

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Daters, Regulators, and Complicators

September 23, 2018,
2018

Issue 380

Former Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi said, "Individual commitment to a group effort—that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." He could have added "a church" to that list. Churches of Christ will splinter, decrease, and/or dissolve when individual Christians wane in their commitment to Christ. A dedicated member of the Lord's church asks, "What is my responsibility to this congregation?" He/she doesn't ask, "Why isn't this church doing more for me?" Here are a few categories of Christians who are not dedicated to the growth and health of the local con-

gregation:

(1). *The Daters*. Some Christians just date their congregation—they don't marry it. They will assemble with their church sporadically. They will not be involved in outreach programs. They are quick to find an excuse not to be involved in other areas of church work.

(2). *The Regulators*. Regulators feel obligated to manage all church activities. They are hyper-critical of the decisions the church leadership makes. They point out the flaws of their fellow Christians. Regulators have the answers to all church problems.

(3). *The Complicators*. Finally, there are some who

just complicate church life. They do not contribute in any meaningful way. They are not dependable. Their bodies might be in the building every service, but their minds are still carnal.

Are you a Dater, Regulator, or Complicator? Do you expect others to move the church forward? Or...do you take the health of the church personally? Do you use the gifts God has given you to help spread the gospel? Are you an encourager or criticizer? Stop focusing on others. Take ownership. Act as if the future of the church depended on you.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Maeleah Holtz's heart issues have been resolved.
- Catherine Pennington, Tammy Reed's mother, will have heart tests this week.
- Kristine Garrett has been receiving oral medication for a week and is responding well to it.
- Mani Pagidipali will present a lesson tonight at Coopertown. We will meet there. No services at Pleasant View tonight.

Morning Sermon: "The Cross: The Comments" We Will Meet At Coopertown Tonight At 6:00!

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: D. Billingsley

Pray: Smith

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Reed

Serve: J. Demonbreum, J. Walker, J. Buchanan

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

Proverbs 31:10
“An excellent wife, who can
find? For her worth is far
above jewels.”

“Hell is truth seen too late.”

Thomas Hobbes

*“There is no safe investment. To love at all is to
be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart
will certainly be wrung and possibly be bro-
ken.”*

C.S. Lewis

I Am Sorry

In 1976, Elton John released a song called “Sorry Seems To Be The Hardest Word.” In the last verse, he sings, “What do I do to make you love me?/What have I got to do to be heard?/What do I do when lightning strikes me?/When sorry seems to be the hardest word.” “Sorry” is indeed one of the hardest words to say. “Sorry” requires humility. It is an admission of guilt. It is an acknowledgement that you have wronged someone else. “Sorry” is incompatible with ego. Since a real “Sorry” is so difficult for many to say, they resort to lesser versions of it. As in...

(1). “I am sorry IF I offended you.”
There is no acknowledgement of

guilt there. No humility.

(2). “I am sorry, but you MADE ME do it.” Again, there is no humility in that statement—no admission of guilt. Actually, the person who says that is putting the guilt on the other person.

(3). “I’ll say I am sorry...if you say you’re sorry first.” This is just a transaction. It is like saying, “As long as everyone else is doing wrong, I can do wrong, too, and my deeds will never be worse than yours.”

At its core, “I am sorry” is a confession of sin—either sin against God or man. That is why “I am sorry” should be a common statement among Christians. James wrote,

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another so that you may be healed...” (James 5:16). Spiritually healing cannot take place until confession is made. Relationships cannot be healed until confession is made. Jesus said, “If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private, if he listens to you, you have won your brother” (Matt. 18:15). It is clear that a listening brother is one who admits guilt.

You will say, “I am sorry” much quicker if you remember (1) you are not perfect, (2) the Bible commands you to confess sins to God and man, and (3) confession of sins relieves the burden of carrying those sins.

James Hayes
