

“Be Children”

By James W. Adams

Who has not at one time or another wistfully yearned with the poet, "Backward, turn backward, 0 time in its flight, make me a child again just for tonight?" We view this as sort of an escape mechanism on the part of an individual — a running away from the present and from reality. Yet, our Lord and his inspired apostles taught that men must in several particulars revert to childhood to be true disciples of the Master. Some brethren have evidently misunderstood what they have said along this line, however. They have confused childlikeness with childishness. We are not taught to be childish, but child-like. There is a difference!

Paul said, "In malice be ye children...." (1 Cor. 14:20) No person familiar with the habits and attitudes of children could possibly misunderstand what Paul is talking about. Children will have a falling out and solemnly vow that they will never speak to one another again, yet within the hour will be seen with arms about one another, the closest of friends. Malice can find in their hearts no soil in which to take root and grow. God would have this attribute recreated in the lives of his children. Well did Shakespeare say, "Deep malice makes too deep incision." Malice makes a deep incision in the character of him who holds it. In his heart it will fester and spread until it becomes a deadly malignancy corrupting his whole being.

Regardless of the evil nature of that which is said and done against him, the Christian cannot afford to cherish malice within his heart against any. To do so is to let another's evil take root within him. So much of life is wasted by the useless holding of malice in the heart. Bitterness, disillusionment, hatred, suspicion, evil speaking, and discontentment are its evil fruits. Let us so sterilize the soil of our hearts that the tares of malice cannot find root and grow in it. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Tennyson wrote some beautiful words concerning wronging a friend that we should like to adapt to the hearing of malice in our hearts against one who has done us injury. We would say with Tennyson of him who bears malice that he:

"Wrongs himself more, And ever bears about
A silent court of justice in his breast,
Himself the judge and jury, and himself,
The prisoner at the bar, ever condemned."

Let us then as Paul taught, "...in malice be children, but in understanding be men." - Gospel Guardian - September 1, 1960



Classes This Week

Sunday 5:15 PM Kid's Class at the Building	Sunday 7:30 PM College Devo and Singing at the Anderson's. Kevin Anderson will be teaching.	Tuesday 8 PM Truth-seekers in Student Center Rm 2225	Thursday 7 PM Ladies Class at the Rouse's on amazing women of the Bible.	Thursday 7 PM Men's class at Walker Davis' home.
--	---	--	--	--

Sick

Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)
Donna Pridmore (Erin Miller's Mom)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Mark Dean (Father of Logan Dean)	Jerry Foropoulos (Anna Jean's Uncle)
Jon Jon Henderson (Suzanne Stagner's cousin)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Bob Cannon (Friend of Holly Law)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Dale Herd and Alice Nutt (William Herd's Siblings)	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Ted Nelson (Sheryl Fowler's Cousin)
Lisa Carter (Josh and Luke Carter's mother)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin's Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)

November Birthdays

- 2 - Debbi Coleman
- 6 - Troy Godwin
- 6 - Bridgette Borden
- 7 - Amy Godwin
- 7 - Leah Donahue
- 8 - Ashley Miller
- 9 - Darla Hahn
- 11 - Andrew Hahn
- 13 - Toni Herd
- 13 - Emerson Daniels
- 13 - Dylan Bartlett
- 13 - Ronaldo Henriquez
- 15 - Jon Hornback
- 16 - Nicole Pender
- 16 - Alexander Dunaway
- 16 - Victoria Dunaway
- 23 - Mary Ann Roberts
- 24 - John Burns
- 25 - Silas Weldon
- 27 - Scott Fowler
- 28 - Will Harris
- 30 - David Simpson

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Laura Humphrey, Brittany Bagent, Shang Li and Jana Hall!
- ☒ - Easton Nash continues to make progress and should be home soon.
- ☒ - Remember Tim Morton and also Matthew Cavender, in your prayers as both are deployed to Afghanistan.
- ☒ - Logan Dean's dad, Mark Dean, will have surgery Monday, Nov 10 to remove a section of esophagus.
- ☒ - Katie Carter's dad, Cary, McDaniel, will go to Vanderbilt this Wed to discuss treatment options.
- ☒ - Mary Ann Roberts' mother, Betty McCreavy, will have back surgery on Tuesday.
- ☒ - Sandlyn Fultz had surgery on Thursday on both legs last week.
- ☒ - Time change is next Saturday. Turn clocks back one hour.
- ☒ - We will have group meetings tonight.

The Auburn Beacon



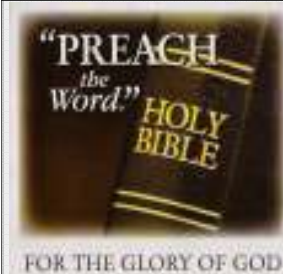
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

Volume 5, Issue 52

November 2, 2014

Tolerance in Religion

By Barney Keith



Thoughts to Ponder

Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. (2 Timothy 4:2)

The idea of "tolerance in religion" is often extolled by men who have no Bible concept of the exclusive authority of Jesus Christ. There seems to be an almost universal yearning for an "ecumenical" broadmindedness. Some churches pride themselves on the fact that people of any religious faith can have fellowship with them without giving up any cherished position. Much publicity is given in our day to mergers and compromises among denominational bodies. The so-called "Community" churches and the

"Interdenominational" churches are of the type claiming to allow great liberty of conflicting beliefs on the part of members. It seems that men are determined to believe whatever THEY wish and have lost sight of God's will as set forth in His word.

Ordinarily our friends who talk so freely about tolerance simply mean that we should have "love" that is big enough to embrace all of men's beliefs as being equally acceptable. It may be that some will even remark, "Well, we are

Ordinarily our friends who talk so freely about tolerance simply mean that we should have "love" that is big enough to embrace ALL of men's beliefs as being equally acceptable.

all children of God; therefore, we should just overlook all differences among us and love each other. " Or it may be the old worn-out slogan, "Let us minimize our differences and emphasize our likenesses." Generally this notion is expressed, "It doesn't make any difference what one believes as long as he is honest and sincere." Surely there is a great need to study this matter of "tolerance" to determine what the will of God is.

Tolerance Misunderstood

(Continued on page 2)

Elders
Walker Davis (334) 703-0050
Larry Rouse (334) 734-2133

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

E-Mail:
larryrouse@aubeacon.com

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

Check Us Out On the Internet: www.aubeacon.com

(Continued from page 1)

In order to have a proper understanding of the issue before us, I suggest two basic factors. These are supported by Scripture.

1. Tolerance does not mean approval of everything that goes on. No one is under the obligation as a "tolerant" person to be a "yes-man" to everything paraded under the name of "religion." Many doctrines labeled as the Word of Christ are in reality the "doctrines of devils," according to Paul. (1 **Tim. 4:1-3.**)

2. Tolerance does not imply an obligation to remain silent. The general denominational idea is that "if you criticize us, you are intolerant." With such words they would stifle all objections and would eliminate all efforts to show the falsity of some doctrine they cherish. Hence, all of Paul's "disputing" in the synagogues and marketplaces must be counted as "intolerant" even though he was seeking to convert these ancients from false idols to the true and living God. (Note **Acts 17:17.**) The right to object to any church, religious doctrine or practice which violates Bible teaching is perfectly consistent with both the teaching and action of Jesus and his apostles.

Jesus and His Apostles

Perhaps the idea of very many people is summed up in a question a radio listener once sent to me. "Should we not all love each other and quit talking about one another?" Let us see what the Bible teaches. Ponder the following questions and answers:

1. Did Jesus love others? Who can doubt it for a minute? (**John 15: 12, 13.**)

2. Did Jesus ever talk about others in the sense of condemning what they believed and practiced? Yes. Read **Matthew 23** and observe how specific Jesus was in pointing out the errors of the scribes and Pharisees. These hypocrites were often the target of his

criticism. Instead of viewing Jesus' criticism of these people as the lack of love, we ought to be able to understand that it was evidence of the fact of his love for them. Otherwise he would have not cared what they did.

3. Did the apostles love other people? Yes? John did. (1 **John 4:7.**)

4. Did John ever say anything "against" what others taught and did? Yes. Take a close look at **2 John 9-11** and **1 John 4:1-6**. It was his claim that not all people taught the truth; that some were "false prophets." He even went so far as to say that any who do not abide within the teaching of Christ do not have God. Would you say it was his lack of love that prompted such strong language? Or would you not rather say that the fact that he loved them prompted his warnings?

Therefore, as stated before, both Jesus and his apostles loved men everywhere. Consequently, they taught men the truth even when it meant exposing the errors they were holding.

Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." (**John 8:32.**) He also declared, "Thy word is truth." (**John 17:17.**) It is clear that the word of God is the standard of truth. Every doctrine must be measured by it. No person should allow himself to become so "broadminded" or so "tolerant" as to ignore this fact. Not everything one hears preached is right. Let every sincere person follow the example of the Bereans, who searched the Scripture to test the preaching Paul did in their city. (**Acts 17:11.**)



Social Drinking: "Are You An Individual or Part of the Crowd?"

By Warren E. Berkley

Are preachers and "old fashioned" folk the only people who are against social drinking?

Just recently I read an article in the McAllen Monitor (by Chelse Benham, May 23, 2004, page 1G), under the title: "Cocktails & Contacts: Do They Mix?" The author said in the lead paragraph: "Social drinking is the number one acceptable drug of choice among Americans and it is the most commonly used and widely abused psychoactive drug in the country, according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism." She also pointed out (quoting Health magazine): "Americans have a long history of ambivalence about the role of alcohol in their society." Then this: "...the business environment all but pours it (alcohol, web) down the throats of professionals in social settings."

Next, citing a CNN report: "...many professionals use alcohol to ease into business conversations and transaction." One CEO said: "There is tremendous pressure to indulge in alcohol on business-social occasions...It is a factor in building business relationships, or bonding."

Michael Judge, reporter for the Wall Street Journal (WSJ.com) Web site: "Drinkers mind if one among them is not drinking. Like death, drink is a great leveler. Sobriety immediately introduces a hierarchy. So that your attitude may be adjusted to fall in line with theirs, sometimes other people all but require you to drink." (Notice, "sobriety ... introduces a hierarchy." Indeed, a hierarchy of character!)

Miguel Lopez, program coordinator for the University of Texas-Pam American's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program said: "Alcohol helps create a sense of belonging in a group, but this can also create a false sense of security. People lean on

"Drinkers mind if one among them is not drinking. Like death, drink is a great leveler. Sobriety immediately introduces a hierarchy. So that your attitude may be adjusted to fall in line with theirs, sometimes other people all but require you to drink."

alcohol when they have less confidence in their social skills. They turn to 'liquid power' to be the type of person they may want to be, but don't feel they are." He calls this an "artificial sense of empowerment." Further: "By saying 'no' to drinking alcohol in a social setting you're not participating, so you're an individual and not part of the crowd. This can make the people around you self-conscious and they may apply pressure on you to

drink. It takes someone who is well centered with themselves to say 'no' against social pressures!" Mr. Lopez is not a gospel preacher just repeating the "traditional line." He has experience as a witness of what social drinking is about in reality, in the business world and on the college campus.

So are you an individual, or a part of the crowd?

Long before Mr. Lopez made these observations, Solomon directed us to the wise course: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise," (**Prov. 20:1**). And Habakkuk saw what Mr. Lopez saw: "Woe to you who make your neighbors drink, who mix in your venom even to make them drunk so as to look on their nakedness!" (**Hab. 2:15**). Peter showed no interests in preaching what is popular when he said: "...we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles – when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. They will given an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead," (1 **Pet. 4:3-5**). Are you an individual, or a part of the crowd? God knows.

