

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Are You A Good Counselor?

February 8, 2015

Issue 200

In Proverbs 11:14, we read, "Where there is no guidance, the people fall. But in an abundance of counselors there is victory." Also, in Proverbs 15:22 we have, "Without consultation, plans are frustrated. But with many counselors they succeed."

Fear anyone who says, "I don't need any advice. I can do it on my own." Sacred Scripture teaches that wise people are always seeking wise counsel; only fools "go it alone." But what do you do when someone comes to you for counsel? Are you a good counselor? Here are three dos and three don'ts when it comes to counseling:

Do...(1) *Listen*. You can get a college degree in Speech, but there is no degree for Listening. Good counselors listen intently to the one seeking advice. (2) *Remember that you're hearing one side of the story*. Do not be too quick to draw conclusions until you have fully investigated the situation. (3) *Help the person make their own decision*. When I counsel someone, I say, "You're not allowed to say, 'James told me to do this or that.'" Give the advice-seeker tools, not the finished product, or else he or she will never mature.

Don't...(1) *Minimize*. If someone thinks his or her problem is big, it is...even if you think it is no big deal.

(2) *Personalize*. You don't live a perfect life, so don't tell people to mimic how you do things. Sharing experiences is one thing; "Do as I have done..." is something else. (3) *Be an expert*. Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know what you should do." There are already too many "experts."

Words matter. Friends and family will continue to lean on you for wisdom. Be sure your counsel is truthful, edifying, and above all, godly.

By doing so, you'll be Christ-like: "...He is wonderful in counsel and excellent in wisdom" (Isaiah 28:29).

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Freida Perry has moved to Ashland City and will not be with us on a regular basis. She want let you know that you were very friendly and helpful to her. She will visit occasionally.
- Jeanette Doris, the mother of Houston Dorris, passed away Tuesday. The funeral was Friday.
- Rick Reed had surgery Wednesday and is doing well.

Happy Haven Contribution Today Continue To Pray For Our Sick And Shut-In

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Walker

Pray: Cartwright

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Garrett

Serve: Demonbreum, Gupton, Terry Walker

Pray: Baker

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

“Fairness does not mean everyone gets the same. Fairness means everyone gets what they need.”

Rick Riordan

Galatians 6:9
“Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.”

“When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on.”

Franklin Roosevelt

What I Love About Churches Of Christ

I was “raised in the church.” My father is a preacher, so whenever the doors were opened, I was there. I was baptized at 11 and gave my first lesson four months later. I consider myself an insider when it comes to matters affecting churches of Christ.

Lately, many members of churches of Christ have become embarrassed of the church. They say, “I love churches of Christ,” but then they proceed to tear down everything that makes churches of Christ unique in the greater Christian world, from congregational traditions to apostolic doctrines. But I am proud of churches of Christ, not because it is made up of perfect people, but because it is founded upon the perfect

Savior. Here are a few other things I love about churches of Christ:

(1) *I love the simplicity.* The New Testament does not teach a complicated system from which churches of Christ should operate. Worship is simple. Service is simple. The organization of each congregation is simple. Since God is not a God of confusion (I Cor. 14:33), it is no wonder that He gave us a simple pattern to follow.

(2) *I love the fact that there is no clergy/laity separation.* We are all one in Christ Jesus. Preachers and elders stand before God in the same way other Christians do. There are no special titles given to church leaders,

and they do not wear special clothes to signify their position. Churches of Christ demonstrate godly equality in that way.

(3) *I love that the phrase “churches of Christ” is not only biblical, but it shows our dedication to being biblical.* It would be illogical to say we were Bible-believing people and not have a biblical description of who we are. The description itself does not save anyone (only obedience to the gospel does that!), but it demonstrates our desire to be connected to the doctrines and Christians of Scripture.

James Hayes
