

What About This Man?

"...And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me." Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following...Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me." **John 21:19-22 NKJV**

How often do we look around us and ask, "But what about..." rather than obey the Lord? We pose questions to God, which seem reasonable at the time, when what we're really doing is drawing our minds away from what the Lord commanded us to do. The fact of the matter is that the Lord desires of us all the same thing, follow Jesus. We read in God's word how we are to do that, for what we read is the gospel of Christ, yet how many people look to man's wisdom and his words over what the Lord directs? How often does man try to "one-up" God and think of ways to "improve" upon God's simple commands? How many people fall for that trap, time and again, rather than hold fast to His word?

By Matt Adams

We as a people always have a choice in this; we can either look to the Lord, hear through His word the command to "Follow Me" and obey Him as we should, or we can stand around and ask questions while we dismiss the Lord's command.

Regardless of the answer to our host of questions, the Lord's command doesn't change, and it never will. The command is, as this text says, "Follow Me...You follow Me."

It's so simple yet so powerful.

So what are you going to do about the Lord's command? What will I? Our actions today speak volumes about what our answer to God is. Will we, truly, follow Him? Let's make it our aim today to follow our Lord all the way home to heaven with each and every word, thought, and action this blessed day the Lord has seen fit to give us.



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)	Betty Warren (York Smith's grandmother)	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)	Ellie Vaughn (Scott and Genna's baby)

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!
- ☒ - Sympathy to Ben Holcomb and Joanetta Lauderdale in death of David Holcomb on Thursday.
- ☒ - Ray Davis, Walker's dad, had successful back surgery on Wed.
- ☒ - Abbie Buchanan will have knee surgery on July 1st.
- ☒ - Audrey Burnett, Joanetta's sister-in-law, will have an additional surgery on June 29th.
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for the Mauldin family as Owen continues in hospice care.
- ☒ - Patsy Ogle's brother, Steve, will have surgery in CA on June 23rd after last surgery was delayed.
- ☒ - Heath Donahue and Jessica Shaver had a safe return from the Philippines.
- ☒ - There will be a ladies class this Thursday. At 7 PM at Esther Biddle's home on "heaven"
- ☒ - All audio is immediately uploaded to www.auchurch.com.
- ☒ - Tonight is singing night!
- ☒ - Audio CD's of today's sermons will be in the foyer a few minutes after close of services.

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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Practical Ways Fathers Can Connect With Their Children

By Frank Walton



Thoughts to Ponder

Give me your heart, my son, and let your eyes delight in my ways **(Prov. 23:26).**

"Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it" **(Prov. 22:6).**

Taking home leadership seriously according to the teaching of the scripture will "turn the hearts of the fathers to the children" **(Luke 1:17)**. Busy dads, who want to be the spiritual leader with their children, as God requires, **(Eph. 6:4)**, are always looking for ways to grow closer to their families. "Give me your heart, my son, and let your eyes delight in my ways" **(Prov. 23:26)**. We want to lovingly connect to their heart, so we can leave a legacy to positively influence their lives, even when we are gone.

John Trent observed, "Sometimes we think we need tons of time to make this connection — like regular nights out with each child or

Bedtime rituals like discussing the day's activities or reading together and praying together, give fathers a chance to connect with each child. Ask a simple question like, "How did things go today?"

weekend camping trips with just Dad and the kids. Dates and camping trips are nice, but it's actually the little things — done over time and with a loving heart — that lovingly connect with kids."

Let us note five ways that fathers can "connect" with their kids:

1. Daily Life Conversation: In **Deuteronomy 6**, Moses commanded fathers to lay God's

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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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Word on their heart and talk with their children "when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way" (**vs. 7**). When you spend time with your kids, whether it is driving to church, at the dinner table, playing catch or shooting hoops, along the way ask questions like: "What's going on in your Bible class?" "What's the best thing (and worst thing) about school these days?" "What would your dream vacation with the family be like?" Time together offers just enough distraction for kids to open up about issues on their mind.

2. Be A "Mail Man": In the Old Testament, Jewish fathers, before death, would lovingly lay their hands on their child and given a "blessing." This was pronouncing a vision of the child's future hope and promise (**Gen. 27,48,49**). Write some letters to put in a child's "memory book" that express your hopes and dreams for what kind of person you pray they will become. Lovingly express your praise and admonitions for their life. When you're out of town, send them postcards with a loving message.

3. Serve Up Love: Moses said that fathers should talk to their children about Biblical principles, "when you lie down and when you rise up" (**Deut. 6:7**). Bedtime rituals like discussing the day's activities or reading together and praying together, give fathers a chance to connect with each child. Ask a simple question like, "How did things go today?" Tell them one good thing you appreciate that they did that day. It might

extend bedtime by a few minutes, but like dimes adding up to dollars, investing in these moments can create a lifetime of closer connection.

4. Team Up: Young people need to learn the value of work. "Go to the ant, O sluggard; watch what they do and be wise" (**Prov. 6:9**). Pick chores around the house to do together with your child. The work gets done faster and, more importantly, your children will learn your work ethic.

5. Keep Watch: Pray with your children, as well as pray regularly for them. Christians are admonished to be "steadfast in prayer" (**Rom. 12:12**). Samson's father, Menoah, prayed, "Lord...teach us what we should do for the child" (**Jdgs. 13:8**) Prayers said at breakfast or supper table, or before they go to school or to bed, shows we rely on God foremost and that our children are special. Family prayers together help us show them our heart. It will influence them to draw closer to and depend upon God daily.

Fathers, it is best to begin early in connecting with your children, rather than trying to play catch up. Here is the legacy of a "well-connected" dad: "Hear, my son, and accept my sayings. I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths. When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; and if you run, your will not stumble" (**Prov. 4:10-12**).



Speaking the Truth in Love...

By Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

Because our audiences are generally made up both of those needing the gentle approach and those who need the sharp approach, we should strive to balance our approaches, but whatever the approach it must be "in love" to please God.

Inevitably, through the years, when we have spoken plainly about certain sins and indicated that any guilty listeners needed to take heed and straighten up their lives or face the terrible consequences of sin, someone would find the need to remind me that we needed to "speak the truth IN LOVE." (**Cf. Eph 4:15**).

What they don't seem to get is that we are trying to do just that. They don't understand that the "in love" part refers more to the motive than the manner of speaking. Some situations call for gentleness of speech (**Gal. 6:1**), others call for sharpness of speech (**2 Cor. 13:10; Tit. 1:13; cf. Matt. 23**), but whether gentle or sharp, it must be in love.

When one needs an exhortation it should be given in love of his spiritual development and soul's salvation. The same should motivate us to sharply rebuke with needed. Also, the same should motivate a gentle word of encouragement. It is all be done because we love God and love the ones to whom we speak any part of the gospel. Even when speaking to a rebellious brother fails to bring him to repentance and we have to apply the instructions to withdraw from him, we still must do it "in love."

I would hope that if I should leave the truth either in preaching or practice that someone would have enough love for me to try

to wake me up with as much sharpness needed to bring me around.

How much love are we showing one, slipping deeper and deeper into sin, by whispering "sweet nothings" in his ear as he continues his downward spiral? If we love him we are going to try whatever scriptural approach it

takes (rebuke or exhortation) to bring him to his senses and help him get on the right track.

Because our audiences are generally made up both of those needing the gentle approach and those who need the sharp approach, we should strive to balance our approaches, but whatever the approach it must be "in love" to please God.

By the way, pointing out a scripture that says that a specific kind of sinner (drunkard, thief, or homosexual) cannot inherit the kingdom of God is not HATE speech but rather LOVE speech, because we want these people to be saved. They cannot be saved while still in their sins. If we hated them, we would leave them alone to die in their sins. Expressing hatred and disgust for these sins does not mean we hate those guilty. We want to get them to the point where it can be said, "such WERE some of you" and not have to be saying, "such ARE some of you." (**See 1 Cor. 6:9-11**).

