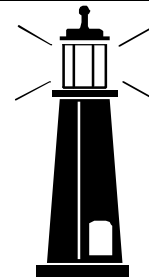


The Berryville church of Christ

Bible Beacon



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

Volume 2, Issue 42

October 26th, 2003

Righteous Judgment

by Kevin Cauley

In the business world, there is a saying, "Perception is Truth." The concept basically is this: you should react to people the way they perceive you, regardless of whether those perceptions are correct or not. The result of this type of thinking is a one-way relationship. These relationships are commonly practiced in business and "understanding" is not part of the equation if you are on the wrong side of that relationship. Customers do not want to understand a vendor's problems; they just want them fixed. A boss does not want to understand an employee's problems; he just wants results. There are exceptions to these circumstances, but they are few and far between. This is probably one of the more difficult things that I have had to deal with in the business world being a Christian. When it comes to relationships, Christianity is about understanding your brother and not being quick to judge wrongfully.

The idea of "Perception is Truth" often invades the church. A brother will get slightly offended at another brother for some small thing. Instead of asking about the offense, he just dismisses it. Over time, small offences build up and a perception is built regarding that brother. That perception may or may not be warranted, but to the brother who is offended, it is "truth." These perceptions often generate gossip and tale bearing. In the end, they cause strife and division within the church, all because someone judged another based upon a perception.

Many today have been infected with this notion. Is this concept correct? The Bible clearly teaches that it is not. We read in John 7:24: "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." Jesus rejects and repudiates this popular notion that one may judge based upon perception. In the context of John 7:24, Jesus was teaching in the temple during the Feast of Tabernacles (v.2). Many were speaking

about Jesus at the feast, but quietly (v.11-13). Part of this gossip included the rumor that he had a demon (v.20). Jesus reads their hearts and repudiates this by showing that the same critics formed hypocritical judgments regarding healing on the Sabbath (22, 23). They had quickly come to wrong judgment regarding Jesus based upon gossip that they heard. The "evidence" upon which they had drawn their conclusions regarding him was all perception. So Jesus rebukes them, "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment."

Christians also get bogged down in the same nonsense and become objects of this rebuke as well. It is so easy for us to listen to gossip regarding other Christians. Unlike Jesus, we cannot read the hearts of individuals who act this way, so the Bible gives us several principles upon which to ensure that our Christian relationships remain in tact. These principles are love, patience, longsuffering, and brotherly kindness. Applying these principles in our life will go a long way toward not judging according to appearance.

- How do we use love to not judge according to appearance?
- How do we use patience to not judge according to appearance?
- How do we use longsuffering to not judge according to appearance?
- How do we use brotherly kindness to not judge according to appearance?

Are there any additional items that must be respected after all of these have been applied? Jesus has set down a few items for us to follow in regard to our personal Christian relationships. Our problem is that we fail to follow these rules and thereby cause great hurt and pain among our brethren unnecessarily. (Please note that the situation under consideration is a personal relationship between two Christians; these rules do not apply to publicly taught false doctrine or immoral public behavior.) What are these rules? Jesus states them in Matthew 18:15-17 "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he

shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."

The first step is to speak to the brother privately about his offence. This is probably the most uncomfortable step that we have to take. It is much easier to go to others and start talking about someone else; it is much harder to talk to the person who has committed the trespass directly. However, this is for the good of everyone, and is consistent with the Biblical teaching of love. Peter writes in 1 Peter 4:8, "And above all things have fervent love among yourselves: for love shall cover the multitude of sins." When we go to a brother privately and discuss things and resolve them, we have helped to not spread things beyond what they should be known. The Holy Spirit calls this love. This first private consultation may reveal a number of things regarding the brother who trespassed against you; it may in fact reveal that you misjudged something that he did. These things can be cleared up privately without the need for additional parties to intervene and especially without having to go before the "unjust" (1 Corinthians 6:1-8).

After one has spoken to a brother privately and this brother refuses to repent, the second step is to bring two or three witnesses for the purpose of establishing every word. It is not enough with God for one person to go and start telling every one about this situation. God demands that we take two or three with us to establish every word. At this meeting, an accounting of all that has taken place will be recorded; the additional witnesses will judge the trespass. If the judgment of these additional witnesses is not heard and obeyed, then the matter will be brought before the church.

The church has final authority in regard to the trespass. By the time the issue is presented to the church, it should be clear what the offending party has done and what he needs to do to correct the situation. If the church's decision is not obeyed in this regard, then the one who committed the offence is to be as a heathen or publican. What should we do so that we do not practice this in our lives? We must practice the instruction that Jesus gave in regard to personal relationships regardless of our own personal comforts.

(October, 2001)

Kevin's Korner



Things are starting to shape up for our trip to Costa Rica coming up in about a month. John Gass and Mary Lynn Cauley got their passports this week. We also ordered the tickets from the airlines this week. My mother is going to be flying up here to take care of the kids while we are away and we got those arrangements made as well. We have received Bibles and song books to take down with us when we go and things are falling into place.

We had a wonderful time with John Gass and Pat Foster this past week. Mary Lynn and I went out to Pat's house and picked "lemons." Glenn Quigley says that these are really called deciduous oranges. They taste kind of like both to me. They are sour enough to be lemons, but taste kind of orangey if that makes any sense. Anyway, I tried one and the juice was extremely sticky. Personally, I thought they were tasty though they had too many seeds inside of them. We got a whole sack full of them. Mary Lynn has been using them in Potpourri for now. They are very fragrant.

As Christians we must make sure that we have a distinctive fragrance as well. In 2 Cor.2:14-16 (NKJV), Paul writes, "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death to death, and to the other the aroma of life to life...." Just like those Arkansas "lemons" have a distinctive aroma, we must as well. When people see your life, do they know you are a Christian? Let us live each day proving the perfect will of God (Rom.12:2).

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

My Gift of Shame

I know that I am blessed
with the gift of speech.
God gave me the power
to be quick on my feet.
I can turn a simple phrase
Into a calm or storm,
I can sway opinion, teach,
Uplift and warn.
I can be anything
that I desire to be.
I live in America
the land of prosperity.
I will chase the dollar
Across the mighty board
I will live the good life
I will get my sweet reward.
I will travel places
farther than the sun.
I will conquer land and sky.
I will be rated number one.
Life will seem rewarding
And always seem to short.
Because, I am the life of the party
The best, most comely sort.
But, looking back on my life
At the end I will see
That life could have been a blessing.
Here in the land of the free.
I could have preached the gospel.
I could have saved some souls
I could have directed other's steps
As I traveled life's dusty road.
My gift of speech ,
I could have wisely used
I could have shouted
From the mountains
Christ the good news.
Too bad life was so short
And the dollar so sweet
I could have spent eternity
Sitting at the Master's feet.

Susan Elliott

Christian One Liners

Many folks want to serve God,
but only as advisers.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation
bangs on your front door forever.

If the church wants a better preacher, it only
needs to pray for the one it has.

Peace starts with a smile.

Be ye fishers of men.
You catch them - He'll clean them.

We don't change the message,
the message changes us.

The task ahead of us is never as great as the
Power behind us.

The best mathematical equation I have ever
seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

Sunday's Sermons

For October 26th

Morning.... Comfort Zone and Attitudes

Scripture 1 Peter 2:9

Evening.... Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

Scripture John 14:26

Our Record

Week of October 19th

Sunday Class 54

Sunday A.M. 70

Sunday P.M. 60

Wednesday 64

Contribution \$1616.92

Budget \$1760.00

News, Notes and Prayer List



- We welcome each of our visitors this morning. We are thankful for your presence.
- Please remember the following in your prayers: Michael Collins, Curtis and Opal Hull, Katie Williams.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- Friday! Friday! Friday! Be there! Be there! Be there! Costume party at the Windle's House. Trick or treating begins at 5:00 PM. The food will be served around 6:30. Bring chips, drinks, and of course chocolate. We will be having hot dogs.
- Casseville's ladies day will be held on November 3. Dinner is at 6:00 PM and worship at 7:15. If you would like to go, see Tiffany Windle or Shawna Stevens. This year's theme is "The Season of our Lives."
- On Thursday, November 14th, our ladies will meet for their monthly ladies evening. Bring coffee stuff and a good book or literary piece you wish to discuss. You will be meeting at the building.
- NEXT Sunday night we will have our youth devotional.
- There are five Sundays in this month so that means on the last Sunday of the month, we will go sing at the nursing home. Please make your plans today to be there.
- Next months assignments are as follows: Announcements, Leon Duncan; Carry Communion, Bob Moore and Glenn Williams; Prepare Communion, Pat Quigley and Tiffany Windle; Worship coordinator, Matt Bassing.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Sugar.



Those to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	October 26th, 2003	November 2nd, 2003
Song Leader:	Larry Elliott	Ken Smith
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bob Moore	Brent Stevens
Scripture:	Matt Bassing	Ray Duncan
Lord's Table:	Bill Fort	Bruce Foster
	Bruce Foster	Bob Moore
(assist)	Ray Duncan	Sandy Nieves
	Perry Foster	Brandon Foster
Closing Prayer	John Gass	George Eddings
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Ken Smith	Clay Bozarth
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Ken Smith	Dale Pinkley
Scripture:	Bruce Foster	Brandon Foster
Lord's Table:	Dale Pinkley	Leon Duncan
	Brent Moore	John Gass
Closing Prayer	Brandon Foster	Clay Bozarth
Wednesday		
Songs:	Bruce Foster	Hugh Atchley
Opening Prayer:	Matt Bassing	Rusty Windle
Invitation:	Kevin Cauley	Ken Smith
Closing Prayer:	Brent Moore	Ray Duncan
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Matt Bassing	
Worship Coordinator	Ken Smith	
Communion Prep	Pam Pinkley	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 bvcc@alltel.net to contribute information.

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