

LENEXA EDIFIER

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; Eph. 4:11,12

October 4, 2020

Evangelism by Example

Jim Stauffer

Nearly every Christian I know wishes to bring the lost to Christ. Many of them are frustrated by the results they have when attempting to gain a bible study with friends or inviting them to worship.

This frustration can be at least partially eliminated when we remember that *....strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life... (Mat. 7:14)*. There will not be a time when the majority of folks will be interested in changing their lives and taking up their cross to follow the Lord. But there is good soil out there for the sower of the seed and we must maximize our efficiency in reaching them.

This requires an understanding on our part of just what good soil is. It is not a good friend we wish to worship with who has no desire to change their current lifestyle. It is not someone who views the joys of life on earth as most important in life. It is a person who when taught what the God of heaven desires in His children is willing to change in order to reap the benefits of His love. They want to go to heaven and learn they must change to do so.

How do I find this person among my friends and acquaintances or contacts?

First, I must weed out those who simply desire earthly friendship and work my way through that group to those who have an interest in eternity. The very best way for me to do that is by being exactly what I am trying to teach them.

Far too many Christians are faring well financially in today's world and use that success to enjoy the same things the world enjoys. When this occurs the one we are trying to teach can see no difference in us and themselves. What is the need of change if we are living the same way they are?

The speech of Christians today must differ from the world. We cannot carelessly toss around the name of God in vain (**Ex. 20:7**), nor can we engage in filthy conversation such as the world does nor give approval to their speech by our refusal to condemn such (**Eph. 5:4**).

When it comes to recreation we cannot participate in all those things the world considers appropriate. The child of God cannot go to the same places where dancing and drinking are taking place. How do we convince people to follow Christ when we are not willing to walk in His steps, even to the point of persecution? Sometimes the old adage of WWJD can serve as a warning for us in our behavior whether it is our language, our choice of entertainment, etc. Movies and television today are promoting many things such as sexual perversion in opposition to God and His revelation to man. If we are to be a light to the world, we must stand opposed to that.

When our speech and recreation choices become evident to our friends they will likely have questions as to why you do not wish to see this movie to which they invited you. When you express concern over their constant use of OMG and other current disrespectful uses of the Lord's name, they will likely have questions as to why. This is the opportunity to teach about what it means to be a child of God. We are disciples of Jesus, the Son of God. Would He do these very things under consideration?

When you invite someone to worship, they will notice a difference in the conduct of the service. They will likely question why there is no musical instrument to accompany the singing. This opens the door to teach them about God's instruction concerning song worship (**Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16**). They may notice a lack of entertainment in the worship. The solemnity of prayer and the presence of the Lord's Supper. These are more opportunities to teach them that following Christ calls on us to deny ourselves and hear what He has to say (**Mat. 16:24,25; Luke 9:57-62; Mat. 17:5**).

Yes brethren, if we wish to teach people the truth, we must live it first. If all we are trying to do is get people to "join" the church where we worship, they will have more appealing offers from the world and the prevalent religions that will feed their fleshly appetite. But, after all, we are trying to appeal to their concern for the eternal destination of their soul.

We are taught by the apostle, *Do not love the*

world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.” (1 John 2:15–17)

If we wish to bring souls to the Lord, we need to live as this passage instructs. Then and only then will we sow the word of God in the hearts of men.

THE LORD’S SUPPER

“When the hour had come, He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him. And He said to them, I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He said, take this and share it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes. And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, this is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me. And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, this cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood. But behold, the hand of the one betraying Me is with Mine on the table. For indeed, the Son of Man is going as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed! And they began to discuss among themselves which one of them it might be who was going to do this thing” (Luke 22:14-23 NASV).

The ability to remember can be a blessing. We can recall, reflect on, and dwell on the past. When our memories are good and pleasant, we appreciate that ability. If our memories are not pleasant, we can still learn from the past, make amends, and go forward. We need to remember that we are God’s children; our spiritual identity should ever be on our hearts and then faithfully displayed each day. We have tombstones to remember the dead; we have monuments to remind us about some who were integral to the founding and maintaining of our nation. The Sabbath was a memorial for God’s people. Annual feasts—the Passover, First Fruits, Pentecost—reminded the Jews that they owed their very lives, physically and spiritually, to Jehovah.

In partaking of the Last Supper with His disciples, Jesus said: This do in remembrance of Me. This memorial, a part of Luke’s narrative, explained who

Jesus was. The Lord’s Supper helps us know the identity of Christ; it helps us remember who we are supposed to be. In partaking of the cup, representing the shed blood of Christ, we are communing with our Savior. We are participating in an act of worship that helps us recall the death of Christ. *“Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?” (1 Corinthians 10:16-17).*

Christ’s blood redeems us from sin. *“Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ” (1 Peter 1:18-19).* *“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood” (Romans 5:9).* Now, followers of Christ are His body; we are the church of Christ. Jesus *“tasted death for every man” (Hebrews 2:9).* His body was nailed to a Roman cross. We are His spiritual body. *“And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all” (Ephesians 1:22-23).* We worship on the Lord’s Day, the day when His church was established, the day He was raised from the grave. On that day we remember the Lord’s death (**Acts 20:7**). Who would disagree about the need to consistently, faithfully, fervently, commune with Christ and with His people? Let us sing: Lead Me to Calvary...Lest we forget.”

Randy Harshbarger

The Common Thread of Divisions

We have covered a number of causes of divisions resulting in a multiplicity of churches, and this is not by any means an exhaustive list. Did you notice something? Two hundred years ago good men from many different churches looked at this same situation and they saw the same sad state of affairs and realized they were divided, not over what the Bible said, which they could all read together and understand alike. No, what they were divided over was what the Bible did NOT SAY! The divisions they had to contend with and the divisions we see today are not about what the Bible SAYS, but about things that are not contained in the Word.

For example let’s take the most favorite verse of scripture, **John 3:16** which says, *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but*

have eternal life." I know of no church which denies that this verse teaches the necessity of believing in Christ. Why not? Because it's right there on the page in either black or red ink! There is division, however, over this verse because some say that since this verse doesn't mention Confession it's not necessary to become a Christian. "All you need to do is believe!" But this verse doesn't say that! It simply says that to have eternal life you must believe in Jesus, nothing more and certainly nothing less! Other verses, like **Matthew 10:32** may say other things are necessary like Confession. The Holy Spirit wrote them both. But to divide because you insist that since **John 3:16** mentions only Faith not Confession is to divide over what the Bible does not say!

Let us never be guilty of that!

Cleveland Reddinger

Mote Hunting

Dan S. Shipley

In His condemnation of hypocritical judging, Jesus speaks of one who beholds the mote in another's eye, but fails to consider the beam in his own eye (**Matt. 7:3**). What unusual moral vision! When focused outwardly it is able to discern the tiniest speck; yet, when looking inwardly, it cannot discern what should be most obvious. Our Lord is, of course, pointing up the need for self-discipline (*"cast out first the beam out of thine own eye," v.5*) — and what a tremendously important lesson it is! But what He touches on in only an incidental way in this context may be worthy of further consideration too; namely, mote beholding.

Obviously, the act of mote beholding, in itself, is not wrong for it is simply the act of perceiving or seeing the "mote," whatever it might be. When this occurs, providing we have de-beamed ourselves, we can **help** ("see clearly") to cast out the mote from our brother's eye. If, however, we are not careful, the mote beholding easily deteriorates into mote **hunting**; i.e., **looking for fault in others**, especially with a view to hurting or discrediting in some way. The Christian who deliberately looks for something to criticize in another has, in that disposition alone, a personal "beam" in his own eye that needs beholding and casting out. Lamentably, mote hunting is more popular than beam hunting. No doubt, if there were more of the latter there would be less of the former. But, such is not the case and, in fact, it often appears that some

have declared open-season for mote hunting.

Take, for instance, many of the written debates, exchanges, reviews, reviews of reviews, exposes, and the like, of recent years. It is not unusual to see the obvious intent and meaning of an action or argument ignored in a painstaking and tedious effort to search out some trifling innuendo to be used against the opposition. If one is suspicioned to have certain "leanings," his every statement is carefully scrutinized — not for objective evaluation, but for "evidence" with which to blast him! If nothing of an incriminating nature is obvious, the mote hunter can always read between the lines and find something with which to jump to an unwarranted conclusion. The mote hunter's inferences have a way of being translated into his opponents "position." Whether real or imagined, every mote is likely to be magnified to "beam" proportions. But, such mote hunting and exploiting is by no means limited to writers and debaters.

In fact, most of us have likely indulged in the practice to some extent. Ill-will, prejudice, and envy (things to which we are all susceptible) can easily send us on a mote hunt if we are not careful. If one has wronged us, we are inclined to search out and exploit the "motes" of his conduct and speech. Even the slightest conflict or controversy can motivate mote hunting. And when brethren start looking for and advertising the bad in each other, look out! You will see just what we are seeing in many places today: hate, enmity, strife, and division such as cripple the cause of Christ.

The answer? *"Love suffereth long, is kind, envieth not, thinketh no evil, beareth all things."*

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BIBLE STUDY?

We have both correspondence courses and in home or zoom bible studies available.

These studies can be tailored to specific topical interests.

They can be suited to the specific needs of the student. We are all on different levels of biblical knowledge and we can accommodate each individual situation.

We are currently studying through the Meet Up program every other Thursday. Our next study will be October 15, 2020. If you wish to join us please go to [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) and join our group, The Lenexa Bible Study Group. These studies are currently by way of zoom.

Contact into:

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Our Gospel Meeting concluded Wednesday. Unfortunately many who needed to attend did not. We do not know the reasons but what we do know is bro. Sychtysz presented a series of lessons on the commitment of the child of God and did so with great clarity.

Any effort to avoid application failed. His lessons were pointed and poignant. Those who missed these lessons missed a spiritual feast.

We cannot please Him unless we hear His word. "By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked."
(1 John 2:3-6)

NEWS AND NOTES

Sick in need of prayers:

JAN PATRICK, ALMA BAUMGARTNER, TRUDY MULLEN, RENE RATLIFFE, DENESE GORING, RODNEY BLOUNT, TRACY RICHARDSON, DAISY DARNALL, BROOKLYN BOYER, STEVE WIMP, JESSIE GIBSON AND PAT GAINES ALSO PLEASE REMEMBER ALMA BAUMGARTNER IN HER GRIEF OVER THE DEATH OF HER MOTHER. FUNERAL TO BE CONDUCTED FRIDAY AT PAOLA, KANSAS.

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS - **BOOK OF DANIEL** - **BILL MILLER**

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS - **STUDY OF WORSHIP** - **JIM STAUFFER** (BOTH CLASSES OFFERED ON ZOOM)

SUNDAY SERMON: THE PROMISE OF GOD (IN REAL TIME)

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

Elders:

Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

Deacons:

Bill Miller

Brandon Jimison

Joe Hurd

"Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons."

(Philippians 1:1)

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - **Rom. 10:17**

Believe in Jesus Christ - **Heb. 11:6**

Repent of sins - **Acts 17:30**

Confess Christ as Lord - **Rom. 10:9,10**

Baptism for remission of sins - **Acts 2:38**

"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." **(Revelation 2:10)**

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.*

ADDRESS AND HOURS OF WORSHIP

7845 Cottonwood Dr. Lenexa, Kansas,
66216

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/ Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

Check out the following websites:

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

lenexachurchofchrist.org