

Volume 2, Issue 7

February 16th, 2003

Attitudes Toward Correction

Kevin Cauley

In our lifetime we are going to sin (1 John 1:7-10). Undoubtedly, some of those sins are going to be committed in the presence of others. There are going to be times when we either do not recognize that what we did was a sin, or that we understand it to be a sin but do not want to take the appropriate action to correct it. In either of these situations, the opportunity for another person to come to us and point out our personal sin exists. What should our attitude be toward someone who approaches us with our sin and suggests correction? Let's look at some attitudes that we might have toward personal correction in our lives.

"I haven't done anything wrong." Often when confronted with personal sin this will be the first response. This attitude, however, is a mistake. Even when we are reasonably sure that we have not done anything wrong, our attitude should not be that of Bart Simpson, "I didn't do it; nobody saw me do it; you can't prove anything." Even popular culture recognizes the error of this fatalistic response. When confronted we should be open to the possibility that we have sinned. When it is demonstrated that we have sinned, many times the difficulty comes in swallowing the hard conclusion that I did something wrong. It takes humility and meekness to even admit the possibility and much more to admit the actuality. At this point a correct response should be, "Let's sit down and see what the Bible has to say about the subject and if I am wrong, then I will try to make things right."

"You don't have a loving attitude." This is a popular response when we confront someone who needs to be corrected. That is because it is a le-

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Kevin's Korner



I trust that everyone had a wonderful Valentine's day. Our Valentine's day party was wonderful and I would like to recognize the efforts of Brent and Shawna Stevens in organizing this event. They hosted the party last year and they did a wonderful job in putting it together this year as well. In addition to that, they have been responsible for cleaning our building for the month of February and have really done an outstanding job. Their efforts are much appreciated and we offer a hearty "Thank you" for a job well done. If you have not mentioned this to them yet, please do so and let them know their work is appreciated.

I have had two great opportunities to study the Bible with some members of our community this past week. These studies are ongoing and I ask for your continued prayers in these efforts. I would like to commend both Megan and Katie Williams for engaging in personal Bible studies with their friends. One of the studies in which I am currently involved resulted from their efforts. If you would like some material to conduct your own personal Bible studies, I have that material available in my office and would be happy to share it with you.

I want to point out an opportunity that all of us have to share the gospel message with others. Each month, we receive several different pieces of literature in the mail. Some of this literature is used and some is left unread and ultimately it is discarded. We can do something with this material. Do you have family that do not attend services here? Save up the material and mail them a copy each month or quarter. Do you have friends that live nearby with whom you have frequent Bible discussions? Pass along some of this material

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gitimate concern. The Bible speaks clearly that those who are going to attempt to offer correction to others must have the right attitude when so doing (Galatians 6:1; Ephesians 4:15). We must both look to ourselves and speak the truth in love when engaging in personal correction. However, to use this expression as a statement of defense falls short because it does not deal with the issue at hand. It is a diversion away from the original problem and those who say this generally are trying to avoid the real issue. Some even go to the point of saying that suggesting any form of correction is not loving. The scriptures, however, simply do not teach this and we recognize this to be true in our lives as well specifically in relationship to our children. The parent who wields no discipline upon their child is really the parent who does not love his child (Proverbs 13:24; Hebrews 12:5-11). In loving adult relationships also, reproof is required when sin is involved and this is not an indication that someone does not love another, but that they do (Galatians 4:16). When confronted with correction, we should assume that the person coming to us has the best of intentions in mind.

"The preacher is wrong." Well, that may be the case. Sometimes preacher's make mistakes and say things that are not correct. However, the Bible is not wrong. When the preacher sets forth scripture regarding the truthfulness of his statements and one disagrees, the proper course of action is to go discuss things with the preacher. This, however, is the last thing that the one with the incorrect attitude toward correction wants to do because if one sits down and engages in a study of the Bible, one is usually going to find things that one does not want to admit. Part of the requirements the Bible places upon preachers is to rebuke and reprove (2 Timothy 4:2). When this illuminates our personal sin, self-reflection is the appropriate course of action (1 Corinthians 13:5), not castigation of the preacher. Remember that the preacher (if he is a good one) is not setting forth his own personal opinions, but the word of God (2 Timothy 4:1).

"No one cares about me and my problems." Many times, individuals will state these particular words out of an attitude of selfishness. "Woe is me; no one loves me; aren't I a wreck!" We used to sing a song in grade school about eating worms. The chorus went like this, "Nobody loves me, everybody hates me, I'm gonna eat some worms." The point of the song was that self pity usually results in actions that are self destructive.

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to them. Does your employer allow you to place material discreetly in certain areas of your business? Take some of this material along with you and put it in places where it will be read. These are opportunities for us to teach. Will some simply discard it? Probably, but we have made the effort to do what we can do. Don't discount the power of God to work in the hearts and lives of those around us. Let's do what we can to sow and water (1 Corinthians 3:6).

Today we also have the opportunity to participate together in our regular fellowship meal after morning services. I like potlucks not only because I like to eat, but because I love you. What a great opportunity for us to sit down and talk to each other and get to know one another better. Those who do not come to the potlucks miss out on an experience that brings us closer together as Christians and helps us to work closer with one another as a family. Just as in our physical families it is important to spend time together, so also in our spiritual family. The people around you are ultimately the people that are going to be with you in eternity in heaven; if we prefer not to be around them now, what makes us think that we are going to want to be around them in eternity? These events are designed for our mutual edification. Let's all work together to help one another go to heaven (Hebrews 3:13).

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."
(Galatians 6:1)

Elders: Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan, Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn Quigley
Deacons: Ken Smith, Brent Stevens, Rusty Windle.
Preacher: Kevin Cauley 870-423-6707

Times of Worship and Study
Sunday Morning Bible Class: 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 PM
Ladies Bible Class: 10:30 AM
Wed. Evening Bible Class: 7:00 PM

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The truth is that someone does care. When we hear teaching on subjects that are uncomfortable to us it is because someone cares enough for us to present what the Bible says on the subject. Since the Bible is the ultimate standard by which we will be judged (John 12:48), it is the ultimate loving and caring thing to do. What is really meant by this statement is that no one is trying to comfort me in my sinfulness. In contrast our attitude should be, "I have problems; help me to resolve my problems."

"Look at all the other hypocrites who need to repent too." Similar to the "you are not being loving" line, this is a diversion. When we are confronted with the issue of our own personal sin, we have the responsibility to examine ourselves and make correction (James 1:22-25). Whether or not another person in the church is a hypocrite has nothing to do with our own personal attitude toward correction. The assertion may be true that there are others acting hypocritically, but this does nothing to correct the problems in our own lives. Pointing to others in the church who are acting hypocritically as a defense against our own personal correction simply increases bitterness in our lives toward those around us as well as toward our own personal sin. No doubt if a hypocrite is involved in the correction process, he should recuse himself until he gets his own personal sin resolved (Matthew 7:1-5). However, this does not mean that one is "off the hook" from being confronted with sin. One still must deal with the problem of one's own personal sin.

"You just are refusing to forgive." When the result of personal correction ends in the right way there should be forgiveness. This does not imply, however, that there will be further teaching on the subject. To the contrary, usually when a person sins this means that there needs to be additional teaching on the subject. This is the correct and appropriate response. When a child comes

home with an "F" on a test paper and asks Mom and Dad for forgiveness, and forgiveness is granted, this does not mean that all study on that particular subject should cease. To the contrary, the parents will probably spend MORE time in the pursuit of that particular subject with the child. Does this mean that they have refused to forgive the child? Of course not, in fact we recognize just the opposite. True forgiveness implies that the one in need of forgiveness needs help and that the one's who are doing the forgiving have an obligation to help. Additional studies on the subject are the natural result of forgiveness whether it is in regard to a child's test results or an individual's personal sin. Unintentional sin many times is due to ignorance. This implies the need for further education on the subject. So when the general subject comes up, it is not because we are refusing to forgive, but because we have actually forgiven in the way that God wants us to forgive (2 Corinthians 2:5-11).

Our attitude toward personal correction will determine our ultimate estate in heaven. It is part of God's plan that we accept the corrective efforts of our fellow Christian when it comes to personal sin (Matthew 18: 15-17). While it is not comfortable for us to do this and while sometimes it is a painful experience, we can be assured that God will bless those who appropriate display the right attitude toward personal correction. Ultimately, we will stand before God in judgment as to how we received these efforts. On the day of judgment, do we really want to stand before God and say that we were not receptive to other's efforts to provide personal correction? Do we really want to face God with that attitude? How much more better is God's plan to face our own peers now and make correction than to face Him when no more opportunity for correction is available.

Sunday's Sermons

For February 16th

Morning.....The Decision of Attendance
















Scripture Hebrews 10:19-25

Evening.....Lessons from Noah

Scripture Genesis 6:5-10

Our Record

Week of 2/9

							
	Our Record						
Week of 2/9							
	Sunday Class	46					
	Sunday A.M.....	53					
	Sunday P.M.	46					
	Wednesday	60					
	Contribution.....	\$1587.50					
	Budget	\$1760.00					

News, Notes and Prayer List



• Please remember the following in your prayers: Connie Atchley, Geneva Atchley, Brenda Fleming family, Lydia Forehand, Delma Johnson, Larry Miller.

- We extend our sympathies to Wanda Bozarth and her family at the passing of her brother, Toley Hart.
- Lucille Wright is in room 504 of the Berryville nursing home.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- There is a report from Moises Umana regarding the work in Costa Rica posted in the foyer.
- We still have a few yard signs available to advertise for the Sunday morning programs "In Search of the Lord's Way" and "The Living Word." If you would like a yard sign, please see Kevin.
- If you have not had your picture taken yet, please get with Kevin.
- We will have a VBS next Sunday night after services.
- Potluck today! Please join us for food and fellowship.
- The regular elders and deacons meeting is tonight after evening services.
- The new "Reason and Revelation" and "Discovery" magazines are in the foyer. This month's issue is on dinosaurs and is very interesting. Please pick one up today!
- If you have not yet signed up to clean the building, the list is in the foyer.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Canned Spinach.



Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	February 16th, 2003	February 23rd, 2003
Song Leader:	Larry Elliott	Bill Fort
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Clay Bozarth	Ken Smith
Scripture:	Brent Moore	Brandon Foster
Lord's Table:	Glenn Quigley	Leon Duncan
	Matt Bassing	Glenn Williams
(assist)	Perry Foster	Brent Moore
	Raymond Kimes	George Eddings
Closing Prayer	Rusty Windle	Larry Elliott
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Brent Stevens	Clay Bozarth
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Clyde Atchley	George Eddings
Scripture:	Dale Pinkley	John Gass
Lord's Table:	Leon Duncan	Dale Pinkley
	Brent Moore	Brandon Foster
Closing Prayer	Ray Duncan	Brent Moore
Wednesday		
Songs:	Hugh Atchley	Rusty Windle
Opening Prayer:	Bob Moore	Dale Pinkley
Invitation:	Brent Stevens	Kevin Cauley
Closing Prayer:	Kevin Cauley	Ray Duncan
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Ken Smith	
Worship Coordinator	Bill Fort	
Communion Prep	Gladys Kimes	Pam Pinkley
Communion Carry	John Gass	Rusty Windle

The "Berryville Bible Beacon" is published by the Berryville church of Christ. Please contact Kevin Cauley at work at (870) 423-3068 or at home at (870) 423-6707 or e-mail bvccoc@alltel.net to contribute information.

For questions or comments, please call (870) 423-3068 or write us at:
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