

The REMINDER

The weekly newsletter of the church of Christ in Bellaire, TX

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Number 7

THE NON-CONFORMING CONFORMIST

The apostle Paul may have been the world's number one conformist. He made himself "all things to all men" (I Cor. 9:22). When with the Jews, he conducted himself as a Jew; when with the Gentiles, as a Gentile. If receiving support for his preaching would hinder the gospel, he would refuse support. If eating meats would place a stumbling block before a brother, he would eat no more meats. He was willing to make drastic adjustments in his habits and customs for "the gospel's sake."

And yet, this same "world's number one conformist" wrote, "And be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2). There was a point beyond which Paul was unwilling to go in his conformity, and that was the point of sin. Where sin begins, conformity ends for the Christian.

Paul once circumcised Timothy "because of the Jews which were in those quarters" (Acts 16:3) - clearly an act of conformity; but when the Jewish Christians began to **bind** circumcision on the Gentiles, presumptuously imposing their own laws in religion, Paul refused to conform. He would not circumcise Titus and even made him a test case in the meeting concerning that subject in Jerusalem (Gal. 2:1-4).

After expressing his willingness to eat no more meat rather than cause a brother to stumble - again, an act of conformity - Paul resisted those who would bind "no meat eating" laws, calling such laws "doctrines of devils" (I Tim. 4:1-5). Paul knew when to conform and when not to conform.

God's people must avoid extremes. Those who are unbending, who are not going to change their ways of doing things for anybody, who "don't care what other people think," need to become more concerned for their fellow man and learn the value of conformity for the gospel's sake. On the other hand, those who have little convictions, who conform to every worldly whim and devilish doctrine, need to learn the value of non-conformity. In short, God's people must follow the example of the apostle Paul, and become "for the gospel's sake" non-conforming conformists.

Bill Hall

Bulletin Board

Sermon Notes:

AM Lesson - Jack - "Together We're Stronger"

PM Lesson - Steve - "Watch Where You Step"

Please keep the following members in mind who have difficulty being with us due to prolonged illness: **Dee Boyd, Doris Norman, Billie Glitsch and Don Hurd.**

NEWS AND NOTES: Again, thanks to God for our continued health. There are quite a number on our extended prayer list. These are long term, and mostly friends or members living in other places. Do remember Anna Mickle. She is to have surgery for her abdominal difficulty. A new doctor and a new hospital. Hope this relieves her pain. No details are available.

The youth devotional is **not** going to be held tonight. Many of the youth or adults will be in Steve's singing lessons held after services. The devo will pick up again in March.

We have a gospel meeting scheduled for March 21-23. Hopefully this won't be impacted by the rodeo or spring break. It's only a Friday thru Sunday. Surely we can sacrifice for that. Kenny Moorer will be the speaker. He now lives and works with one of the churches in Florence, AL.

We do plan a work day in a week or two. Some things to do both inside and outside. Spring Cleaning sort of things. More information when details are worked out.

If You Are Big Enough...

To stand a compliment, you need not fear the critic.

To face defeat bravely, you can be trusted with victory.

To see a rival succeed without jealousy, you have achieved real greatness.

To keep your head when you are being attacked, you are on the highway to success.

To admit your need of God's help, you have opened the gate of salvation.

To admit that you are wrong, you have made the first step toward getting right.

Author unknown

"Some people develop eye strain looking for trouble."

"The man who forgets he was once a boy is the man whom the boys dislike."

"Some people seem to stand for nothing and fall for everything."

"A man is in hot water when his tender heart becomes hard-boiled."

"No amount of riches can atone for poverty of character."

Assignments for today

Sunday, February 16, 2014

Morning Service

Announcements.....Matt Miles
Hymn Director.....Steve Garrett
Scripture Reading.....Romans 5:12-21
Scripture Reader.....Chris Cecil
Opening Prayer.....Alex Morolez
Closing Prayer.....Matt Miles

Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Steve Garrett
Opening Prayer.....Rudy Black
Closing Prayer.....Matt Miles

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Schedule of Services

Sunday:

9:30 AM Worship
11:00 AM Bible study
5:00 PM Worship

Wednesday:

7:30 PM Study and Devotional
Minister and editor
Jack Smith and Steve Garrett

The Reminder is published weekly by the church of Christ in Bellaire