

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Knowing Where To Put The Comma

November 17, 2013

Issue 137

A comma is essentially a punctuation mark that denotes a pause. That small mark can change the entire meaning of a sentence; that's why English teachers are so sensitive about its use. For instance, the headline on a cover of "Tails" magazine stated, "Rachael Ray Finds Inspiration In Cooking, Her Family, And Her Dog." If you remove the commas from that headline, it would read, "Rachael Ray Finds Inspiration In Cooking Her Family And Her Dog." Big difference.

Well-placed commas would also be useful in our everyday lives. Pausing at the right moments for the right reasons is good for our

emotional and spiritual health.

James 1:19-20 promotes pausing: "This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God." Fallible human beings do the opposite quite well. We are quick to speak and get angry, but very slow to listen. We need to put a comma between our brains and our mouths.

People also need to pause before getting married. If a man and woman are going to look at each other and say, "Till death do us part," they need to be sure they

can live up to that commitment. A wise man once said, "When you get married, you are marrying the person your spouse was yesterday, the person they are today, and the person they are going to be tomorrow."

Finally, we should pause to assess whether or not something is from man or from God. Too often we assume that as long as something is legal, it's moral. But that's not true. What is allowable for the government is not always allowable for God. Taking a moment to refer to Scripture will protect your soul from sin.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Suzanne Howe, Mr. Green's daughter, has breast cancer, and she has already had surgery.
- Mildred Walker is being evaluated for transfer to Morningside Assisted Living.
- Addie Farmer still has shoulder and hip pain.
- John Hayes is still weak but slowly improving.
- Jessica Humston, Jay Newell, and Randy Gupton also need prayer.

A.M. Sermon: "Why We Believe In Baptism For The Remission Of Sin" Happy Haven Contribution Today

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Newell

Pray: J.W. Head

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Baker

Serve: Demonbreum, Trent, J. Walker

Pray: Crabtree

Pleasant View church of Christ
2500 Highway 49 East
P.O. Box 189
Pleasant View, TN 37146

Sunday School: 9:30
A.M. Worship: 10:30
P.M. Worship: 6:00
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm
Phone: 924-9714

Ephesians 6:10-11
“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.”

Chris Chambers, the son of Dan Chambers, has recently enlisted in the Army. He is currently in boot camp. Chris would love to receive notes of encouragement. He can only receive mailed letters, no email or gift packages. If you would like to send him a note, mail it to:

PFC Chris Chambers, Roster #133
F Company, 2-58 IN REGT
198th Infantry Brigade
5550 Leonard Dr.
Fort Benning, GA 31905

Going To The Source

Who do you talk to when you have a problem? Mom? Dad? Your spouse? Do you consult with an elder or preacher? Psychologist? Who? Maybe you don't talk to anybody, hoping that everything will just naturally work out. We cannot keep disputes and problems from happening, but we can control how long those disputes and problems control our days and nights.

Jesus gave us a 4-step process to use if a brother sins. We should follow it to find peace. Very few people follow Jesus' formula, and they wonder why their problems never get resolved.

First, in Matthew 18:15 Jesus says to go show your brother "his fault in

private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother." Are you willing to do that? It's difficult. It's much easier to do the opposite—to go talk to everyone else in public about the sins of your brother without ever talking to him.

Second, Jesus says that if he doesn't listen to you, you take two or three witnesses with you (18:16). Have you ever done that? Have you ever been unable to convince someone of his sins, so you have a meeting with him and a few others? Probably not. Most people assume that such a meeting would intimidate the sinner.

Third, Jesus said that you include the whole church in the matter

(18:17). What began as a one-on-one conversation now includes the entire church. Has this ever happened at your congregation? If not, why not? Does your church have no problems? Do things get resolved quickly? I doubt it.

Lastly, Jesus says that if the sinner refuses to acknowledge their sins, he is to be like "a Gentile and a tax collector" (18:17). The sinner is to be seen as one who is an outsider.

Jesus' way is always the best way, not just in matters of forgiveness and salvation, but also in matters of communication and conflict resolution.

James Hayes
