doing reduce the cancerous effects of the bitter hearted brethren from causing further unrest and division in the body of the Lord. Such division is sinfully wicked!

“These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: (17) A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, (18) An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, (19) A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”

(Proverbs 6:16-19)

–written by Chris Herd

The Good Confession

"The truly penitent believer is ready to confess faith in Christ as the Son of God and as his Savior. He is willing to confess publicly that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah of God. In making this public profession the confessor accepts all the obligations which the name of Christ carries with it. If need be, in bearing the name of Christ, he accepts reproach, persecution, imprisonment, and even death itself. He who receives Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King and as the Captain of his salvation, and as Guide and Exemplar, willingly assumes all the obligations which his public profession of the name of Christ involves. He is willing and ready to step at the command of the great Captain. He who is thoroughly persuaded by evidence incontrovertible that Jesus Christ is the Son of God enlists in his service with a high and holy determination, and with no mental reservation to follow him in every detail of duty and to give the work of Christ a prominence above any other work he may engage in." (John F. Rowe.)

The good confession is not an expression of belief in a creed, but in a person. Therefore, it not only benefits the confessor and pledges loyalty to a risen Christ, but it also glorifies that Christ and declares his name to a lost world. Why be a professor, with its tinge of doubt, when we can be a confessor of Christ, thus strengthening that faith we confess, sanctifying the Son of God, assuring the confession of our names before the Father, and calling the world and the church to a greater respect for the name of all names?

"I have no notion of a timid, disingenuous profession of Christ. Such professors are like a rat playing at hide-and-seek behind a wainscot, who puts his head through the hole to see if the coast is clear, and ventures out if nobody is in the way, but slinks back again when danger appears. We cannot be honest to Christ except we are bold for him. He is either worth all we can lose for him or he is worth nothing." (Salter)

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

1. September 20: Bible Bowl -- 4 PM
2. September 27: Memphis Zoo Trip
For all ages!
3. October 11: Trade Days Booth
Also for all ages!

Gospel Advocate October 23, 1941

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Leigh Owen, recovering from foot surgery; **Wiley Tuggle**, recovering from surgery; **Jared Brown**, recovering from gall bladder surgery; **Seth Daniel**, taking medication equivalent to chemo; **Betty Tuggle**; **Helen Bowman**.

NetCasters
Fishers of Men
Far East Missions

Family & Friends

Janet Colvett, receiving cancer treatments and will have to remain in hospital throughout September; **Janie Brister** and family, Janie continues to suffer health problems and has lost more than one relative to death this last week; **Powell Family**; **Allen Bulla**, Rebecca's dad; **Jason Spencer**, kidney complications, receiving dialysis, among other health problems; **Terry Adams Parrish**, suffered major injuries from a fall from horseback; **Sherry Hillam**, Betty Duke's daughter, home and doing much better; **Ray Hendrix**, lymphoma; **Carole Livsey**, Clifton's aunt, lymphoma; **Charles Savage**; **Trent Childers**; **Amanda Cummings**, young mother with cancer; **Danielle Key**, young mother with cancer; **Andy's grandmother**; **Carla Carlson**; **Janie Brister**; **Ava Roten**, **Brett Rutherford**; **Frankie Burfield**, cancer; **Jack Higginbotham**; **Tasha Higginbotham**; **Lauren Harrell**, breast cancer; **James Cooper**, Jan's brother, cancer; **Marie Sims**; **Renee Loya**, Parkinson's, MS, & dystonia; **Eli Williams**, receiving treatments for cancer; **Ray Maples**; **John & Anita Simpson**; **Martha Hatfield**, Lynn's grandmother, cancer; **Virginia Johnson**, lung cancer; **Joy Angel**; **Mac Owen**; **Bob Spurlin**; **Ally Jo Kelly**; **Brad & Sheri Daniel**.

Birthdays

9/5 Jake Sutton
9/11 Molly Ratliff
9/26 Bren Burdsal

Anniversaries

9/5 Jake & Milba Sutton
9/19 Timothy & Lynn Wilkes
9/27 Wiley & Betty Tuggle

Get Involved!

Sunday Afternoon for the Savior -- TODAY
Between Services

Providence Place Devo -- Sep 14 -- 2 PM

Bible Bowl -- Sep 20 -- 4 PM
Genesis 34 – 36

Memphis Zoo Trip -- Sep 27
For all ages

Coldwater Gospel Meeting -- Oct 19 – 22
Wayne Rodgers preaching
Theme: "His Grace Reaches Me"

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, September 7

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jerry Davis
Announcements	Billy Bland
Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Timothy Wilkes, Sr.
	Jeffrey Ferrell
Assist	Jeremy Moore
	Sammy Williams
Opening Prayer	Jim Jackson
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Chris Martin

Afternoon

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Opening Prayer	Joe Owen
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Jeffrey Ferrell
	Jeremy Moore
	Ron Johnson
Closing Prayer	

Wednesday, September 10

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Prayer	Jerry Davis
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Jason Bayless