

What If Adults Acted Like Children?

Steve Higginbotham

Last evening, my seven-year-old daughter was upset and crying over something that was rather insignificant. As I was trying to console her, I told her that this issue was nothing about which she should be crying. It was petty, childish, and her tears, well...were more an attempt at manipulation than tears of sadness.

So the adult that I am attempted to "reason" with the child that she is. I attempted to convince her that crying over such an insignificant issue was childish. I tried to explain to her that her mother and I deal with the very same issue she was dealing with and we don't cry about it. I then asked her the following question, "What do you think would happen if adults acted like children?" Her response ended our conversation. She said, "They'd all go to heaven."

I turned and looked at my wife sitting across the room. My wife just smiled and said, "There's your article for this week."

My little girl was right. If adults would just act like children, they'd all go to heaven! "But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14).

Out of the mouth of babes...

- Steve Higginbotham is the minister for the South Green Street church of Christ, Glasgow, Kentucky. Contact him at shigg@glasgow-ky.com [Copyright © 2007, South Green Street Church of Christ, Glasgow, Kentucky. Permission is granted to copy these articles.]



The Worker

3108 Hamburg Pike, Jeffersonville, IN 47130 Ph. (812) 284-3125

Volume 3 Issue 30

www.hamburgpikecofc.org

July 27, 2014

Sin

The following is from a March 13 One News Now article by Allie Martin, entitled, "Survey reveals variations in people's perceptions of sin."

A new survey finds many inconsistencies among Americans when it comes to beliefs about sin.

The survey, conducted by Ellison Research, polled 1,000 American adults. Among the findings, 87 percent of Americans believe in the concept of sin – which was defined in the research as "something that is almost always considered wrong, particularly from a religious or moral perspective."

Among those who believe in sin, 81 percent classified adultery as sin, 74 percent named racism, 65 percent said using hard drugs was sin, 52 percent named homosexuality, and 56 percent said having an abortion was sin. Ron Sellers, president of Ellison Research, says while most Americans believe in the concept of sin, there are inconsistencies when it comes to what qualifies as sin.

"For instance, Americans do tend to define sin according to degrees," Sellers explains. "We have 81 percent who say yes, adultery is a sin. However, only 43 percent say having sexual thoughts about someone you're not married to is a sin. Same thing on drinking – only 14 percent believe that drinking any alcohol is a sin, yet significantly more than that believe that getting drunk is a sin."

The researcher is convinced that religious leaders can learn a lot from the survey. "A lot of religious leaders would be very surprised to find out what 'their own people' believe," he shares. [Many] evangelical leaders would say, 'Wow – that's all the evangelicals that believe such-and-such is a sin? [And] a lot of the Catholic leaders would be very surprised at some of these findings as well."

Sellers says the survey shows a need by pastors to investigate and dialogue about absolute truth and sin with members of their congregations.

What I find particularly significant in the above article is the evident lack of understanding what sin actually is. My impression is that sin is defined more and more by what one's culture regards as sin. For instance, while homosexuality a generation ago would almost universally have been considered a sin, now it is only a very slim majority that would so define it. Only a slightly larger majority believes that the killing of a baby in a womb is a sin.

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Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: To Be Announced
Sunday Evening: Singing Emphasis

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey
Deacons Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,
Robby Stocksdale, Joe Sweeney
Pulpit Minister Eric Welch
Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM
Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

Panama Missions

Evans Campbell Pablo Sanchez

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

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

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
Opening Prayer Caleb Hambelton
Scripture Rick Martin
Sermon Eric Welch
Lord's Supper
Message Greg Blanton
Attendant Marc Owens
Attendant Joe Sweeney
Closing Prayer Irvin Williams

PM Service

Song Leader Robby Stocksdale
Bible Reading Kevin Blalock
Selection 42
Prayer Leon Stocksdale
Sermon Singing Emphasis
Closing Prayer Grover Blanton
*If you are unable to serve,
Call Art Patrick 502-819-9481
Or Harold Tincher 288-5956*

AM & PM Services

Announcements Clint Smith Sr
Lord's Supper Matt Johnson
Offering Clint Smith Jr
Usher Fin Burton
Count Offering Art Patrick
Assist Count Joe Sweeney

Last Sunday

Contribution \$2478
Attendance 89

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In the former instance, public opinion has been swayed by favorable media coverage, and the opposition to what the Bible calls an “abomination” (Lev. 18:22) as “homophobic,” intolerant and judgmental. Schools now are teaching even the youngest of students that homosexuality is an acceptable lifestyle, and a cause to be celebrated, irrespective of parents’ objections. From this worldly perspective, what the Bible calls sin—even an abomination—must now be accepted, while opposition to what the Bible calls sin must be condemned as sin.

Contrary to growing public opinion, sin is not to be defined by what society defines as sin, a definition that will become increasingly liberal and decadent, but rather by an unchangeable authority: God. His word (the Scriptures) defines His laws, and to transgress His laws is defined by Him as sin (1 John 3:4). Whether the action is homosexuality, lust, abortion, or any other socially acceptable practice, our acceptance of it will make it no less of a sin. There is “absolute truth and sin,” and it will be defined in Judgment by His word (John 12:48).

- Ronald Bartanen preaches for Arthur church of Christ, Arthur, IL. He may be contacted at ron33dor@yahoo.com or via the congregation's website at <http://www.arthurchurchofchrist.com>

Soul for Sale

Several years ago an atheist tried to sell his soul at the online auction site eBay. Bidding advanced to \$400 before eBay officials caught on and deleted the item. The seller said he didn’t mean for anyone to take it seriously - he was just bored. He wished the high bidder luck in collecting!

While obviously a prank, this incident highlights some serious matters. First, we ought to be concerned about the well-being of our souls above all else. A typical atheist doesn’t believe he even has a soul - he thinks “matter in motion” is all there is. How sad! God is Spirit, and we are made in His image. The spiritual part of us (our soul) will exist eternally.

Second, while some joke about it, you really can sell your soul to the devil by sinning. “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey?” (Rom. 6:16). Fortunately, Jesus paid the price to redeem (buy back) our souls, thus delivering us from the bondage of sin.

Third, your soul is worth far more than \$400. Jesus asked, “What will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matt. 16:26). Your soul is worth more than all the world’s riches. Yet we spend decades accumulating this world’s wealth while doing little or nothing to benefit our souls. Go figure...

Fourth, it is pitiful that so many people are bored - especially when there is so much good to be done. We are addicted to television and video games, but bored with anything that requires us to actually work or think! Learning the truth is a fine alternative to boredom! We can buy a Bible anywhere for almost nothing, yet the population is abysmally ignorant of the Bible. Self-less service also alleviates boredom. We have time and resources, yet we are bored!

What will you do with your soul? You can give it to Jesus, or sell it to Satan. Neither will have any problem collecting. It’s up to you!

- Joe Slater; via the weekly bulletin of the Harrisburg church of Christ in Harrisburg, IL.

Is Bible Study Important?

The Bible is the one book in this world that teaches us what God requires that we must do to be saved and go to Heaven. We are "to receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21). There is no excuse for man’s ignorance of God’s word today. "Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17). A person is unwise not to study the Bible. The only way we can understand the will of the Lord is through Bible study. Those who do not study God’s word are not able "to discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:14). Those who do not study God’s word are "Having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them" (Ephesians 4:18). Because those who could care less what God says, "And even as they refused to have God in their knowledge, God gave them up to a reprobate mind" (Romans 1:28).

People will be eternally lost if they don’t know what the Bible says, so they can obey God. To keep from being destroyed in the eternal torments of Hell, we must "desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby" (1 Peter 2:2). Those in the church who have not studied God’s will are being shamed, "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God" (Hebrews 5:12). The only way we can receive God’s word is to "dust off our Bibles" and study them both privately and in Bible classes and hearing God’s word preached. We should take advantage every opportunity we have to know God’s word.

Ron Boatwright

Hamburg Pike Happenings

Our evening worship on Sunday July 27 will be a Singing Emphasis service. Men and young men of the congregation who would like to lead a song or read scripture please sign the sheet in the foyer.

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