

Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

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Issue 47

ATTITUDES TOWARD OUR BRETHREN

By: Ronnie Scherffius

The word unity is found only three times and in only two books of Scripture. David wrote “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in *unity*” (Ps. 133:1). As much as it is good for brethren to be one, God provided those things necessary that brethren might “come in the *unity* of the faith” (Eph. 4:13) and by His inspired apostles both admonished and instructed how we might maintain unity: “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Eph. 4:1-3). Let us briefly note these four attitudes we must possess in order that peaceful unity exist among us.

First, we must have the attitude of **lowliness**. The word translated *lowliness* is from a Greek term that carries the sense of “having a humble opinion of oneself; a deep sense of one’s littleness” (Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament) and is translated “humbleness of mind” in Colossians (3:12). Lowliness is the opposite of pride: “A man’s pride shall bring him low; but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit” (Prov. 29:23) Paul demonstrated this when he admonished the Philippians “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory [**la vain opinion of self!**]; but in *lowliness of mind* let each esteem other better than themselves.” (Phil. 2:3). Furthermore, this was

Paul’s practice as he labored among the Ephesians: “Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, Serving the Lord with all **humility of mind**” (Acts 20:18-19). Paul both instructed and practiced lowliness among brethren. How great the peace and unity in the church if we all cast off lofty attitudes of self and maintain the attitude of lowliness!

Second, brethren must adopt the attitude of **meekness**. While lowliness has to do with a correct attitude of self, *meekness* addresses our attitude toward others especially those who are injurious and seek our hurt. The meek man is mild and gentle. The meek man does not react harshly or with a mean spirit. The meek man is not a coward though he does not react suddenly with anger, neither does he harbor vengeance against his antagonist. Meekness, therefore, assumes a new heart, i.e., a new creature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). No man of the world would never assume a disposition of gentleness toward others who might openly oppose them or even actively seek their hurt. Paul addressed the Corinthians “by the meekness and gentleness of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:1) and admonished the Galatians to seek the restoration of the wayward “in the spirit of meekness” (Gal. 6:1). How great the unity and peace among brethren if we all exhibited the attitude of meekness toward one another!

Third, brethren must possess the attitude of **longsuffering**. One who is *longsuffering* truly possesses his emotions and exhibits self-

control. Thayer notes that longsuffering “is the self-restraint which does not hastily retaliate a wrong” and is “opposed to wrath or revenge.” Where meekness is one’s attitude inwardly toward those who might mistreat them, longsuffering is more of maintaining outward actions. Solomon wrote: “A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife” (Prov. 15:18). How beautiful the state of the church and how rare occasions of strife if Christians would only be longsuffering with brethren.

Finally, there is the attitude of **forbearing one another in love**. It should be noted that our *forbearance* is to connected to love and it should be emphasized that we are to forbear *one another*. One has noted that in the Christian life we are “helping *one another* to sustain - helping to support *each other* in all the miseries and trials of life.” Forbearance involves bearing with one another’s weaknesses and not ceasing to love because of faults. It is a “tolerance without which no group of human beings can live together in peace.” Speaking of the state in which the apostles often found themselves Paul wrote, “Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place; And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we **suffer** it” (1 Cor. 4:11-12). Truly it is only the love for the souls of our brethren that would cause one to forbear or “bear-under” the weaknesses and infirmities of one another. How desperately the church needs brethren who will forbear one another in love.

What is your attitude toward your brethren? Are you striving to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace with an attitude of lowliness, meekness, longsuffering, and forbearance toward your brethren?

It Doesn’t Count
By: Steve Higginbotham

On August 8, 1988, the Chicago Cubs played the first-ever night game at Wrigley Field. For nearly 60 years, other teams were playing at night and were seeing a huge increase in attendance and

revenue. So on August 8, 1988, the Chicago Cubs finally hosted their first night game under the lights.

However, if you look at the record books, you will see that the first night game at Wrigley Field was not played on August 8, 1988, but on August 9, 1988. Why the discrepancy? Because the first game didn’t count. It was rained out in the fourth inning. So while the players played and fans cheered at Wrigley field on August 8, what they were doing that night didn’t count.

I can’t help but think of how many spiritual applications this historical tidbit packs.

Consider how many people eat the Lord’s Supper each week, but fail to remember Jesus while doing so. No one can deny they attempted to memorialize Jesus, but their attempt “didn’t count” (1 Corinthians 6:27).

Consider how many people sit on a pew and respectfully bow their heads in prayer, but their lives are full of hidden sins. While an attempt was made to pray, it “didn’t count” (James 5:16).

Consider how many hymns are sung by people who give no thought to the words they are singing because they’re more concerned about the musical notation and aesthetics. While an attempt at praise was made, it “didn’t count” (Ephesians 5:19).

Consider how many people are “baptized,” but through a mode or for reasons that are not authorized. While an attempt was made in such cases, “it didn’t count” (Romans 6:17).

Consider how many good works are done to be “seen of men.” While no one would deny the works helped the recipients, it “didn’t count” for the one doing the works (1 Corinthians 13:3).

On August 8, 1988, the players played just as hard as they did on August 9, 1988. On August 8, 1988, the fans cheered just as enthusiastically as they did on August 9, 1988. Yet, in spite of their efforts and feelings, the game on August 8, 1988, didn’t count because of the rules.

Likewise, friends, the religion of Jesus has rules. If we want to be pleasing to God, more is required of us than just “doing” and “feeling;” we must “do” and “feel” according to the rules (2 Timothy 2:5). – *Steve Higginbotham*

The Messenger, the Maud Church of Christ Weekly Bulletin, October 15, 2017.

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of November 24, 2019

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobs

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Lupe Escojido
Fruit of the Vine: Clifton Rutherford
Offering: Bryce Dolan
Assist: Curtis Scherffius, Pat Gooch, Manny Flonnory

Sunday Evening: Lupe Escojido, Clifton Rutherford

Prayer

A.M. Closing: Ron White
P.M. Closing: Young Men

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Anthony Scherffius
Sun. P.M.: Young Men
Wednesday: Anthony Scherffius

Ushers:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional:

Mark FitzSimmons

Open/Close Building:

Scherffius

Sound System:

Will Burleson

Greeters:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion:

Jamison

Note for Bible Classes:

Sunday, December 1st will start our new quarter for Bible Classes.

SPECIAL NOTE:

If you would like to add items to the bulletin, please see Nina Siegel or email : office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Please pray for our ill members and shut ins.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 24: Ladies Day planning meeting @ 4pm in old auditorium
Dec. 3, 10, 17: Ladies' and Men's Bible Class @ 10am
Dec. 6: Ladies Kitchen Gadget Exchange at the home of Kasi Jobs at 6:30pm.
Dec. 14: GEMS @ 9am at the Scherffius home
Dec. 14: Jr/Sr. high devo @ 6pm at the Scherffius home
Dec. 15: Annual White Elephant Exchange after evening services
Dec. 25: Singing night in lieu of Bible Classes

AREA EVENTS

Dec. 6-8: Science vs. Evolution with Jeff Miller @ Mathis church of Christ in Rockport

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Harvey Rampley (26); Les Daltry, Melanie Pantel (27)

Happy Anniversary: Bryce & Barbie Dolan (27)

TODAY!

There will be a Ladies Day planning meeting today at 4pm in the old auditorium. Anyone interested in helping is encouraged to be there.

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Mickey Tisue
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of November 17, 2019

Bible Class.....	120
A.M. Worship.....	155
P.M. Worship.....	80
Wednesday Bible Class.....	87

Offering \$3,546

Reading for this week: Acts 20-21

In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35



SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - William Pedigo

GO PAPERLESS!

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