

# If Brethren Can Practice it, Then Why Can't I Teach It?

How to Treat Sinners? By David Smitherman that mushy stuff in 2 Cor. 2:6-8.

After a careful study of the subject, the following are my conclusions on the subject of how to treat sinners.

- 1. Talk to everyone but the sinner about what they've done**---Forget what Jesus said in **Matt. 18:15**.
- 2. Don't attempt to restore the sinner**---Paul didn't know what he was talking about in **Gal. 6:1**.
- 3. As sinners attempt to cope with their sin and its consequences, make it as difficult for them as possible by turning your back on them in their hour of need**---Paul's much learning had really made him mad when he wrote **Gal. 6:2**.
- 4. Self-righteously act like you've never sinned and would certainly never do what they've done**---That's what Jesus was teaching in **Lk. 18:9-14**.
- 5. When sinners repent, (a) refuse to forgive them**---Jesus' command in **Lk. 17:3-4** can be ignored as well as the command in **Mk. 16:15-16** and **(b) show them no mercy or comfort**---Paul was going liberal when he wrote

**6. Pay no attention to the example of how Jesus treated and what he said to and about the sinful woman in Luke 7:36-50---1 John 2:6** doesn't apply to us today.

**7. Disregard Paul's commands in Col. 3:12-14**---Any preacher who talks about "compassion", "kindness", "love", etc. can't be trusted.

**8. And after you've treated a sinner in the above-described manner, try to forget what Jesus said in Matt. 6:15** when you ask for mercy and pardon for your sins---Surely God wouldn't treat you the way you've treated others.

Now if, after doing these things, you have trouble sleeping at night---good!

I hope you understand that my tongue was planted firmly in my cheek when I wrote this. But, if brethren can practice it (and I've seen them do it for years), why can't I teach it?



**(1 Cor 11:23-25)** - For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."

## News and Notes

Let's remember our expectant mothers: Laura Weldon, Anna Miller, Nicole Pender, Joy Liu and Amanda Stephens.

Let us continue to remember Dave Bradford in our prayers. You are encouraged to send him cards and letters at: 664 Lee Rd 84, Auburn, AL 36830

Tonight's sermon will be a question night. If you have a question you would like addressed please give it to Larry this morning.

## Sick

Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Lori Holloway	Chick Wade
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Rubye Johnson (Erica Seymore's Grandmother)	Jared Nixon
Ross Folmar	Dave and Betty Bradford	Johnny Adrian (Friend of Sullivanne's)
Ed Mort (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	"Grandmama" Odessa Wyatt (Dyle's grandmother)	Erlene Davis (Walker Davis' mother)
Gerald White (Christopher's and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Joe Perry (Anna Miller's Relative)

## July Birthdays

- July 14 - Jack Pressnell
- July 15 - Bradley Seymore
- July 16 - Nathan Smith
- July 24 - Brittany Holley
- July 25 - Yvette Rouse

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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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## The Lord's Supper

By Tom Edwards



### Thought to Ponder

A man's real possession is his memory. In nothing else is he rich; in nothing else is he poor.

It's really ironic: members in the church of Christ are often accused of not believing in the blood of Jesus, while those who make this accusation might observe the Lord's supper only one to four times a year.

As Christians, we realize the need to remember that precious blood by which the atonement was made. Without the Lord's life-saving sacrifice, sinful man would remain in a lost and hopeless condition, heading inevitably to an eternal separation from God Himself.

But now through Jesus Christ and by our faith and obedience, we can contact the blood of the Lord and enjoy the benefits of having our sins washed away and the beginning of a new life in the Christ. Actually, the church itself is the "saved"; and the "saved" are simply those who have been "bought by the blood" of the Savior.

This lesson has been designed to show that the Christian should take of the Lord's supper every first day of the week in order to remember the death of Jesus and be pleasing to God. **Acts 20:7** is the only passage that specifies the first day of the week as being the day in which early Christians met to partake of the com-

The communion is a memorial of Jesus Christ; which has not only been instituted by Him, but also made possible by His very death. As the Lord was quoted concerning this supper in **1 Cor. 11:18**, "...do this in remembrance of Me."

munion, but this one passage is enough to suffice.

Let us again consider the comments of a few highly regarded men who represent different denominational backgrounds, as to their remarks on **Acts 20:7** and the early church's weekly observance of the Lord's supper. This will clearly establish that the weekly participation in the Lord's supper is not just an "unusual doctrine" only accepted by those in the "church of Christ." (Let us also remember, however, that the quotes of men are never to be the basis for our beliefs in religious matters; but only that which is from God Himself.)

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

**Check Us Out On the Internet: [www.aubeacon.com](http://www.aubeacon.com)**

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Adam Clarke: "...the Lord's day...in which they commemorated the resurrection of our Lord...to break bread'...intimating, by this, that they were accustomed to receive the holy sacrament on each Lord's day..."

Albert Barnes: "'to break bread.' Evidently to celebrate the Lord's supper. It is probably that the apostles and early Christians celebrated the Lord's supper on every Lord's day..."

Pulpit Commentary: "'to break bread.' This is also an important example of weekly communion as the practice of the first Christians...it is impossible not to conclude that the breaking of bread in the celebration of the Lord's Supper is an essential part of the holy sacrament, which man may not for any specious reasons omit..."

Matthew Henry: "They 'came together to break bread,' that is, to celebrate the ordinance of the Lord's supper, that one instituted sign of breaking the bread being put for all the rest...In the primitive times it was the custom of many churches to receive the Lord's supper every Lord's day..."

What does the Bible say? In **Acts 2:42**, mention is made that the early Christians "continued steadfastly" ("were continually devoting themselves," NAS) in the Lord's Supper. If I told you that I continued steadfastly in doing my dishes; but, in actuality, I washed them only four times a year; you probably would not consider this being "steadfast."

**1 Corinthians 11:20-22,33, 34** also indicates the frequent observance of the Lord's supper. It reads: "Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God, and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you...So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you may not come together for judgment..." The inference is that when they met it was to take of the Lord's supper, which shows it

was to be observed quite often; but, unfortunately, they had profaned it by turning it into a common meal -- for this, Paul reprimands them.

In realizing the seriousness of this observance (**1 Cor 11:27-30**), how could one assume that God would allow His children to become lackadaisical with it? to overlook it? or simply minimize it by partaking of it so seldom?

Notice where the emphasis is placed in **Acts 20:7**: "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them..." Commenting on this, Coffman declares: "This emphatically states the purpose of Christian assemblies on Sundays throughout history, that purpose being for the observance of the Lord's supper...Even the address of so distinguished an apostle as Paul took second billing on that occasion, the primary purpose having been to observe the Lord's supper...The Christians, from earliest times, had the habit of meeting for the Lord's supper on 'a fixed day,' and **Acts 20:7** identifies that day as 'the first day of the week,' Sunday."

Sunday is a "special" day to the Christian. Though it is true that every day is a day in which one should serve God, Sunday has its special forms of worship. Not only the communion, but also the contribution is to be observed on this day. **1 Corinthians 16:2** reads, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." Seldom will one hear any preacher object to the weekly offering of the saints. Actually, many denominations today practice more collections than the Bible authorizes; but without the death of Christ there could not even be any offering from the "saints."

The communion is a memorial of Jesus Christ; which has not only been instituted by Him, but also made possible by His very death. As the Lord was quoted concerning this supper in **1 Cor. 11:18**, "...do this in remembrance of Me."

Early Christians shared the Lord's Supper every Lord's day. May it be our desire to emulate them in that which we believe and practice. Though some things have ceased, the observance of the Lord's Supper has not; and it is to continue until Jesus Christ returns (**1 Cor. 11:26**).



## When Discouraged, Remember this...

By Pat Higgins

Does it seem as if life is becoming just one trial after another? None of us knows the deadline God has assigned to our lives -- some die suddenly in their thirties, forties and fifties, but we do know that with each passing day we get closer to our end. Because God is faithful and not slack concerning His promise of finishing the good work He has begun in us, trials are a necessary part of the Christian life.

Still, it can be overwhelming. How do we combat discouragement? How do we endure to the end? God has given us the fundamental understanding we need to face our trials successfully and endure in **1 John 4:17**: "Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world."

On its face, it does not seem to be much of an answer. That is because to understand the power of this verse, we need to bring together other scriptures -- the "here a little, there a little" principle. The explanation begins with an incredible yet generally overlooked scripture.

The amazing scripture is in **John 17**. This chapter is the last prayer of Jesus Christ just before His arrest that Passover night. He begins by praying for Himself, then for His disciples. **Verse 20** begins a section in which He includes all future believers, "those who will believe in Me through their [the disciples'] word."

At this point, consider for a moment how much God must love Jesus Christ. After all, they have been working together side-by-side for literally countless years -- all eternity -- in perfect har-

mony.  
Relatively few couples are blessed with outstanding marriages that last fifty years or more. After so long, the depth of their relationship must be close and intimate. If that happens between two human beings in fifty years, what would it be like after a few billion? It would be intimate beyond our comprehension. Such is the depth of God's love for Christ - far beyond our comprehension.

Think about it. The Creator of everything, the epitome of love, loves YOU as much as He loves His Son. That should make every day brighter as we journey homeward to be with Him.

sion.

Now notice **verse 23**, especially the two requests made by Christ in the last half of the verse: "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them AS You have loved Me." Jesus is asking God to reveal two things to the world: that God sent Him and that God loves us as much as He loves Jesus Christ.

Understanding the full impact of this verse hinges on a little, two-letter word "as." One definition is "to the same extent or degree; equally." Equally implies no more, no less. This definition makes Jesus' request staggering in its implications! It means we can truthfully say that there is not a being in the universe -- including Jesus Christ -- whom God loves more than us. Each individual whom God has called can say the same thing. God loves us all at the same incredible, beyond our comprehension level.

Think about it. The Creator of everything, the epitome of love, loves YOU as much as He loves His Son. That should make every day brighter as we journey homeward to be with Him.

