

Conclusion Jumping

Some time ago, there was a faithful dog which was a constant companion of a small child. One day both dog and child disappeared. A diligent search by parents, friends, and neighbors proved to be fruitless. The child could not be found.

After several hours the dog returned home, but was covered with blood. Naturally, the father jumped to the conclusion that the dog had become vicious and killed the child. The dog must be destroyed, so he got his gun and killed the dog.

A little later, the child was found in the woods unharmed. Nearby was the body of a panther that the dog had killed in his struggle to protect the child.

So often we are guilty of conclusion jumping. We take action, or at least express our opinion before considering all the facts. The result is usually unpleasant and at times irreparable damage is done.

Solomon showed the foolishness of jumping to conclusions when he said, "He that answereth (Heb. returneth a word) a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame to him" (Prov. 18:13). Not only do we have this problem with "Matters," but in

By Jimmy Tuten

dealing with people as well. On this Jesus said, "Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth"

A man who will not hear all the facts before drawing conclusions has a "clinker" in his thinker; it is almost impossible to squeeze the truth into his mind. The most difficult thing to open is a closed mind. Too, have you ever noticed how extremely difficult it is for a person to keep his mind open and his mouth shut at the same time? How wonderful an open mind is when it is matched with a closed mouth. But that's another subject. My point is this, don't waste a human mind by refusing to fulfil its hunger for education with facts, all the facts. When you give people a piece of your mind, then, and only then do they know the kind of mind you have.

So, be careful about what you think, say, and do. You might be guilty of shooting a dog that ought to be praised.



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|--|--|---|---|
| Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin) | Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son) | Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad) | Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother) |
| 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) | Audrey Barnett (Joanetta's sister-in-law) | Patsy Rhodes (Relative of Toni Herd) | Jerry Foropoulos (Anna Jean's Uncle) |
| Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle) | Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather) | Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother) | Yolanda Stewart (Michael Bassie's Sister) |
| Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father) | Austin Locke (Jeremiah Johnson's Grandfather) | Rebecca Davis (Chuck Hahn's Niece) | Camden, grandson of Steve Pruitt (friend of Greg Lanier) |
| John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family) | Joe Perkins (Scott Perkins' Dad) | Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew) | Rebecca Davis (Chuck Hahn's niece) |

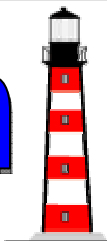
June Birthdays

- 3-Philip Stephens
- 7-Spencer Borden
- 8-Mac Searcy
- 8-Joanetta Lauderdale
- 9-Kay White
- 12-Orie Cecil
- 14-Jeremiah Johnson
- 15-Connor Watkins
- 17-Brooks Pender
- 17-Sarah Norman
- 18-James Long
- 22-Paul Tam
- 24-Justin Bice
- 25-Corey Hunt
- 28-Craig Davis
- 28-Clint Davis
- 29-Lisa Lanier

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mother, Nicole Pender!
- ☒ - Ladies' class this Thursday 7:00 p.m. at Sullivanne's house on "Heaven."
- ☒ - Elle Vaughn, baby daughter of Scott and Genna, continues to develop well!
- ☒ - There will be group meetings tonight.
- ☒ - PARENTS: Please register your children for VBS online at www.auchurch.com/vbs.
- ☒ - Please pray for Heath Donahue and Jessica Shaver as they are in the Philippines with Bob Buchanan and others for 3 weeks.
- ☒ - David Ogle had successful hip surgery!
- ☒ - Please remember York Smith's grandmother, Betty Warren, who is battling cancer.
- ☒ - Toni Herd's cousin, Pam Bailey, had successful back surgery.
- ☒ - Owen Mauldin continues in hospital in SC for nutrition and pain management.
- ☒ - Please pray for Joanetta's uncle/Ben Holcomb's grandfather, David Holcomb who was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis.

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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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Rearing Unselfish Children

By Sewell Hall



Thoughts to Ponder

Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.

(Deuteronomy 4:10)

Elders

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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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Evangelist and Editor

In the teacher's manual which accompanies her excellent course of study, Born of a Woman, Dene Ward has the following observation: "We have raised too many spoiled, self-centered young people who think that they are the only ones who matter in any family decision and who expect their parents to willingly give up everything for them with no thought of themselves, much less of the Lord and His people.... We have let our permissive, rights-oriented society determine our philosophy."

Recently, a ladies' Bible class, studying this material, addressed the question: "How can we rear children that are not selfish and self-centered?" The following thoughts were suggested:

First, example. Selfish parents cannot hope to rear unselfish children. However, parents whose idea of providing a good example is to give in constantly to their children's wishes or preferences will produce the very

At the same time, to be unselfish, children must learn that there are some things that they must do for which there is no pay: such as cleaning their own rooms or helping with the family dishes or mowing the family grass. Children who have not learned to share family responsibilities are poor candidates for successful marriage.

selfishness they want to avoid. Better to let children see parents being unselfish with one another and planning unselfishly to serve those in need outside the family. And the effect of such an example will be greatly increased when the unselfishness is practiced cheerfully and when it is seen to bring genuine happiness.

Unselfish people outside the family can also be useful examples. Point out such people to children and commend them. Children are

(Continued on page 2)

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(Continued from page 1)

imitators and they will imitate those they are led to admire.

Involve children in family decisions. Discuss an increase in contribution or a gift to some victim of disaster with them. Allow them to go along when parents are going to help someone in need. All of this enables them to feel that they are personally involved, and they begin to taste the satisfaction of unselfish service.

Taken a step further, parents may help children to look for ways that they can actually help others personally. A toy given to children who have none, something helpful done for an aged or invalid person, even a card sent to someone who is sick can begin to form a pattern of unselfishness. It is better not to tell them what to do. Just help them see the need and let them determine their own response. Though it may not be what you would do, let them carry through on their own decision and then praise them for their generosity.

To learn the unselfish use of money, children need some money to use. They need to give something of their own, rather than something that has been given to them. The best way for them to have money is to earn it—the way it must be obtained throughout life. Once they have money, they can be taught to divide it up—some for the Lord, some for things they need, some for savings and some for pleasure.

At the same time, to be unselfish, children must learn that there are some things that they must do for which there is no pay: such as cleaning their own rooms or helping with the family dishes or mowing the family grass. Children who have not learned to share family responsibilities are poor candidates for successful marriage.

By all means, Christian parents must provide what public schools are not providing—Bible teaching regarding unselfishness. A group of children whom I recently taught knew many scriptures regarding heaven, the church, salvation, and other Bible subjects; but not one knew the words of Jesus demanding that disciples deny themselves and take up their crosses. Surely nothing in the teaching and example of Jesus is more emphasized than unselfishness. And nothing is more contrary to the accepted wisdom of our modern day. Public schools, the press, psychologists, counselors (both professional and non-professional), as a rule, are teaching selfishness—the right to do what you want, to set your own course in life without concern for others. Unless our children are taught otherwise, they will surely accept this philosophy.

Regardless, however, of our example, teaching, efforts to involve them, encouragement of initiative and positive reinforcement, children will still require some parental control if they are to avoid selfishness. They only learn unselfishness by giving in and allowing others to have their way. Accomplishing this may be awkward for unselfish parents, but there is a way. Fathers can require that children be unselfish with their mothers, and mothers can demand that children be unselfish with their fathers. Both can demand unselfishness among siblings and playmates. Selfishness will surface at times, but it must never be accepted.

Such teaching and control must be practiced when children are still teachable and controllable. We must not wait too long. Otherwise, we will wake up sooner than we expect to find ourselves with the kind of self-centered and selfish children so graphically described in Dene Ward's book and so tragically common in modern America.



The Christian and Conscience

By Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

The scriptures speak of the conscience 28 to 31 times, depending on the translation. Different word authorities put the definition in different words, but the definition of Dictionary.com pretty well states the idea expressed by most definitions:

"The inner sense of what is right or wrong in one's conduct or motives, impelling one toward right action."

It seems to be a sense of "ought" and "ought not;" or "right" and "wrong" that God made an integral part of the human psyche that is needed to push one in the direction of what he believes to be right.

The conscience is a great moral and spiritual navigator, but an awfully poor map. The advice often given, "Let your conscience by your guide," is not the best advice. The best advice is, "search the Scriptures daily to see if the things are so," and then conscientiously follow the "things that are so." (Acts 17:11). Saul of Tarsus was able to persecute Christians with a good conscience (Acts 23:1), because he verily thought that it was the thing he ought to do (Acts 26:9). The conscience can only react to what one THINKS to be right or wrong.

Though one cannot blindly follow his conscience, he still must always follow it. But, you say, that contradicts what you have just said. No, it is just that one must make sure that which the conscience feeds on is the objective truth revealed in the Scriptures and not his own subjective views or that of some other person. Even after one has intelligently determined the truth from the Scriptures, he still needs a sensitive conscience to push him in the direction revealed in the Scriptures and to pull him back when he errs from that direction.

For this reason the Scriptures seems to go out their way to keep the conscience tender and responsive under all circumstances. We are warned against violating our consciences and not to try to influence others to

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violate theirs (Rom. 14 and 1 Cor. 8). It is important that the conscience be not seared or dulled (1 Tim. 4:2). This is likely what happened to those who Peter said, "cannot cease from sin." (2 Pet. 2:14). The conscience must be kept tender. Continually overriding it hardens it. That is why that even in doubtful things we must not override our doubts. To do so is sin. (Rom. 14:23). Not only must we not override our doubts, we must

not say or do things that would put others in a position, in order to please us, that they would have to override their conscientious doubts. Love for our brethren demands this. So, we must both protect our consciences and that of our brothers and sisters in Christ. It might be that further study of the word of God might settle those doubts and our love for others would suggest such study. But as long as a brother's doubt persists, even if I have no doubts about the matter at hand, love for my brother demands that I help him keep a good conscience.

Now, we are not speaking of those things that Scriptures and conscience say that must be done. In those things one must do them regardless of the effect it has on others. But, we are talking about that area of things that one has the LIBERTY to do (authorized liberties), but does not have the OBLIGATION to do. It is something that one may do or not do and still have a good conscience toward God – while at the same time a dear brother cannot do and is grieved at our doing it. Should not love override our freedom in such cases.

"Let brotherly love continue." (Hebrews 13:1)

