

Rom. 14:19

So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32 and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

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14

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DEFENDING THE DEFENSE

Jim Stauffer

We are aware the articles in this paper reach many who may or may not have reached similar conclusions to those presented. Therefore, we always run the risk of someone taking a point we make, "personally." In one sense that is good. People should make applications to themselves and we hope that continues, but we do not intend or plan to hurt anyone's feelings as we call attention to misunderstandings of scripture.

The prophet Ezekiel was told, **Ezek. 3:18** *When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. 19 Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.* We conclude it is the purpose of God's message to mold and shape the hearts of men (**Heb. 8:10**). It is incumbent upon each and every one of us to call attention to error promulgated by men that would pervert that very message (**Gal. 1:6-9**).

It is the responsibility of each person to communicate the gospel message to others. This is what the Christians in the New Testament days did (**Acts 8:4**). It is the purpose of preaching the gospel according to the apostle Paul (**2 Tim. 2:2**).

If we are indeed stewards of the very message that has brought salvation to man, we are indeed responsible to those who may have been led into error by false teaching. Simon the sorcerer is an excellent example of one who while accepting and obeying the gospel preached by Philip, was led astray by lust for power only to be rebuked by the apostle Peter (**Acts 8:18-22**). If Peter had not taken that action, Simon would never have repented of his

wickedness.

We cannot deny that literally hundreds of differing religious practices extant in the world today, all claiming to be "the church" Jesus died for, present a much different picture from the New Testament church.

Ask yourself if the worship you participate in finds its authority in Scripture or did it originate in the European Reformation of the 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th centuries. When someone calls on you to cite the authority for your religious practices, to what scripture do you turn? Look at this short list and locate your biblical authority for your practice:

- 1) Where is the name of your church in Scripture?
- 2) Where does it teach you to address your Minister as Reverend?
- 3) What text authorizes observance of the Lord's Supper other than the first day of every week?
- 4) What passage authorizes any baptism other than immersion for the remission of sins?
- 5) Where does it teach you to baptize infants?
- 6) Where do you find the authority for the use of musical instruments in worship?
- 7) Where does the church find authority for social activism such as an attempt to feed the world, cure disease, etc.

I believe it will be difficult to support those things enumerated with any Scripture. Let me offer some sources of authority in those areas. Scripture does not support those things. Names of the church, see, **Acts 11:21,26; 12:1 1 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:2; 1&2 Thess. 1:1; Rom. 16:16**. For authority to address men with titles of special reverence, please read, **Mat. 23:8-12**. As for the Lord's Supper, consult, **Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23ff**. Baptism in the New Testament is described as a burial, **Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:3,4; Acts 2:38**. Jesus clearly teaches the pure and undefiled

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condition of infants, **Mat. 18:1-6**. The teaching concerning song worship is specified in **Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; 1 Cor. 14:15**). The only social activity the New Testament church engaged in was the care of its OWN needy, not the needy of the WORLD (**Acts 11:27-30; 2 Cor. 8&9; Rom. 15:25**).

If indeed we claim to be disciples of Christ, the truth on these and all issues should be paramount in our words and actions (**John 8:32; 17:17**).

The Sense of a Goose

In the fall when you see geese heading south for the winter flying in "V" formation, you might be interested in knowing what science has discovered about why they fly that way. It has been learned that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

(People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier, because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.)

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

(If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed the same way we are going.)

When the lead goose gets tired, he rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point.

(It pays to take turns doing hard jobs - with people or with geese flying south.)

The geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

(What messages do we give when we honk from behind?)

Finally, when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by gunshot and falls out, two geese fall out of formation and follow him down to help and protect him. They stay with him until he is either able to fly or until he is dead, and then they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their group.

If we have the sense of a goose we will stand by each other like that.

- *Anonymous*

Do We Have the Sense of a Goose?

By Joe R. Price

The previous article was given to me years ago as an item presented at a seminar for school teachers and administrators. It illustrates the important and lasting benefits of teamwork. I take its description of geese on face value. If true, these descriptions illustrate good lessons for us.

The church of Christ is composed of many different people, yet we are "one body in Christ" (**Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:12**). Though individuals, we are connected together by and in the Lord (**1 Cor. 12:20, 27**). Do we have the sense of a goose to work together as one body so that every member of the body is carried forward to the goal of heaven? Our formation should be tight, like geese, to effectively cut through this life's resistance to godly living. See the previous lessons from the goose in this light.

1) Common direction and a sense of community. Christians will arrive at heaven easier with the help of other Christians. Division destroys our ability to effectively work together. The early Jerusalem church had this sense of community: "*Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common*" (**Acts 4:32, 33-35**). Our common direction in Christ is walking in the light of truth as we press onward toward heaven (**1 Jno. 1:6-7; Eph. 5:8; Phil. 3:15-17**). God's faithful ones are headed for heaven. Stay headed in the right direction.

2) Stay in formation with your fellow Christians. The Lord has arranged our formation in His word, and we must be careful not to fall out of rank or walk disorderly (**2 Thess. 3:6**). We can fall away, we must be careful instead of arrogant, as if we could never stray from the formation of faith (**1 Cor. 10:12-13**).

Our "formation" is our "unity" which we must diligently guard (**Eph. 4:3**). Our unity in Christ is built on divine truth, the "V" formation in which we travel.

"Can two walk together, unless they are agreed" (**Amos 3:3**)? The church must stay in God's united formation.

3) Take turns doing the hard jobs. We are fellow-workers in the church (**1 Cor. 3:6-9**). No one does all the work. We work together, sharing tasks and easing each others' loads. Be a helper who takes his turn doing work that must be done in the local church. Bear the burdens of another (**Gal. 6:2**). Be a worker, not a drag on and a discourager of your brethren.

4) Give encouragement. We all need and benefit from being encouraged in love and good works (**Heb. 10:24; 1 Thess. 5:14**). Use your language in ways that build up instead of destroy (**Eph. 4:29**). Your conduct should set examples for others, whether you are young or old (**1 Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:2-7**). When you "honk" give helpful encouragement instead of destructive, discouraging obstacles that hinder your brethren and the cause of Christ.

5) Stand by each other. The whole body hurts when one part of the body hurts (**1 Cor. 12:26**). *"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all"* (**1 Thess. 5:14**). Bear each others' burdens instead of adding to them (**Gal. 6:1-2**). Like geese, let us show *"the same care one for another"* (**1 Cor. 12:25; Eccl. 4:9-12**). Standing by each other does not mean we stand by sin. It means we stand by to protect each other from sin and help when one is overtaken by sin (**Gal. 6:1; Jas. 5:19-20**). The church is stronger when we stand by each other.

Stuff About Things

Robert F. Turner

I see by the papers that Americans are growing up. That's a little hard to believe, since there are so many who still act like children. But our statistics will not be denied, and immaturity or no immaturity, we are growing up.

According to the records the average adult male has grown two inches in height, and added 23 pounds in weight since 1920. During W.W.I, the American male averaged 67.7 inches and weighed 142 lbs. By W.W.II, his height was up to 68.4 inches, and his weight to 155 lbs. In 1970 he averaged 69.7 inches, 165 lbs.

Remembering Mark Twains jab at the scientist re. the Mississippi river basin, I did a little mathematicing myself. Running our growth rate backward, I found that in 1870, just after the Civil War, the average male in America was 65.7 inches tall, and weighed 119 lbs. In 1770, he was only 61.7 inches, weighing 73 lbs. It is really surprising we whipped the British. But the most amazing facts are yet to come. Our ancestors who landed on Plymouth Rock (1620) were about 55.7 inches tall, and weighed only 4 pounds. (*Skinny little sailors weren't they?*)

If it were not for my absolute trust in statistics, I would stop here. This thing begins to get just a little bit ridiculous. The Americans male ancestors were no **height** at all in 230 A.D., and would not weigh anything until 1612. Of course there could be some truth in that. It does seem that history says we began to shove our weight around in the early seventeenth century.

One possible solution for this dilemma is to

remember that the records said nothing about women. We could use a bit of scientific supposing here, arid assume that our early history (while the men were so small) was made possible by the inverse ratio of growth on their part: they have been getting smaller while men were getting larger. But — that is such an embarrassing thought lets not go into that.

It is also barely possible that we are prone to put too much reliance in what **may** have happened, so many million years ago, if the present observable rate of growth or deterioration was maintained, etc., etc.

PREACHING THE WHOLE COUNSEL

by Patrick Donahue

Acts 20:27 *For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.*

I read somewhere recently that a survey was taken at the Southern Baptist Convention and two-thirds of their preachers had never addressed in their teaching the "divorce and remarriage" topic referenced by a number of Biblical texts (**like I Cor 7:10**). I wonder what the reason for this is?

Is it because there are so many adulterous marriages (**according to passages like Matthew 19:9**) that many Baptist churches have given up the fight against such? **Matt 7:14** predicted that few would be willing to follow the *"strait ... and narrow ... way."*

Perhaps it is because preachers have a tendency to try to remain popular by preaching what their audiences want to hear (**II Tim 4:3**)? Believers with *"itching ears"* will demand that their preachers cater to their itch.

Are many preachers succumbing to the temptation to leave off teaching on the "touchy" subjects because they are afraid their salary will be cut off or lessened (**Rom 16:17-18**)? There is an old saying that there are no touchy subjects, only touchy people.

There is no way for us to know the reason in any specific case (since we cannot read a person's mind) and maybe it is a combination of all of the above reasons, but a lesson we can learn as Christians is that all Bible issues should be dealt with (**Matt 4:4b**). No question should be off limits (**Ezek 3:18**). Limiting our teaching to what our audiences already agree with (even if we have reasons for such) really defeats the whole purpose for Bible study - seeking the truth (**Matt 7:7**). Remember - only the truth will set us free from sin (**John 8:32**).

John 4:24 *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

Eph. 2:19 So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, 20 being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; 21 in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord;

1Pet. 2:9 But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

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Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

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PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS: J.R. DANIEL, GRANT CLOTHIER, JAN PATRICK AND STEVE WIMP AND LILA, THE SISTER OF ALMA BAUMGARTNER.

MARY CZIRR IS UNDER HOSPICE CARE.

DERRICK GAINES, THE SON OF JAN PATRICK IS RECUPERATING FROM TRANSPLANT SURGERY AS IS THE SISTER OF WENDY TAYLOR.

OUR CURRENT STUDIES ARE: SUNDAY MORNING: THE BOOK OF ACTS - BYRON TAYLOR AND WEDNESDAY EVENING: THE SCHEME OF REDEMPTION - JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON: COVENANTING WITH GOD



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10