

Detached Members

Perhaps the most quickly recognized illustration of a member of our body being detached is the retina, that part of the eye that receives the image and sends it through the optic nerve. When it becomes detached, that eye is unable to see.

Paul declared that we are all members of the body, if we are children of God, Christians (**I Cor. 12:18-20**). And he further taught that all of the members must work for the well-being of the whole body (**Eph. 4:16**).

But we cannot function if we become detached from the rest of the body. That part of the body that is cut off, or detached from the body, can be no benefit to the body. An arm severed from the body can do no work for the one who has lost that limb. But neither can the body continue to supply life to the part that is detached.

Even so, members of Christ can neither serve him nor

By Frank L. Smith

can he be a blessing to them, if they become detached from Him. A close association with the Lord in the body is necessary for the grace of God to save and bless us. Those members who have detached themselves from the church or have so lived as to have the fellowship with God's people broken will die as surely as a severed limb. Jesus said, "As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, so neither can you, except ye abide in me" (**John 15:4**). We cannot miss meeting and working with other saints in the church and bear fruit for the Lord. We must stay attached to His body in all things to keep our fellowship with Him, for He is the head of the body. ARE YOU WELL ATTACHED?

Let us keep well involved in worship, in teaching others, in study, in ministering to others' needs to keep our lifelines connected securely. Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation.



Classes this Week			
Sunday 5:15 Kid's Class	Monday 7:00 PM At the Building	Wednesday 10 AM Ladies Class	Thursday 7 PM Acts Study
Everyone is encouraged to come!	Our Spiritual Heritage Ladies Workshop	Meets at Anna Miller's House	Meet's at Jillian Petty's

Sick	
Jim and Barbara Kicker	Pam Dial (Laura Weldon's Mother)
Ken Sullivan	Rose Tate (Toni Herd's Cousin)
Adriana Mininno (Haley Chittam's Cousin)	Dave Bradford, Sr.
Blake Whatley (Hunt's neighbor)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)
Marty Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Johnny Adrian (Friend of the Sullivan's)

News and Notes

- Let's remember our expectant mothers: Anna Miller, Laura Humphrey, and Rachel Bradford.
- Heather Adams wishes to thank all who prayed for her during her illness.
- Starting today we will have a Sunday Evening class and singing for kids at 5:15. This will continue every Sunday.
- Let's be preparing for our meeting with Bob Harkrider, Jan 24-27
- Congratulations to Matt and Jana Hall on the birth of Shepherd and Spencer Hall!
- Audio CDs of Today's Sermon will be immediately available.
- We will have our monthly singing tonight.

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The Auburn Beacon



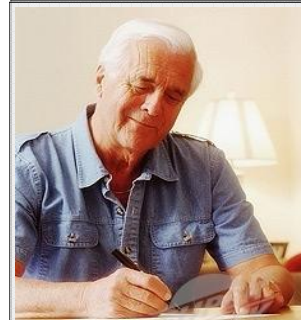
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**)

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A Letter to a Son Going to College

By Rusty Miller



Thought to Ponder

A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.

Do You Have a Bible Question?
Call (334) 734-2133 or
E-mail:
LarryRouse@aubeacon.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class 9:30 AM
Worship 10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Classes..... 7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

As you prepare to go away to college, I thought I should warn you about some things the devil will use to attack you. Please do not think this is all he will do (remember **1 Peter 5:8**), but I believe there are three areas in which he will attack with the most effort, and I wanted to offer advice on how to deal with each one.

The Temptation to Sin Sexually

At college, there will be more young women your age than you have ever known. A great many of them will dress provocatively, and indeed, many of them will have already been sexually active. Some of them, confused by such cultural phenomena as "Sex in The City," will promote the myth of "casual sex," the idea that sex is not a big deal, and can be engaged in without thought to consequences, particularly to the soul.

As I said, the idea is a myth.

As I said, these will not be the only ways Satan tries to entice you, but these are prominent ways. Do not give in. Remember that you may be all that many of your friends ever see of Christianity. Be a shining example to them (**Matt. 5:16**).

Besides the dangerous and troubling physical consequences of such action, there are eternal consequences that make this a matter of grave importance. From the beginning, sex was given by God to married couples, both for procreation (**Gen. 1:28**) and for pleasure (Song of Solomon). It is a significant part of the "one flesh" relationship designed for marriage. Outside of marriage, Paul says it is the only sin that one commits "against his own body" (**1 Cor.**

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6:18).

In addition, there is great joy to be found in remaining pure until marriage. Being able to present yourself to your bride in a pure way is one of the greatest wedding gifts you can give her, and I hope you will make it your goal.

The Temptation to Sin with Alcohol

Among the biggest temptations facing college students away from home is the temptation to use alcohol. Many will tell you that alcohol is harmless, or that "one little drink is not going to hurt you." There are several things I would have you consider.

First, for most of your days in college, the state says it is illegal for you even to possess an alcoholic beverage. As Christians, are we not to obey the laws of the land? Second, the rehab centers and hospitals are filled with those who thought alcohol was harmless, only to find themselves hopelessly addicted to it. In addition to that, the morgues are filled with those whose deaths were caused by the poor decisions that so often accompany the consumption of alcohol, and there are thousands of families torn apart by the sin of alcoholism. The impact on your decision-making processes also often leads to sexual sin. Finally, there is the cost to your soul to consider. Hell will also be filled by those who thought "one little drink won't hurt me." Consider **Proverbs 23:29-35**, as Solomon relates the degradation of the drinker.

The Temptation to "Skip Church"

Satan makes this one very easy. You

don't have to make a decision to do wrong. You don't have to do something vile. In fact, you don't have to "do" anything. All you have to do is sleep late on Sunday morning. It will be easy, because most of your dorm mates will be doing the same thing. No one's going to wake you up and "make" you go. It will be easy.

Do not be so easily convinced. While the temptations of sex and alcohol are very dangerous, I believe in many ways, this is even more so. When you decided to "sleep in," you give in to Satan just a little bit. But no one goes from Christian one day to reprobate the next. It is a gradual process. When you give in just a little, the next time it will be easier, and before long, you will find that you are "giving in" on bigger and bigger matters, sacrificing your Christianity and values for what is "easy."

Hebrews 10:25 teaches us that we are not to forsake "our own assembling together," but the erosion on your values and indeed, on your soul, is what really matters here. There will be many times you may think you are too tired to get up and go. Get up, get dressed, and go anyway. You will think that you can simply go to the evening service. Get up, get dressed, and go anyway. You may be the only one in your dorm who gets up and goes. Get up, get dressed, and go anyway.

As I said, these will not be the only ways Satan tries to entice you, but these are prominent ways. Do not give in. Remember that you may be all that many of your friends ever see of Christianity. Be a shining example to them (**Matt. 5:16**).

With Love — Your Dad



Delivered Unto Satan

By Stephen Russell

Paul wrote to the Corinthians that they should deliver the erring brother to Satan that, "his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus." This is strong language and it demands attention. We dare not take lightly the business of delivering an individual to Satan lest we find ourselves in danger of judgment.

So what should we do when a brother or sister strays from the faith? Let us note firstly that it is *the faith* that he has strayed from. It is not his loyalty to a group of people or any individual that is in question but his service to God almighty. There is no place for personal ego to enter when we are in a discussion of fellowship in God's kingdom. So if it is the faith that is forsaken then it is the source of that faith that we should turn to. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (**2 Tim. 3:16**). It is not man's wisdom that we should use to appeal but the perfect word of God that is the "power of God unto salvation" (**Rom. 1:16**). If we admonish a brother without making it very clear to him what part of *God's will* he has violated then our admonition is pointless. Or perhaps it is our own will and not God's that has been violated.

So how does the process work? Admittedly there is no specific way that we are to withdraw. We do find, however, principles that should guide us depending on the specifics of any situation. To begin with, attempts should be made to handle the matter one-on-one if possible (**Matt. 18:15**). It may be that this will not work so then we ought to take *reliable* witnesses with us so that every word may be established (**Matt. 18:16**). The writer here feels the responsibility to point out that the witnesses are to establish every word so that if a man is not reliable to remember what has been said then he is no good as a witness. If the brother still refuses to repent then the matter ought to go before the church (**Matt. 18:17**). This procedure, specified by the Lord, assumes that the sin was not public to begin with.

It should be a matter of common sense that at this point

Here are some practical suggestions for winning last place. The next time that you disagree with a brother in an area of judgment or opinion, insist that your brother get his way. The next time that your wife or husband neglects to do a chore that merely benefits you, do it yourself. The next time they are looking for a volunteer at work to do some menial task, volunteer! Win last place!

a reasonable amount of time should be given for the church, who has just been made aware of this brother's actions, to make appeals of their own to the brother. If there still is no resolution the church must cut ties (**Matt. 18:17**). It should also be a matter of common sense that the individual being withdrawn from should be notified of the action so that it may have its effect. We would not want to find out through the grapevine that we are to be withdrawn from and this is our brother we are taking this action against (**Matt. 7:12; 2 Thess. 3:15**).

What is the purpose of such serious action? There are two main reasons given for withdrawal in the New Testament. One is concern for the soul of the one withdrawn from (**1 Cor. 5:5**). The other is for the purity of the church (**1 Cor. 5:6**). If we are withdrawing for any other reason, then it is sin. Withdrawal should not be political nor should it be used as a bullying tool. It is something done with concern for souls.

A final word. If we refuse to fulfill our responsibility in this area we are not somehow going to help the erring brother by continuing in fellowship with him. He will be lost whether or not he is in our church directory. The truth is, we put *ourselves* in danger of the severity of God when we refuse to act as He has commanded us to. Then there are those occasions when a brother is withdrawn from by those who love the preeminence as did Diotrephes (**3 Jn. 9**). These men should know that when they withdraw fellowship from godly men, they have not done one thing to change this man's standing before God. They have, however, considerably endangered their own souls as well as all of the souls of those they persuade to follow them in their sinful behavior.

"But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good. And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet do not count him as an enemy, but *admonish him as a brother.*" (**2 Thess. 3:13-15**).

