

About Your Attendance

Preachers should never have to preach on attendance. It should be obvious that when a Christian does not care to attend all the services, his interest is elsewhere. It is foolish to assert that we have a passage which pronounces anathema on those who don't come on Sunday and Wednesday nights. We don't need one. All we need show is that interest and attendance are connected and that a person who is truly interested will attend.

Now you can try to explain that away all you want and when you are finished it will still say the same thing: a person who is able yet does not attend the services is not interested in what is going on at the services. Bring your excuses, pronounce your justifications, rationalize all you want. And when you are done, the parable of the sower will still affirm the same thing: prepared soil is the only kind which results in produce.

- by Dee Bowman

Are We Ashamed?

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation"
(Romans 1:16)

When churches try to lure people to their services by means of gimmicks and big promotions, they make a big mistake. Bingo parties, musical entertainment, films, dinners and such like, only cheapen the gospel in the minds of thinking people. A bigger attendance may be the short term effect, but less respect for God is the long term effect. If you gain souls by carnal means, then carnal means will be needed to hold them. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of GOD unto salvation, and though fewer may respond to it, salvation is only therein.

- by Whit Sasser

"You Can't Legislate Morality"

Of course, if we are talking about making people change and adopt godly values merely by acts of legislation, it is true that morality cannot be legislated. Legislation doesn't necessarily or automatically change a person's basic values and attitudes. Yet, our civil laws should reflect correct principles of morality!

Two fundamental functions of civil government (as ordained by God) are: {1} The punishment of evil doers, and {2} The praise of those who do good. {See 1Pet. 2:13,14}. How can government identify, apprehend and try "evil doers," without laws against evil doing? How can government praise and protect "those who do good," without legislating against evil and in favor of good?

We can and must write, promote and enforce laws based on what is morally right. And, we must penalize immorality, so far as possible. God calls for "the punishment of evildoers" and "the praise of those who do good."

- by Warren E. Berkley

Anger

A short-tempered man is a fool. It's in the Bible, Ecclesiastes 7:9, Proverbs 19:11, and 16:32. "Don't be quick-tempered -- that is being a fool." "A wise man restrains his anger and overlooks insults. This is to his credit." "It is better to be slow-tempered than famous; it is better to have self-control than to control an army."

Get over anger quickly. It's in the Bible, Ephesians 4:26-27. "If you are angry, don't sin by nursing your grudge. Don't let the sun go down with you still angry -- get over it quickly; For when you are angry you give a mighty foothold to the devil."

Don't fight back when wronged. It's in the Bible, 1 Peter 3:9, "Don't repay evil for evil. Don't snap back at those who say unkind things about you. Instead, pray for God's help for them, for we are to be kind to others, and God will bless us for it."

Anger produces strife. It's in the Bible, Proverbs 30:33, "For as churning the milk produces butter, and as twisting the nose produces blood, so stirring up anger produces strife."

“Blessed Are The Meek”

People generally have the idea that a "meek" individual is one that is extremely quiet, withdrawn, timid, and one who finds it very difficult to be confrontational or straightforward. It is thought that it would be hard for a "meek" person to hold or defend a strong opinion or conviction. Even modern dictionaries define this characteristic as "unduly patient or submissive; spiritless." Such definitions miss the mark.

Jesus was described as "meek" (Matthew 21:5), yet He never hesitated to express the truth. His strong rebukes of the hypocritical Pharisees (Matthew 23) certainly show Him as bold, courageous, and confrontational. Moses was said to have been "very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth" (Numbers 12:3). But we well remember how he boldly demanded the freedom of the Israelites from Pharaoh, ultimately led them out of bondage, and powerfully dealt with his own rebellious people. Do you begin to see that Biblical usage of the word "meek" is far different than the modern concept?

W.E. Vine says: "The meaning of 'prautes' is not readily expressed in English, for the terms meekness, mildness, commonly used, suggest weakness and pusillanimity to a greater or less extent, whereas 'prautes' is nothing of the kind. The common assumption is that when a man is meek it is because he cannot help himself; but the Lord was 'meek' because he had the infinite resources of God at His command. Described negatively, meekness is the opposite of self-assertiveness and self-interest; it is equanimity of spirit that is neither elated nor cast down, simply because it is not occupied with self at all" (Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, p. 738)

"Meekness" is one of the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23). We need it! Let's be sure that we are "showing all meekness to all men" (Titus 3:2).

- by Greg Gwin