

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Friendship

July 20, 2014

Issue 171

It has been said that a man cannot have too many friends. Well, the Bible disagrees: "A man of too many friends comes to ruin..." (Prov. 18:24). Each time you let someone into your life, you give up part of yourself. That new friend might need your money, your time, your attention, or your sympathy. No matter how intimate that friendship becomes, you are letting that person have a piece of your heart and mind. Here are some types of friends that are spiritually and mentally unhealthy for you:

(1.) *Validators*. These are yes-men (or women). They will agree with everything you say, and confirm every be-

lieve you have. Those types of friends are not good for you because they will just inflate your ego and weaken your character.

(2.) *Commentators*. Don't you hate it when someone makes a comment about *everything* you do? You are constantly having to explain your intentions. It's exhausting. Commentators act more like a parent than a friend.

(3.) *Motivators*. These friends want you to improve every area of your life. They are helpful in that regard, but they tend to present themselves as the perfect example to live by. When you point out flaws in their lives, they become

instantly defensive.

True friends are critical only when necessary. "A friend loves at all times" (Prov. 17:17). Great friends do not drain others' bank accounts, emotional energy, or mental capacity. If someone is not helping you become a better person, he/she is not a godly friend.

Don't let just anyone into your life. Protect your emotions. Realize that some people do not have pure motives. "He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools suffers harm" (Prov. 13:20).

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Bible Bowl practice tonight at 5:00.
- Happy Haven Children's Home contribution today.
- Please remember these in your prayers: Rick Reed, J.R. Mitchell, Jay and Carolyn Newell, Heather Mangold and Tosha Helton on their upcoming deliveries, Dan Stockmeyer's wife Jean, Mildred Walker, and those families affected by the plane crash in Ukraine.

James Is Preaching A Gospel Meeting In Spring Hill, TN This Week Gospel Meeting Is Next Sunday With David Morris

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Billingsley

Pray: Gupton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Terry Walker

Serve: Trent, Garrett, J. Walker

Pray: E. Walker

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

Romans 11:33

“Oh, the depth of the riches
both of the wisdom and
knowledge of God! How
unsearchable are His
judgments and unfathomable
His ways!”

“Too many people spend money they haven’t
earned, to buy things they don’t want, to im-
press people they don’t like.”

Will Rogers

“Don’t think money does everything or you are
going to end up doing everything for money.”

Voltaire

Are You The Devil?

Matthew Henry once said, “Men sin, but devils tempt to sin.” You don’t have to look menacing to be devilish. You don’t have to scare people or rejoice when something bad happens. All you have to do to be like Satan is tempt others to sin. That’s all. Notice how Satan influenced man in Scripture:

(1.) *He convinced the woman (Eve) that God was wrong.* God had said that if she and Adam ate from the forbidden tree that they would die. Satan said they wouldn’t die—God only made that rule because He didn’t want them to be like Him. Many people—even some self-professed Christians—will often try to convince you that God didn’t mean what He

said. They would rather you conform to their agenda.

(2.) *Satan tries to obstruct God’s plans.* When Jesus told His disciples that He would eventually suffer and die in Jerusalem, Peter rebuked Him and said that such a thing should never happen. Jesus said, “Get behind me, Satan. You are a stumbling block to me” (Matt. 16:23). Modern devils try to thwart God’s plan for Christians. They try to keep people from worshiping, or they might say that evangelism is a waste of time.

(3.) *The devil tries to distract new converts.* Shortly after Jesus was baptized, He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness. Though His baptism

was different in purpose than ours, and even though we will not face Satan in that particular way, Satan will nonetheless anyone who has been baptized. Today’s devils do the same. Instead of encouraging the new convert, they plant seeds of doubt into the convert’s mind.

Do you act like that devil? I hope not. We should do everything possible to encourage people to live for the Lord. We should never stand in the way of someone’s faith.

“Therefore encourage one another and build up one another...” (I Thess. 5:11).

James Hayes
