

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sept 9, 2012

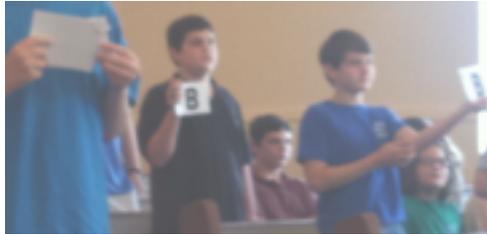


Editor's Note: Let us all take a moment and reflect upon a very needed article for Christians that use Facebook. For those that do not use Facebook, the etiquette provided applies to other areas of the Christian life. Also, I have sprinkled the bulletin with photos from yesterday's Bible Bowl. Thanks to all who were there! Thanks to Jeffrey for his hard work with the new format!

Facebook Etiquette for Christians

by Steve Higginbotham

I've been a Facebook user since 2006. Since that time, I would consider myself a moderate user (my children would choose the term "creeper"). Whatever term best identifies me, I've been around long enough to be "put off," "disappointed," "embarrassed," and "shocked" by some of the things I've read and seen. Therefore, I'm going to share a few "Etiquette Tips" for Christian Facebook users. Now, I'm no "Emily Post" (for those of you who don't know who Emily Post is, Wiki her), but I do think the following suggestions would go a long way in making Facebook a more productive experience. So here's my "Top Ten List."



1. **Don't criticize the church or your brethren.** Remember, the world is looking on! When King David learned of Saul's death, he instructed Israel to "tell it not in Gath...lest they rejoice" (2 Samuel 1:20). Gath was a Philistine city, the home of Goliath. David didn't want the sad news of Saul's death to be used as an opportunity for his enemies to rejoice. Can you identify problems and imperfections in your local congregation? Of course you can, because the church consists of imperfect people. But may I suggest that when you are able to identify weaknesses and failures among your brethren, "Tell it not on Facebook." After all, Jesus has a better way of dealing with it, doesn't he? (Matthew 18:15-17).

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

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

Jim Jackson

DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

PREACHER

Clifton Angel



2. **Don't constantly whine.** Or would it be more biblical to say “murmur and complain” (Philippians 2:14)? Now, I know there are times when you want to share the events of your life with others, and sometimes those events are burdensome. That's not what I'm talking about. In fact, one of the redeeming

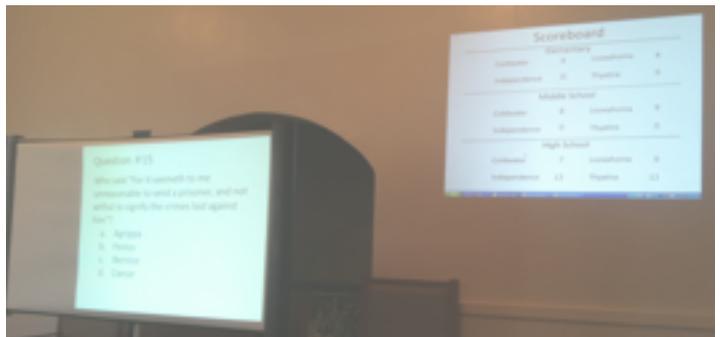
qualities of Facebook is that it can be a forum to encourage, edify, and bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:1). I'm not talking about one who uses Facebook for those purposes. I'm talking about the constant complainer. The one who seems to be unable to count his blessings, but sure can count his/her problems. Listen, if you're a Christian, regardless of what your problems are, your blessings infinitely exceed your trials.

3. **Don't take cryptic “pot shots” at some unnamed person who, when they read your post, will know you're talking about them.** If you have something to say to an individual, go to that individual and don't take your problem public (Matthew 5:23-24). By going public, you only pique the curiosity of others and potentially and unnecessarily pull them into something that is none of their business. 4. **Think before you post.** Innuendo's and off-color comments should never be posted (Ephesians 4:29).

5. **Don't post inappropriate pictures.** Pictures showing you breaking the law, abusing alcohol, wearing immodest clothing, etc. damage your influence and do not glorify Christ. Better yet, do not engage in these activities in the first place.

6. **Do some self-evaluation.** Look at your profile. What do you have to say about yourself? If you proudly identify yourself as a Christian and the Bible as one of your favorite books, then please make sure the rest of what you like is consistent with that profession. Saying you're a Christian and love the Bible, while in the next breath identifying as your favorites some of the most salacious books, movies, and performers causes others to blaspheme God (Romans 2:24).

7. **Don't use Facebook as an escape from reality.** If you're unhappy about your marriage, get off Facebook and work on your marriage! I know of too many stories where Facebook became the medium for adultery and broken homes. You know why you're “friending” people. You know why you're talking with them more and more. Stop deceiving yourself, and flee from that which can flame inappropriate desires and actions ([2 Timothy 2:22](#)).



8. **Be kind** ([Ephesians 4:32](#)). I've sometimes witnessed a person express some biblical error or misunderstanding only to be met with harsh and judgmental words. The fact that one may be in error doesn't imply sinister motives. I'm convinced that the impersonal nature of the Internet emboldens people to act "bigger," and "tougher" than they really are. I once had a dog that when she was in the safety of her cage sounded as though she would eat a person alive. But let her out of the cage, and she became as meek and cowardly as can be. I'm convinced that some of the harsh, hateful, judgmental words that I have seen typed would never be spoken if they were face to face with their offender. Paul instructs us to preach with all "longsuffering" ([2 Timothy 4:2](#)). That's true of what we preach as well as what we type.

9. **Don't gossip.** The rules of the tongue apply to the keyboard as well. Give care that what you say is true as well as helpful. If James were to write [James 3:6](#) today, it might read as follows, "And the keyboard is a fire, a world of iniquity..." Lying, gossiping, stating as truth what we do not know to be true, etc. are as wrong on Facebook as they are when speaking to another face to face.

10. **And finally, use it for good** ([1 Corinthians 9:22](#)). Speak of your faith often, encourage others, point people to Jesus, take advantage of opportunities to speak for Jesus, and let people see that there is an undeniable family resemblance between you and your heavenly Father.

If we would do these things, Facebook would be a better place. Come to think of it, if we would do these things the world would be a better place.

This Week's Daily Bible Reading:

Sunday:	Ezekiel 31 – 33
Monday:	Ezekiel 34 – 36
Tuesday:	Ezekiel 37 – 39
Wednesday:	Ezekiel 40 – 42
Thursday:	Ezekiel 43 – 45
Friday:	Ezekiel 46 – 48
Saturday:	Daniel 1 – 3

Sermon Review

God: He is Seeking

(Acts 17:26-28)

- I. He is Seeking People
- II. He is Seeking Providentially
- III. He is Seeking Provisionally

"Labor Day"

(1 Corinthians 15:58)

- I. Scriptural Background
- II. Specific Works
- III. Strengthening Exhortation

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Claire Easely has been having some tests run concerning her heart.

Wiley & Betty Tuggle; Nora Boling; Sara Norris; Herbert & Helen Bowman; Sue Cobern

**OpenDoor Ministry
Fishers of Men
Far East Missions**

Family & Friends

Lauren Jackson, daughter-in-law of Jim & Mischel, the removed tumor was cancerous and she is going to have to have radiation. **“Chubby” DeLoach**, brother of Betty Culbreath, continues to be in a coma as result of a stroke. **Carla Carlson** and her battle with cancer. **Curtis A. Cates**, battling leukemia. **Mickey Knockart**, Jim’s mother. **Paul Perkins**, Mischel’s dad, recovering from a mini-stroke. **Gema Winchester** has stage 4 stomach cancer and is not doing well. **Matthew Canada** (5), has down syndrome, but was also diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. **Eli Williams**, and his battle with cancer. **Wes**, brother of Deb Peeler, cancer; **Ray Maples; Wayne Collinworth; Andrew Hagewood; Janie Brister; Chuck Tharp; Renee Loya; Aubree Harris; Virginia Mayfield; Peyton Harville; Bob Spurlin; David Bragg.**

September Birthdays

9/5 Jake Sutton
9/11 Molly Ratliff
9/14 April Kinney
9/26 Bren Burdsal

September Anniversaries

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

Get Involved!

Daily Bible Reading Calendar 2012

Let’s continue to read and study together!!

Providence Place Devo -- TODAY -- 2PM

Ladies Day at Looxahoma -- Sept 15

See invitation on Bulletin Board

Movie Night at Tim & Lynn’s -- Sept 21

Ladies Day at Munford -- Sept 22

See flyer on Bulletin Board

Area-Wide Gospel Meeting in Corinth

Sept. 23-25, Crossroads Arena, Dan Winkler

Gospel Meeting at Looxahoma

Sept. 30 - Oct. 4, Wade Webster

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, September 9

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jerry Davis
Announcements	Jason Bayless
Song Leader	Jared Brown
Lord’s Supper:	
Preside	Joe Owen
	Jim Jackson
Assist	Daniel Owen
	Andy Ratliff
Opening Prayer	Seth Daniel
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Jeffrey Ferrell

Afternoon

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Opening Prayer	Billy Bland
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord’s Supper	Jim Jackson
	Andy Ratliff
Closing Prayer	Ron Johnson

Wednesday, September 12

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Prayer	Timothy Wilkes, Sr.
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Billy Bland