

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Eating With Sinners

December 3, 2017

Issue 339

The Pharisees were highly respected among the Jews. They held a strict view of the law, and they made every effort to maintain a clean personal image among the people. They were quick to point out those who did not live up to their lofty standards. One would think that Jesus would have been praised by the Pharisees since He was sinless, but He was not praised by them. Instead, He was ridiculed by the Pharisees for two reasons: They did not understand His mission, and He did not submit to their standards of behavior.

One of the earliest conflicts between the Pharisees and Jesus came when Jesus ate a

meal at Matthew's house (Mark 2:15-17). Matthew was a tax collector (publican). Tax collectors were seen as embezzlers who operated as pawns of the Romans. They were despised by the Pharisees. In their minds, Jesus had no business spending time with such "unclean" people. But Jesus was not just a friend of one tax collector. The text states that there were many "sinners" and tax collectors who followed Jesus. Jesus responded to the Pharisees' criticism by stating, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous but sinners" (v. 17).

If you endeavor to look like Jesus, you need to live like Jesus. Your mission should be to contact "sinners" with the gospel of Jesus. Your mission should not be to take pride in your faithfulness and isolate yourself from those who are lost—that was the mission of the Pharisees. Should you "participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness" (Eph. 5:11)? Of course not. Jesus didn't. But He did meet the sinner where he was so that the sinner might know Him. Paul had the same objective. He said, "I became all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some" (I Cor. 9:22).

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- If you know someone who would like a fruit basket, give their name to Doug today.
- Hillcrest nursing home worship today at 2:30.
- "His Word" is the new devotional book for 2018. You can order them on thejenkinsinstitute.com. They are \$6.99.
- Our Christmas dinner will be December 9 at 4:00. Sign up on the back wall.
- Mildred Walker is in Parthenon Pavilion.

Morning Sermon: "Crucify" Tonight's Sermon: "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow"

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Reed

Pray: Gupton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Billingsley

Serve: D. Demonbreum, E. Walker, Brown

Pray: Garrett

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

Ecclesiastes 7:29
“Behold, I have found only
this, that God made men
upright, but they have
sought out many devices.”

*“Every man has his secret sorrows which the
world knows not; and often times we call a man
cold when he is only sad.”*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

*“There are wounds that never show on the body
that are deeper and more hurtful than anything
that bleeds.”*

Laurell Hamilton

Is It Gossip?

Gossip is defined as “casual or unconstrained conversation or reports about other people, typically involving details that are not confirmed as being true.” The Bible is clear that gossiping is sinful. “If anyone think himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man’s religion is worthless” (James 1:26). “He who conceals hatred has lying lips, and he who spreads slander is a fool” (Prov. 10:18). “He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy conceals a matter” (Prov. 11:13). “A perverse man spreads strife, and a slanderer separates intimate friends.” (Prov. 16:28). Gossiping is listed among

sins such as murder and greed in Romans 1:29-31. If you are wondering if what you are saying is gossip, ask yourself these questions:

- (1). *Do I know these things to be true?*
The Internet is filled with information and misinformation. Just because something *sounds* true that does not mean it is true. Be diligent to confirm the information. If journalists need two sources to validate a story, that should be a good rule-of-thumb for Christians as well.
- (2). *Do I need to tell this information?*
Sometimes we like to “one-up.” Sometimes we like to have the most interesting story so everyone will “ooh and ah.” But in an effort to be

entertaining, we can fall into the gossip trap. Some stories are best left untold, especially if they could harm someone else.

- (3). *Would I tell this information if the subject of the story were standing beside me?* It is easy to talk about other people when they are not around. It’s harder to do so if they are in the room.

Talking about someone is not gossip. Sharing potentially harmful information about someone without their permission is gossip. Be a truth-teller. Practice the Golden Rule in your conversations.

James Hayes
