

Growing Up!

By Lowell Blasingame

Do you remember the pride that you experienced as a child in having some adult tell you that you were really growing up and becoming a big boy or girl?

Most of us have come to recognize that growing up involves developing mentally and emotionally as well as physically. Unfortunately, some have not learned this and we sometimes see little people living in grown bodies!

Actually, you are growing up when you:

- 1) Can recognize your own faults and work toward their solution.
- 2) Can say, "I'm sorry" to those whom you may have offended or injured.
- 3) Can put others first and watch them excel you without feelings of resentment or bitterness.
- 4) Can accept constructive criticism.
- 5) Can accept responsibility for your failure without trying to shift the blame to others.
- 6) Derive greater pleasure from what you give than from what you receive from others.

7) Become concerned about how others are affected by what is being said and done by you.

8) Can suffer injustice without becoming embittered and wrong without retaliation.

9) Can control your temper and divert your anger into useful rather than into destructive channels.

10) Learn that the cultivation of virtues of lasting value in life is of greater importance than participation in things that bring momentary pleasure.

11) Can drink from the cup of human praise without becoming intoxicated by foolish pride.

12) Have learned that to fear God and keep His commandments is your highest calling and the only truly profitable course for you in life.

Without learning these lessons, one may acquire size and age in life but he will never have in the true sense learned the secrets of growing up.



Classes This Week

Sunday Night College Devo at Rouse's. Seth Mauldin teaching!	Tuesday 10:00 AM Ladies Class at Laura Humphrey's on "Giving God control of my religious practices"	Tuesday 8:00 PM Truth-seekers Campus Study in Room 2310 in Student Center	Thursday 7:00 PM Ladies Class at Carmen Herd's on "Giving God Control Over My Marriage"
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Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father and Mac's grandfather)	Virginia Box (Sarah Norman's grandmother)	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)	Terri Sams (Erica's friend)
Terri Moore (Joey's aunt)	Audrey Barnett (Joanetta's sister-in-law)	Betty Bradford	Hazel Gilliland and Sherry Carroll (Toni's relatives)
Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)	Ermogene Laxson (Sara Lail's grandmother)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	William Smith (Ken Sullivan's brother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Bernice Martin (Will Harris' great-grandmother)	Brian Myers (Kimberlee's cousin)	Eva Jean Cavender (Matt's grandmother)
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Howard Vaughan (Mary Ann's dad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Ben Raine (baby of Rachel Hobbard's friend)

March Birthdays

- 1-Amanda Cagle
- 2-Maddie Norman
- 2-Chase Harrison
- 2-Bryan Golden
- 2-Angela Fowler
- 2-Elizabeth Barham
- 2-Connell Hodges
- 3-Shaun Oliver
- 5-Sophie Borden
- 7-Josh Pender
- 8-Carmen Herd
- 9-Richard Zacarius
- 9-Austin Bartlett
- 10-Pepper Humphrey
- 10-Parker Godwin
- 12-Brad Hartsell
- 13-Adam Holliday
- 17-Susan Sullivan
- 18-MaKenzie Anderson
- 18-Alaina Barham
- 20-Jimmy Roberts
- 21-Carter Hunt
- 21-Rachel Bobo
- 22-Will Hollis
- 23-Sarah Embry
- 23-Belinda Hartsell
- 25-Sawyer Hall
- 27-Shelby Freeman
- 27-Kate Jasper
- 28-Jacob Hagewood
- 29-Rachel Simpson
- 29-Makenzie Reynolds
- 30-Amanda Stephens
- 30-York Smith

News and Notes

- ☒ - Please pray for Luke Carter's mother, Lisa, who will have her scan on Friday.
- ☒ - Our VBS will be June 6-9, on the "journeys of Paul."
- ☒ - Baby Everett Nowlin went home on Saturday!
- ☒ - Denise Davis will have her thyroid removed on Tues at EAMC.
- ☒ - Bruce Daniels had cataract eye surgery on Wed.
- ☒ - Tyler Tucker's cousin, Ricky, is recovering well from his colon surgery, but will need treatments for cancer found in the lymph nodes. Prayers appreciated.
- ☒ - Heath's mom has improved and moved to a rehab facility.
- ☒ - Our new quarter begins next Sunday!
- ☒ - Jack and Emily (Bullard) McClellan's little girl, Mary Ryan, is much improved and went home.
- ☒ - Group meetings will be tonight!
- ☒ - All audio is posted on www.auchurch.com

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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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Good Relationships Among Brethren

By R. J. Evans

who gossips to you will gossip about you.

Thoughts to Ponder

These six things the LORD hates.... a false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

(Proverbs 6:16-19)

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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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Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

The Scripture provides much information concerning good relationships among those who are children of God. There are many positive teachings concerning how to get along—especially all the commands to love one another. There are a number of warnings against gossip, tale bearing, backbiting, slander, and sowing discord among brethren. The book of Proverbs is filled with wise instruction concerning relationships with others.

In the church, many problems have occurred because someone failed to abide by the teachings of God's Word. Brethren are told to put "away lying, each speaking truth with a neighbor, for we are members of one another" (Eph. 4:25); we are warned against causing "dissensions, contentions and heresies" (Gal. 5:20); those who are factious, causing "divisions and offenses" are to be marked (Rom. 16:17); a divisive person is to be rejected "after the first and second admonition" (Titus

But what about those occasions when we believe someone has sinned against us? Are we told what to do? Are we supposed to go around telling everyone, except the person himself, that he has sinned against us? Indeed, the Bible does give clear instructions on what to do in this situation—see Matthew 18:15-17.

3:10); also, there are warnings against being "idle, wandering from house to house, not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not" (1 Tim. 5:13).

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tion—see **Matthew 18:15-17**. Notice the very first step: “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother” (**V. 15**). How many do this? It seems to be so much easier to go to someone else first, and gain a sympathetic ear, rather than following what the Bible teaches. Quite often, those who operate like this, have not even been sinned against. It’s often pettiness, hurt feelings, jealousy, an “ax to grind”, etc., and not actually a sin, to begin with. Also, the other person may be totally unaware of any wrong they might have done. The passage goes on and gives further instructions: “But if he will not hear you, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector” (**Vv. 16-17**).

Years ago, when living in another state, we had a sister move from across the city and place membership with the congregation where I preached. We’ll call her “sister Smith”. Before she identified with us, the preacher where she had been attending told me that she had many admirable qualities, but to be careful, because she occasionally had a tendency to “stir things up.” Well, after she had been with us for several months, I was in my study one day and the phone rang. It was sister Smith. After the usual greetings, she then proceeded to start telling me how she had been “wronged” by a particular couple in the congregation. I’ll just refer to them as the “Jones”. They were fine Christians, very faithful and diligent in the Lord’s work. They had been with us a number of years. As soon as I realized what she was attempting to do, I stopped her. I told her that I should

not be a party to what she was beginning to tell me about this couple. This brother had his own business, so I gave her his office phone number and suggested she call him immediately and set up an appointment with him and his wife. Sister Smith immediately became somewhat “rattled” and started backing away from what she was about to tell me. From that point on, with my insisting that she contact this couple, the conversation ended rather quickly. At the next service of the church, I asked sister Smith if she had contacted the Jones couple about her complaints. Essentially, what she proceeded to tell me was that after giving it some more thought, she realized that it was all a big misunderstanding on her part and she had no problem with this couple. Never again did another incident like that one ever come up involving sister Smith.

That’s interesting, isn’t it? How many problems could be solved if Christians were willing to simply follow Bible instructions concerning establishing and maintaining good relationships among brethren. Some make a practice of dropping little “bomb shells” about someone, but immediately follow it up by saying— “But I don’t know anything about it,” “But I’m not getting involved,” or “Oops, I shouldn’t have said that.” Such subtle actions, in reality, already have them involved. They are simply “stirring things up”! They have already done their damage. Those who conduct themselves in such a manner, destroy what credibility they may have had by their “behind the back” actions. Please note, concerning the seven things that God hates, what is listed in **Proverbs 6:19**: “A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.”

When dealing with such deeds as just mentioned, the information that might have been revealed should be dealt with in a similar manner as having received an anonymous letter—dispose of it in the proverbial “File 13”!



How to Listen In Church

By Robert F. Turner

Listen with the intention of making this your message, when you have time to think it through. How would you tell this to others? How could you improve on it, to fit some-one you need to teach?

Ever get sleepy during the sermon? (Not mine, of course.) Truth is, any one of us may find our attention wandering now and then. Long attention spans are difficult under the best of circumstances. The preacher bears a heavy responsibility here, for subject matter, style of presentation, relevance, and many other factors which contribute to a “live” wide-awake audience. But the speaker cannot do it all. Nor is it enough to prove by the Scriptures that we should be vitally interested. We know that -- and yet we may need motivation. Perhaps we could even learn how to become better listeners.

Jesus said, “Take heed . . . how ye hear” (**Lk. 8:18**). Not with dulled hearing and closed eyes, shunning the truth (**Matt. 13:15-16**); nor with preconceived notions that pre-vent our receiving truth (**Matt. 16:21-23**). The people I now have in mind do not belong in these categories. But there are “good” people whose minds wander, or are easily distracted; and this article is bold to make some suggestions for getting more out of the sermon and of worship as a whole.

Sit toward the front of the auditorium; close enough to feel the speaker is talking to you. Do this not just to better hear the speaker, but to improve the “oneness” of feeling essential to good communication. It puts fewer distractions between you and the speaker, allows you to better “read” his expressions, gestures, etc. It also makes for better singing and a “closer” feeling for the Lord’s supper and other worship. Yes, there are mothers with babies who need to sit closer to the nursery; sick and elderly who need easier access to the rest rooms; and always a certain number who “couldn’t care less” about the worship, but come (now and then) for unknown reasons. Leave the back seats for them.

Become a participant, not an observer. In Christianity all saints are priests in a holy, royal priesthood (**1 Pet. 2:5,9**). Each is a worshiper; praying and singing with the leader, remembering Christ in the communion, giving freely with the Lord’s work in mind, and learning -- repeating in your own mind -- that which is be-

ing taught. Being a true learner is not a passive process, but requires distinct participation with the teacher.

Take notes, learn to outline the message. Some are content to jot down the Scriptures used -- and that is good. But this can be done without much thinking with the speaker. If we would make an effort to jot down his main points (in our own brief wording) and note their relation to one another and to the subject, we would find ourselves much more

of a participant -- and certainly a much better listener.

Question what you hear. Is that a valid point, proven by the Scripture used? You will not be able to think the matter through during the sermon, but a question mark beside the point will remind you to “check it out” when you are home. This word of caution: one can be a “noble Berean” (Acts 17:11) without becoming an habitual critic of the work of others. Learn constructive criticism, and apply it to your own work.

Listen with the intention of making this your message, when you have time to think it through. How would you tell this to others? How could you improve on it, to fit some-one you need to teach? This point of view can have an amazing effect on your attention span.

Make self-application of the lesson. How can this improve my life for Christ? How does it fit my personal needs? Listen with a tender conscience, ready to learn and adjust your life accordingly.

You can have the blessings of Jesus Christ if you will learn to be a good listener. The Savior said, “Blessed are . . . your ears, for they hear.” He also said, “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled” (**Matt. 13:16; 5:6**). With a little practice on the above, and this kind of incentive, you may not notice the preacher ran overtime. **Guardian of Truth - January 21, 1993**

