

So Common that It Doesn't Mean Anything!

The struggle to practice "fellowship".

By Aubrey Belue

"brotherly love" has a special meaning in scripture, and is mentioned separately from "mere love".

Giving "fellowship" to everybody only cheapens it, and the sacrifices made to provide and maintain it.

Giving "fellowship" to nobody (or to those whom God intends otherwise -- **3 John 10 and 11**) costs us an opportunity to gain the benefits and convey the lessons from it that God intended.

With such implications, it should come as no surprise that the road to fellowship has been outlined by God, not man...

In either case, the boundaries around it are not manmade, and the goal of disciples should be to locate and apply the "ancient landmarks" to the realm of the "fellowship of Jesus Christ" (**1 Cor 1:9**).

While salvation is "common" in that it is and will be enjoyed by all faithful disciples, it is not for all men, nor all religious men, and even not for all professed Christians. The fellowship that is one of the blessings of it is not, either. While our sharing it does not come from a perfect knowledge as to whom and from whom we give and receive it, there those who -- if they refuse to "abide in the doctrine of Christ" -- we are told to not "receive them into our house, or bid them Godspeed" (**2 John 9-11**). We suffer both when we refuse to receive those whose life and attitude call for it, and when we extend it where doing so will thwart God's plan to maintain doctrinal and moral purity among His "church family".



Classes This Week

Sunday PM College Devo and Singing at the Sullivanne's, Taylor Bethea teaching!	Tuesday 8:00 PM Room 2225 in Student Center	Thursday 10 AM Ladies Class on "Amazing Women of the Bible" at the Rouse's home.	Thursday 7 PM Men's Class at Walker Davis' home on book "With the Bishops and Deacons"
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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)
Betty Mcareavey (Mary Ann Roberts' mom)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Mark Dean (Father of Logan Dean)	Jerry Foropoulos (Anna Jean's Uncle)
Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)	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)	Amy Baswell Hall	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	John Marvin Rhodes (Toni Herd's cousin)
Toni and William Herd	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkins' Dad)	Toni and William Herd	

February Birthdays

- 2-Ken Sullivan
- 2-Wesley Herd
- 3-Chris Long
- 5-Jude Hosey
- 5-Chase Counsell
- 6-Jackson Fowler
- 13-Leslie Freeman
- 14-Leighton Daniels
- 14-Anna Jean Selsvik
- 15-Ella Miller
- 15-Dave Johnson
- 16-Seth Humphrey
- 18-Caralise Hunt
- 18-Tyler Cox
- 20-Andrew Tominack
- 22-Elizabeth Anne Calvert
- 22-Alexander Calvert
- 23-Greg Lanier
- 23-Luke Carter
- 24-Jeff Jerkins
- 25-Valerie Liverett
- 27-Julie Johnson
- 28-Cole Graviett

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Laura Humphrey and Jana Hall!
- ☒ - We are thankful for the good news on Logan Dean's father's scan!
- ☒ - Remember Tim Morton in your prayers as he is deployed to Afghanistan and coming home this week!
- ☒ - We are thankful that Taylor Lawrence's father's surgery went well!
- ☒ - Congratulations to Blake and Brittany Bagents on the safe arrival of Emma Hayes on wed night!
- ☒ - This year's VBS will be June 8-11. VBS topic: "Heroes of the NT"
- ☒ - We are thankful that Josh Pender's surgery went well this week!
- ☒ - please remember Scott Perkins' dad, Joe, in your prayers as he has returned to the hospital.
- ☒ - please remember Phillip box's grandfather, Jim Trull, in your prayers as he is now in hospice care.
- ☒ - There are slots on the signup list in foyer to prepare Lord's supper.
- ☒ - There are slots on the list in the foyer to join others in public Bible reading groups.

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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New Controversies Being Raised

By James P. Needham



Thoughts to Ponder

For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you. (**1 Corinthians 11:19**)

The church has always had controversy. Controversy raged in the days of the apostles over the Gentiles' relationship to circumcision and other parts of the law, idolatry, fornication, etc. Paul says:

"For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you" (**1 Cor. 11:19**).

This indicates that controversies will always be common among God's people. While this is true, we do not think Paul is trying to encourage controversy AS SUCH. Controversy designed to "contend earnestly for the faith" (**Jude 3**) is controversy which is necessary and essential, but controversy stirred by individuals infected by "issue-itis" is not necessarily approved by God.

That all controversy is NOT approved by God is very evident to serious Bible students. Notice the following passages:

"Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but *not to doubtful disputations*" (**Rom. 14:1**).

"Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith; so do" (**1 Tim. 1:4**).

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ and to the doctrine which is according to godli-

Such brethren are always complaining of unfair treatment based upon the reluctance of brethren to allow them free course in parading their doubts and opinions, but they do not hesitate to impugn the motives and castigate all who refuse to go along with them.

ness; he is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmising, perverse disputing of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself" (**1 Tim. 6:3-5**).

"O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: which some professing have erred concerning the faith" (**1 Tim. 6: 20**).

"Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers" (**2 Tim. 2: 14**).

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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

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"But SHUN profane and vain babblings for they will increase unto more ungodliness" (2 Tim. 2:16).

These passages point up one thing very clearly, namely, that not all controversy is good! He who says it is, will have to take issue with Paul and the Holy Spirit.

It is not unusual to hear some brother say, "We ought not to be afraid to discuss anything. Discussion is a healthy sign." I realize full well that there is an element of truth in such a statement, but it is not true under all circumstances. If so, why the passages herein quoted? I would be afraid and ashamed to raise controversy over the matters mentioned in the above passages. They, according to Paul and the Holy Spirit, should not be raised. He is condemned who raises questions of the nature mentioned.

This points up a very pertinent consideration: we should be very careful of the issues we raise. Make sure they are not of the nature of those matters mentioned in the passages quoted.

Today new controversies are being initiated over such questions as:

1. Whether elders and deacons are an appointive office (work).
2. Whether there is such a thing as a local church.
3. Whether we should hold up our hand while baptizing one.
4. Should an elder be a married man?

Those raising these controversies are characterized by the following traits:

1. They like to brand all who differ with them as keepers of orthodoxy, tradition bound, closed-minded, and afraid to think beyond the practices of the past.
2. They seem to place themselves on some sort of an intellectual pinnacle, conceiving of himself as having advanced beyond the common herd. The rest of us are just "dumb sheep" who should rush anxiously to their feed troughs and swallow without question what they have decided we should believe and practice.
3. They seemingly take pride in non-conformity. They proudly announce themselves as iconoclasts (one who breaks down idols). These supposed idols are such things as believing elders have to be married, that elders are an appointive office (work), holding up

the hand when baptizing one, and believing that the guilty party in a divorce case cannot remarry.

4. They are pre-convinced that the great majority of the brotherhood will want to deny them the right to be heard, and will not take kindly to their efforts. I know of nobody who denies them the right to be heard, but I know many who deny them the right to be taken very seriously, and the right to stir controversy over such matters at such a time as this.

I think there is a certain amount of danger involved in the up-coming controversy. One will find in the majority of churches a number of people who are just waiting for a chance to attack the elders, the preacher, the church etc. and any theory that gives them an excuse to do so will be quickly embraced. Here is the great danger, and at this point we need to be on guard. Preaching the truth is the answer.

There are some brethren who seem to be the avowed enemies of peace. They are not happy in the absence of turmoil and strife. They do not "follow after things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another" (Romans 14:19), but rather, they seek for constant controversy and endless strife over matters which have been discussed through the ages but have never been settled because they are matters of private privilege, personal judgment, vain imagination, or hurtful speculation.

Such brethren are always complaining of unfair treatment based upon the reluctance of brethren to allow them free course in parading their doubts and opinions, but they do not hesitate to impugn the motives and castigate all who refuse to go along with them. One might hold to long established practices and beliefs on the basis of tradition, but then he might also cling to them because they are the truth and he sincerely believes them. Those who delight in such controversies have no lease on learning, no franchise on faith, no monopoly on mental power, and no one-sided sincerity. May we stand fast in the faith and quit ourselves like men (1 Cor. 16: 13).

— Truth Magazine - March 1966



Hunger

By David Smelser

In John's gospel narrative, chapter 6 marks both the height of Jesus' popularity and a drastic turning point in his ministry. At this time, Jesus feeds more than 5,000 people with just a few loaves. This miracle should remind the crowd and John's readers of several passages in the Old Testament – **2 Kings 4:42-44, Exodus 16, Psalm 23,** and others. The similarity between this event and God providing the Israelites with manna through Moses was unmistakable. Even the people, who almost always misunderstand Jesus, realize that this act indicated that Jesus was "the Prophet" like Moses who was promised in **Deuteronomy 18 (John 6:14)**. However, more than fulfilling the role of Moses as the provider of sustenance, Jesus claims also to fulfill the role of the bread: "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst" (**John 6:35**). Jesus not only provides the means for satisfying our needs; he satisfies them himself.

The claim of **verse 35** may allude to several Old Testament passages, but it is remarkably reminiscent of **Isaiah 55**. In chapter 55's opening verses, God calls through the prophet, "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." God promises free sustenance for the hungry and thirsty. And not only does he fulfill the need for free, but he makes richer provision than necessary, offering milk and wine in addition to water. In light of this offer, God continues, "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food" (**Isaiah 55:2**).

How long will you choose to "spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?" God invites us to this feast: "Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live" (**Isaiah 55:3**).

How much effort and money do we spend on things which do not satisfy? Have you ever noticed that no matter how much you eat, or how good the meal tastes, or how nutritious it is, you will still end up hungry the next day? Even in our physical food, we are reminded of the futility of any attempt we may make to fill ourselves up. All earthly needs and pleasures are the same. We put effort into them, but the gratification we

receive is temporary. How much effort and energy do we spend trying to fill ourselves up with work, money, possessions, vacations, and pleasure – things which are "not bread"? Our effort and money are wasted if we spend them seeking these things instead of the free bread which Jesus offers. As he says, "Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life" (**John 6:27**). Only that food, which is Jesus himself, will ever satisfy. Does our time and effort reflect an interest in the true "bread from heaven" or "that which does not satisfy"?

How long will you choose to "spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?" God invites us to this feast: "Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live" (**Isaiah 55:3**). When we hear God's word, and when we fill ourselves with the actions, attitudes, and teachings of Jesus, and when we remain completely in Jesus (**John 6:56**), we have access to a fulfillment that all earthly pleasures deny. "Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food" (**Isaiah 55:2**).

