



HAMBURG PIKE
Church of Christ

The Worker

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Helping Others – A Biblical Principle

A querist asks, “Where does it say that we are to help others and expect nothing in return?”

Our Lord gives us the following biblical principle in regard to our helping others, “But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men” (Luke 6:35 – ESV).

Additionally, in Paul’s letter to the Galatian brethren (Gal. 6:9-10), Paul expands on the above principle when he states, “And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” A companion scripture to the above passage would be Proverbs 3:27: “Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.” We are not to refuse exhibiting mercy and kindness to others when it is in our power to do it. The extent of God’s mercy and kindness toward us will be dependent upon our extending mercy and kindness toward others (James 2:13; cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:15).

In Acts 10:38 we read, “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good....” Jesus went about doing good to others; as His servants, we must follow His example (1 John 2:6). In Romans 12:18-21 (cf. Prov. 25:21-22), we learn that acts of kindness and benevolence can change people’s hearts. Our demonstration of love toward people might result in their obedience to the gospel of Christ. The “coals” referred to in Romans 12:20, are pains of shame which kind treatment will produce. We have an Old Testament example in 1 Samuel 24:16-19.

How to Lead Prayer – Encouragement and Tips for the Beginner

A note to all of you men that are experienced in leading worship: You should know that the young men and new converts are in awe of you. They don’t know how you can be asked at a moment’s notice and be ready to lead a prayer. All they know is that if THEY are asked they will melt into a pool of fright. They think that you must have a special talent from God. And they KNOW that they don’t have it.

I’ve been on both sides. I’ve been the scared-to-death, cotton-in-the-mouth, jelly-legged, brain-blocked young man trying to utter a prayer that made sense and now I’m one of those who can be asked on a moment’s notice and not break into a cold sweat. I’m not saying that the congregation says, “Wow” when I’m done, but I can do a credible job. Do I have a special talent from God? No, I’m afraid not. My history doesn’t bear that out. Did I have special training? No, it was all on the job training.

I don’t have a clear memory of the first time I led a prayer, just impressions. Those impressions are of fear, failure and shame. I was baptized when I was fifteen or so and I was big for my age (near six feet and over 200 pounds). This is all just to say, I know what you’re going through, I’ve been there. I’ve felt the dread, the sweaty palms, all of it. What can I say to help you get through it? There are things you need to understand before you stand to lead a congregation in prayer.

No one expects you to be a Bible scholar at this point. Are you afraid you’ll say something wrong? You will say something wrong at some point. If not, you do have a gift from God. Just keep the prayer simple and from the heart and if someone comes and points out a misunderstanding you may have that was revealed in your prayer, thank them for pointing it out and go on. You won’t be the first nor will you be the last.

The congregation is grateful that you have the courage to lead. This is most sharply felt in very small congregations. Picture a Wednesday night when five women and one man make it to Bible study. If the preacher was one that didn’t make it (it’s happened to me) then the service is led by someone who may not be proficient at all (or any) of the things that need to be done. I’ve heard sincere gratitude expressed to the man who put duty before his personal comfort. He led the prayers, and the songs, and he did some Bible readings, maybe for the first time. Even if he did some things badly the ladies made him think he prayed like Elijah, sang like David, and read like Ezra. The idea is that the congregation isn’t waiting for you to slip up so they can titter at you. They are grateful that you stood when called upon.

No one expects you to lead prayer like an elder or a preacher. Elders and preachers have led hundreds, maybe thousands of prayers. Don’t try to sound like someone else and don’t worry that your prayer is not long enough. Try not to frame thy prayer in the language of King James unless thou art truly acquainted with it. In the future, if you become acquainted with it, and you truly feel that using it is the most reverent way to approach God then by all means do so. Just don’t feel that it is a requirement to be heard by God. Simple and modern is just fine.

The following are some recommendations I give to men who express to me that they don’t feel prepared when it comes to public prayer:

Pray at home. In order to train to pray publicly you’ll need to stop saying quiet prayers within your mind. You’ll need to verbalize. This forces thoughts to become words. When you pray privately at home, verbalize. When you pray alone in your car, verbalize. When you pray at the dinner table, verbalize. Use words and be careful with your diction.

Study prayer to know what God would have us to be concerned with in prayer. Too many men learn to lead prayer solely by the examples of those whom they have heard pray. You should go to the source. You should ask what God would have us pray about.

God has specific concerns for which we should pray. These include the spread of the kingdom, the holiness of Christians, the forgiveness of sins, praising God, thanking God and making petition for personal needs. Get out a Bible concordance and look up the words "pray," "prayer," "prayed," "praying," etc. and you'll begin to get a good idea of what God's concerns are.

Pray for those things appropriate at the moment. When you lead prayer, don't feel obligated to include everything that might be God's concern in every opportunity for prayer. An opening prayer should include things that a closing prayer does not and vice versa. Prayers at the beginning of a Bible class should not be just like a prayer before a meal. Prayers at the Lord's table should be about the element about to be served.

Forget about making yourself look good or sound good. Conversely, forget about not making yourself look like an idiot (which is what beginners usually fret about). Put your mind on God, on His grace, His mercy, His holiness.

It's a privilege to lead the Lord's people in prayer. It is humbling and faith-building. More men should prepare themselves to do it. More men should accept the responsibility. Zero men become preachers who don't lead public prayer. Zero men become deacons who don't lead public prayer. Zero men become elders who don't lead public prayer. As a Christian man it is a necessary step in your Christian development.

A mother and her son were digging for fishing bait in the garden. Uncovering a many-legged creature, the boy proudly dangled it before his mother.

"No, honey, he won't do for bait," his mother said. "He's not an earthworm."

"He's not?" The boy asked, his eyes wide open, "What planet is he from?"

Hamburg Pike Happenings

The next Monday Night for the Master group meeting is Monday March 2nd at 6:00 pm. Pizza is on the menu for our meal.

The Tincher's fellowship group will meet Sunday March 1st after the morning service. The meal theme is casserole.

Would you like to help with VBS? There is a "Giving Tree" in the foyer with items that are needed for our upcoming Vacation Bible School. If you would like to give a donation towards the purchase of these items please see Ashley Smith or Stephanie Welch. Thank You!

Ladies' Bible Class is scheduled for Saturday morning, February 28th at 10 A.M. The lesson will be "Mary, the Mother of Jesus." All ladies of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend. Please see Stephanie for further details.

A baby will make love stronger, days shorter, nights longer, bank balance smaller, home happier, clothes dirty, the past forgotten, and the future worth living for.
 – Anonymous

Boys are beyond the range of anybody's sure understanding, at least when they are between the ages of 18 months and 90 years.
 – James Thurber

Making the decision to have a child is momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body.
 – Elizabeth Stone

<p style="text-align: center;">Leadership</p> <p>Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey</p> <p>Deacons Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr, Robby Stocksdale, Joe Sweeney</p> <p>Pulpit Minister Eric Welch</p> <p>Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Panama Mission</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pablo Sanchez</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Schedule of Services</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday</p> <p>Bible Class 10:00 AM</p> <p>Morning Worship 11:00 AM</p> <p>Evening Worship 6:00 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bible Class 7:00 PM</p>
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We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: "That's Why I Came" - Luke 4:42-44

Sunday Evening: "A Fountain Opened" - Zechariah 13:1

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service	PM Service	AM & PM Services
Song Leader Michael Hawkins	Song Leader Clint Smith Jr	Announcements Joe Sweeney
Opening Prayer Ernie Marshall	Bible Reading Nathaniel Welch	Lord's Supper Leon Stocksdale
Scripture Hank Tincher	Selection	Offering Matt Johnson
Sermon Eric Welch	Prayer Hayward Blanton	Usher Brandon Montgomery
Lord's Supper	Sermon Eric Welch	Count Offering Robby Stocksdale
Message Irvin Williams	Closing Prayer Grover Blanton	Assist Count Art Patrick
Attendant Ethan Welch	<i>If you are unable to serve, please call Art Patrick 502-819-9481 or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511</i>	Last Sunday
Attendant Greg Blanton		Contribution \$2,517
Closing Prayer Eric Welch		Attendance 60