

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

When Tradition Hurts

August 2, 2015

Issue 223

This spring the elders of the Coopertown church of Christ asked us to combine our Gospel Meeting with theirs. Why? Because they wanted to improve their Gospel Meeting. They asked themselves, "How can we do this better? If we combine two Gospel Meetings into one, we are bound to have a larger attendance and create new relationships among fellow Christians." This week we met those objectives. Both churches average less than 100 people in attendance on Sunday mornings, but we averaged 138 in attendance for the four nights of our Gospel Meeting.

That is an example of good change in a congregation.

Instead of continuing to have separate, sparsely-attended Gospel Meetings, two churches came together to make a traditional church activity better. Some congregations have stopped having Gospel Meetings, choosing rather to have Wednesday night Summer Series. Many congregations have altered their Vacation Bible Schools and changed the times of their Sunday and Wednesday services. All of that is good. It shows that the elders of those congregations are evaluating and reevaluating the needs of their respective congregations.

Unfortunately, however, some congregations become married to tradition.

"We've always done it this way" is only a statement of fact; it should not be the congregation's motto.

There is no inherent value in continuing to do the same things over and over again. If repetition creates complacency and/or ritualistic habit, change needs to happen. Many times, tradition hurts more than it helps.

When we see a command or relevant example in the New Testament, we obey it. But if the New Testament allows for freedom, we should not hesitate to use it.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Thank you to all of you who supported our Gospel Meeting this week. I am confident that if we expended the Meeting through Friday, our attendance wouldn't have dropped. We thank Coopertown for inviting us to join them.
- Continue to remember in your prayers: JW Head, Rick Reed, Addie Farmer, Mildred Walker, the Newells, Josh Barnett, John Hayes, and Heather Mangold.

We Averaged 138 People In Attendance For Our Gospel Meeting! Hillcrest Nursing Home Worship Today At 2:30

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Brown

Pray: Terry Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: E. Walker

Serve: D. Demonbreum, L. Newell, J. Walker

Pray: M. Newell

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

I Corinthians 1:4-5
"I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge."

In case you want to send Tim and Riley a thank you note...

Tim Agee's email: timothy@teamagee.com. His home address is 7016 Wild Iris Dr. Nashville, TN 37221

Riley Bowers email: riley.jo.bowers@gmail.com His home address is 502 Blackpatch Dr. Apt. F206, Springfield, TN 37172

Insecurity

When someone talks about himself all the time, he's arrogant, right? Maybe not.

"You might assume that people who say 'I' have healthy self-esteem. But researchers at the University of Texas at Austin recently did five separate conversation and email studies and found that frequent 'I' users are less sure of themselves than those who use the word infrequently. The explanation: 'Pronouns ['I', 'you', 'we',] reflect where we are really paying attention,' says study author and University of Texas professor of psychology James Pennebaker. 'I' users may be looking inward because they are self-conscious, insecure, or worried

about pleasing people. Instead, more secure folks, who say 'you' more often, direct most of their attention to the outside world and look for positive feedback." (*Reader's Digest*, June 2014, p. 51).

Are you an "I" person or a "you" person? I think those researchers are on to something. Someone who says, "I" frequently is essentially saying, "Meet my needs"; "Care about me more"; and, "Notice my accomplishments." A secure person has no need or interest in such talk. If you think you might be insecure, ask yourself...

(1) *Am I constantly competing with others?*

(2) *If someone gets recognition for an accomplishment, do I instantly think, "When are they going to notice what I did?"*

(3) *Am I obsessed with my physical limitations or deficiencies?*

(4) *Do I give my opinion on EVERYTHING?*

(5) *Do I use emotional manipulation (guilt, screaming fits, passive aggressiveness, etc.) to get my way?*

Many other questions like these could be asked. An insecure person is harmful to churches, marriages, and all types of relationships. Be secure in yourself and Christ.

James Hayes
