

Light and Life

Rather Use It!

The seventh chapter of First Corinthians has been muddied by much controversy. But if we allow that muddy water to settle and just read the chapter through without the commentary, we can find a beautiful theme in the midst of the difficult situations which are described.

Verses 1-16 deal with questions of marriage. Should Christians get married? How should they behave in marriage? What if they are married when they become Christians, but their spouse does not convert? All worthy questions!

Verses 17-19 deal with questions of circumcision. Must Christians become circumcised to be accepted along with the Jews? Some Christians in Corinth may have thought along the same lines as Paul when he circumcised Timothy so that he could evangelize to Jews in the synagogue (Acts 16:3).

Verses 20-24 deal with questions of slavery. Should slaves who become Christians seek freedom? Should freemen who become Christians become slaves?

Verses 25-40 deal with questions of the unmarried and of widows. Should the unmarried seek marriage? Can a widow remarry after her husband dies?

Though not expressly stated, the whole chapter is screaming a common question: ***How can we use our situation to the glory of God?*** Paul says it is good to be unmarried because it frees up your life for the things of the Lord (32-33). He also says it is good to marry because it helps prevent sin (9). It is good to remain married to a non-Christian because it may influence their faith (16). Gentile or Jew, slave or free, you can be useful in the kingdom (19)!

So, no matter what your physical situation, “do not be concerned about it... rather use it!” (21)

- Sam Bunyard

THE SIGNS OF THE SPIRIT

by Matt Bassford

The Asbury revival has been top-of-mind for a number of Christians these days. Indeed, several have compared the revival to assemblies of churches of Christ, not to the credit of the latter. Their worship is exuberantly emotional. Our worship is... not.

I have two concerns about this critique. First, criticizing the emotional depth of someone else's worship is awfully subjective. I don't look very emotionally exuberant in worship these days, slumped in my wheelchair, unable to move, barely able to sing. But I assure you that my joy and awe in worship is more profound than it ever has been.

Second, you cannot detect the presence of the Holy Spirit because of a feeling in the air. Feelings are open to debate; the genuine work of the Spirit is not. But though the era of miracles has passed, the work of the Spirit today frequently is no less obvious – not because the hairs stand up on the backs of our arms, but because we see the Spirit manifested in the lives of disciples. Here is a sampling of the kind of evidence we should look for:

- Bold proclamation of the gospel (Ac 4:31)
- Increase in numbers (Ac 9:31)
- Walking according to the Spirit (Ro 8:4)
- Spiritual mindset (Ro 8:6)
- Putting to death deeds of the body (Ro 8:13)
- Eagerly waiting for redemption of the body (Ro 8:23)
- Fervor in service (Ro 12:11)
- Willingness to receive spiritual teaching (1 Co 2:13-14)
- Fellowship among Christians (2 Co 13:13)
- The fruit of the Spirit (Ga 5:22-23)
- Striving for unity with other believers (Ep 4:3)
- Speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Ep 5:19)
- Giving thanks always for everything (Ep 5:20)
- Submitting to one another in the fear of Christ (Ep 5:21)
- Defending truth against error (2 Ti 1:13-14)
- Absence of divisions and worldliness (Jude 19)

This is a compelling list. It is a powerful indictment of many Christians and many churches, even churches of Christ. However, it is not at all based on the way a group does or does not sound in worship, nor on what worshippers feel. Let's not miss the true spiritual point.

(edited for space)

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

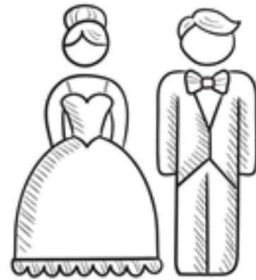
The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

P.O. Box 447
201 W. Chestnut Street
Rogers, AR 72757
479-636-3575
www.downtowncoc.net



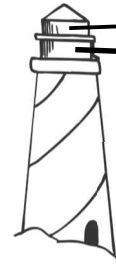
**Marriage – it takes
a lot of heart work.**

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Joel Heiligenthal
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

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FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

Sick: G&K Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, Diane Willis, J&M Swim, Jean Marshall

Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

SPRING SINGING – Our annual singing with Tim Stevens & Dane Shepard is scheduled for Friday night, April 21. Mark your calendars!

5th WEDNESDAY SERVICE – This Wednesday evening, the young men of the congregation will be leading in the assembly. Let's encourage these guys!

Emotionalism vs. Emotions

I highly commend the article on page three (and the one on page two for that matter – but that's another story). Matt Bassford ably contrasts the current religious concept of 'Spirit-filled worship' (and its emphasis on a subjective emotionalism) with the Biblical concept of a 'Spirit-filled life' (and its emphasis on objective evidence and behaviors). The contrast is stark for those who have the heart to search the Scriptures.

The wise man reminds us that "He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will be delivered" (Pr 28:26). It was true then – and it is just as true today.

Emotionalism, by definition, is a reliance on our heart – our feelings. Whether it is the 'feel good' of the worldly man at the night club, or the 'feel good' of the emotionally-charged worshipper, the end result is the same: they both go home with a 'feel good' memory – and a life that is largely unchanged.

The religion of Christ will induce genuine emotions – feelings of guilt and sorrow (2 Co 7:9), and when acted upon, joy (Ac 8:39) and hope (1 Th 2:19-20). Such joy may not move us like our favorite concert band might. But it will endure long after the music has died – and into eternity itself.

- WKing