



"Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

Volume 2, Issue 13

March 30th, 2003

Why The Religious World Is Divided

Kevin Cauley

One of the great questions that faces our day is the question of why there are so many denominations around us. It is clear from the scriptures that the followers of Christ were to be united in doctrine and practice. Jesus prayed for the unity of the believers in John 17. Paul condemned the factious spirit of the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 1:10ff. Yet factions and divisions arose. After the time of apostolic guidance, the early church sought to maintain unity within the church not by appealing to scripture but by the unscriptural practice of changing the organization of the church. As opposed to having a plurality of bishops, as was the practice in the New Testament (Acts 20:28), they reasoned that if one bishop could rule the church, then the church would have unity. Eventually, this led to one man ruling, not merely over individual churches, but over the universal church as a whole in the person of the Pope. Such was the result of man's efforts to try to maintain unity within the body.

During the time of the reformation, many men recognized the unscriptural nature of the practices within the Catholic Church and sought reform. These men bravely faced the only known religion in Europe in that day and stood up in opposition to its corruptions. Through the efforts of men such as John Calvin and Martin Luther a challenge arose to the dusty religion of the Pope. The result of this challenge, however, was far from what Jesus originally intended His church to be. The reforms that were sought resulted in the creation of independent state religions, which we know today as mainline denominations. During the reformation, the denominations were largely

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Kevin's Korner

Last week was a wonderful week. It was spring break for all of those who go to Berryville schools, and what wonderful weather we had for that week. Last Sunday we all had a wonderful time at Quigley's Castle. We certainly owe Ken and Debbie a great big THANK YOU for having us over. The food was great; the singing was great; the fellowship was great; the walk in the woods with the kids was great; the horseshoe playin' was great (even though I lost); the fishin' was great as well. Mary Lynn caught three catfish out of the tank and one of them was pretty big. Everyone who came out had a wonderful time there. We sure appreciate the Smith's for having us over.

Monday was a good day as well. Mary Lynn and I took the boys fishing. First we went to King's River and got our lines wet. Not many were biting, but we enjoyed the sun and the beautiful day. We then took our sack lunches over to Lake Leatherwood. I will have to admit that I was pleasantly surprised at this little park. If you have never been there, it is worth going just to see what it is like. We tried our hand at some fishing there too, but didn't catch anything. The kids had a good time playing on the playground, though. After that we went to the community center and played a little. That evening, John Crow asked me to go hit some golf balls with him at the driving range in Green Forest. Well, I couldn't say no to that! So we went and watched our golf balls sail into the setting sun. It was a good day.

Tuesday it was back to work, but Tuesday night we had a real treat going to the gospel meeting in Stark City, MO. The preacher there and his wife (J.R. and Joy Burr) are friends of

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Mary Lynn's family and mine too now. Max Patterson held the meeting all week and he did an excellent job. We went back Thursday night to hear him again. It was very encouraging to be able to hear him preach the message of God's love. This congregation may be small numerically (about 40), but they are spiritual giants! This is also where A.J. Hendrix attends when he is in the states.

Thursday morning, Matt Bassing and I went trout fishing at Roaring River. Matt caught two very nice fish, but I left with only a few nibbles. I did enjoy watching those fish dart up to my bait and then turn away at the last minute in a frustrated sort of way. We had a wonderful morning.

This past week I also met a man named Ted Larrimore at the hospital. Some of you know who Ted is, but I didn't know him from Adam. While I was visiting the hospital last week, I walked by his room and we struck up a conversation. Ted was in the hospital due to a small stroke. He asked me to turn on some lights for him in his room so he could do the crossword puzzle. Glenn Q. and I went back on Tuesday to visit with him some more. He was released on Wednesday.

Speaking of hospital visits, we went to see Lucille Wright last week as well. She is back in the nursing home now after her fall and she is in a new room, 104. It is near the front. Let's all remember that today we have an opportunity to serve our community by going to the nursing home to sing. These folks do love it when we come and sing with them. Please note that due to some construction in the nursing home facility, the singing will be held in the cafeteria area instead of the recreation room. Let's ALL make our plans to go and visit and sing at 2:00 PM today!!!

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relegated to various different states, but when the New World offered new opportunities, immigrants from these various states brought their religions with them all to settle in the same area. It is under the influence of the great melting pot of American and the promise of freedom of religion that the various denominations were folded together into a relatively small geopolitical area such as a county or town. The result was that a multitude of denominations now existed within a relatively small area. This brought attention to the obvious division that now existed among professed followers of Christ. Today the situation is much the same. Not much effort has been made in denominationalism to bring back the unity for which Christ prayed so earnestly and for which

the apostles so stringently fought. This sad state of affairs is not the result of the plan of God, but of the refusal of men to submit to God's will in matters of religion. Division is sinful and God hates it. But many will continue to allow division to continue because the truth is that they simply do not care about the unity of the body of Christ.

What is one to do with the amount of division that exists today among the religious world? First we must accept that the Bible and only the Bible provides the answer for religious unity today. The Bible is God's word and it is the standard by which we will all be judged (John 12:48). We must seek to live our lives in harmony with the will of God as revealed to us in the Bible first and foremost. It is when man decides that he knows better than God that religious division occurs within the body. The tradition of men will not be able to justify one before God in that final day (Matthew 15:9). So we must decide that we are going to let the Bible settle all questions of religious difference. That is the first step toward unity.

Second, we must leave behind us all things that cause division. We must leave behind the divisive creeds and confessions of faith. We must leave behind the divisive names that we use to designate our buildings. We must leave behind the attitudes of selfishness and envy that cause division within the body of Christ (Philippians 2:3). We must leave behind any human traditions that we hold dear that would cause division. Any and everything that causes division we must let go.

Finally, we must unite together within the church that was established by Jesus. This means that we must understand the pattern that the Holy Spirit used to build the first century church. We must understand God's pattern for worship and church organization. We must understand God's plan for man's salvation both for the alien sinner and for the saved. We must build upon

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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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that pattern and not allow any deviations to the right or the left (2 Timothy 1:13). When we follow the pattern that the Holy Spirit set forth in the Bible, we will get exactly the same thing that those within the first century got--the church that Jesus built.

God is not going to save a church that was not after His design. God is not going to save a body that does not respect the pattern that the Holy Spirit laid down. Jesus did not die to save men who follow after their own traditions and not after the word of God. Those who cause and continue to divide the body are guilty of mutilating the body of Christ and will receive no less punishment than those who crucified the Christ. Do we really value the words of Christ when he prayed for unity within the body (John 17:21)? Do we really value the words that Paul wrote to the church at Corinth commanding them not to have division (1 Corinthians 1:10)? If we do, then we will make every effort possible to unite based upon the teaching of the scriptures in one body. Until then, the religious world will remain divided (1 Corinthians 11:18, 19).

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:4-6).

HOW TO DEVELOP A BETTER ATTITUDE

Ken Tyler

Webster defines attitude as "one's disposition." Other words as "mental state, emotion, mood, and opinion" are used by him to define attitude. Our attitude is our most important quality. The attitude we have determines what kind of person we are.

Every person should desire to have a good attitude. A good attitude is essential for a proper relationship at home, work, school, and yes, in the church. Our attitude affects every aspect of our lives. In this article I want to make five suggestions that I hope will help all of us develop a better attitude.

1. THINK POSITIVE. Most people who have bad attitudes are very negative people. There is always something wrong, never anything right. Individuals who fit into this category are usually very unhappy and hard to get along with. A better attitude begins with being a positive, optimistic person. Don't allow yourself to become so negative that you cannot function as a child of God.

2. LEARN TO COPE WITH FAILURE. This is one of the most difficult aspects of life. We all fail,

both spiritually and in our day-to-day activities of this life. How we handle failure will determine what kind of life we have. David and Peter both failed miserably, but neither allowed it to destroy them. Judas, on the other hand, went out and hanged himself. Remember, you never fail until you quit trying.

3. KEEP BUSY DOING THINGS FOR OTHERS. It is very difficult to have a bad attitude if you give your life to others. It is true that "...it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Individuals who fill their lives doing for others are the most happy people on the face of this earth. remember, Jesus "...went about doing good..." (Acts 10:38).

4. DO NOT LET SICKNESS, SUFFERING, AND DEATH CAUSE YOU TO BECOME BITTER. It would do us all good to read Job 1 and 2 often. Unfortunately, sickness and death are a part of this life. Only a deep abiding faith in God will see us through. May we never forget that our eternal abode, heaven, is a place free from sickness, suffering and death (Rev 21:4).

5. PRAY CONSTANTLY THAT YOUR ATTITUDE MAY BE RIGHT. God will help all of us to have a better attitude. The question is--do we want to change? Are we satisfied with a bad attitude and a miserable life? If we want the right kind of attitude God will help us get it. "Pray without ceasing" (1 Th 5:17).

Sunday's Sermons

For March 30th

Morning..... Lessons from Costa Rica

Scripture 1 Cor.16:17, 18

Evening..... Doctrine of Hell

Scripture Matthew 10:28

Our Record

Week of 3/23

Sunday Class 54

Sunday A.M..... 64

Sunday P.M. 51

Wednesday 63

Contribution.....\$1459.00

Budget\$1760.00

News, Notes and Prayer List



- We thank God for this Lord's day!
- We extend our hearty greetings to all of our visitors and members alike. Please take an opportunity to get to know us. We would like to have a record of your attendance. Please fill out one of our visitors cards. WELCOME!!!

- Please remember the following in your prayers: Connie Atchley, Delma Johnson, Charles Swink, Lucille Wright.
- Lucille Wright returned to the nursing home this week. She has a new room number 104.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- SPRING FORWARD: This coming weekend is the time to set your clocks forward! Don't forget or you will be off time Sunday!
- Next Sunday night we will have our youth devotional at Brent and Shawna's house. Please make your plans to attend.
- VBS meeting next Sunday night after services.
- Today we will be singing at the nursing home. The singing starts at 2:00, but we will meet here at the building at 1:45 if you want to ride with someone. See you there!!!
- If you have not had your pictures taken yet, please get with me TODAY to get your pictures taken.
- Next month's service assignments are as follows: Brent Stevens will have announcements. Bob and Brent Moore will carry communion. Tiffany Windle and Megan Williams will prep communion. Ken Smith will be the worship coordinator.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Toilet Paper.



Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	March 30th, 2003	April 6th, 2003
Song Leader:	Brent Stevens	Ken Smith
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Glenn Quigley	Brent Stevens
Scripture:	Brandon Foster	Ray Duncan
Lord's Table:	Larry Elliott	Clyde Atchley
	Ken Smith	Raymond Kimes
(assist)	Clyde Atchley	George Eddings
	Matt Bassing	Brandon Foster
Closing Prayer	Bruce Foster	Larry Elliott
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Ken Smith	Clay Bozarth
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Bob Moore
Scripture:	Rusty Windle	Brandon Foster
Lord's Table:	Glenn Quigley	Leon Duncan
	Brent Moore	Glenn Williams
Closing Prayer	Bill Fort	Dale Pinkley
Wednesday		
Songs:	Rusty Windle	Hugh Atchley
Opening Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Rusty Windle
Invitation:	Kevin Cauley	Ken Smith
Closing Prayer:	Matt Bassing	Ray Duncan
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Glenn Quigley	
Worship Coordinator	Brent Stevens	
Communion Prep	Pat Quigley	Debbie Smith
Communion Carry	Leon Duncan	Ray Duncan

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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