The Christian
COURIER

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Christian Conduct

I have taken several trips lately and visited many of the churches in my area. Usually, when conversing with one or several of the brethren, the topic of the Bible arises. During these discussions doctrinal and non-Christian doctrinal procedures are analyzed, which I feel is favorable before the Lord. Also, I recently attended a debate between two Christian brethren in which a controversial worship procedure was discussed. Observing these different Christian functions, I noticed that there was one flaw of character that managed to overcome some brethren, namely discourtesy. The discourtesy is only in one specific area, but that area is extremely important.

The specific area is that of speech. When two or more brethren are discussing a controversial topic, it seems to be the tendency for one or more of the brethren to become "hot under the collar". When this happens, the discourtesies arise. Instances are as follows: brother xyz is called just plain xyz; some examples are given to stress a point, but a brother is hurt because this information was given in private and was not for public knowledge; brethren speak out of turn; voices are raised beyond the point of reason; political practice of "mudslinging" is used where one brother digs up something bad about another brother so as to discredit that brother's viewpoint on a certain subject; etc. I am confident that all readers of this paper know the type of behavior to which I refer.

The one scripture that really comes to mind is found in I John 2:9: "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now." We

are all seeking the light of the Lord. Then it would stand to reason that we would not wish to hate our brother because we would then be in darkness.

Now upon asking a brother if he has dislike for another brother, his answer, of course, would be NO. Consciously, we love our brother. But do we really? What do our actions show? Please consider this reasoning for a minute: When we, as humans, are calm and collected, we are on our best behavior. We employ all of the socially accepted behavior that we have been taught by our parents or friends. When we do this, we are actually covering up or hiding our true feelings about a brother, a topic, or an opinion. Now, when we lose our composure and become "hot under the collar", we forget all the nice things we have been taught, reverting back to the evil within us, where all that matters is to win and tear the opponent to pieces. Is this possible??? When we cool down once again, we may say,"I am not actually angry with you or dislike you, I just got a little excited." What actually happened? Did God see the same things that we saw? How would a true, loving child of God act? Wouldn't he be calm and soft-spoken throughout the entire conversation; The only reason to become angry and use the tactics previously mentioned, would be to "bluff" the other brethren. And the only reason we "bluff" another is when we have nothing to back up our position. So there is no reason for a child of God and a true follower of Christ to become abusive when discussing the doctrine of Christ.

Brethren, this is a very important problem that many of us have. We must break ourselves of this habit if we wish to continue to reap for the Lord. How many souls can we convert and how many erring brethren can we restore when we exhibit such childish behavior. God told us to come and reason together. But when we lose alll sense of reason, of what benefit are we? We are alll seeking the true light of God. Therefore let us calmly discuss our differences, always respecting the one who disagrees, never looking down upon him in a superior manner, yet always trying to shaow him his error through scriptures. We were all baptized for the remission of sins, we are therefore all brothers and sisters in Christ which means we are all equal before the Lord. So let's all treat each other as we ourselves would like to be treated, and earnestly work for the Lord.

A Concerned Brother.

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Names are withheld at the request of the author, but if any questions arise they will be sent to the author.

Christ said,"I am the Door." The Door to what? The sheepfold, the body of Christ, The Church of Christ.

(1) John Chapter 10,"The Door into the sheepfold,... I am the Door of the sheep...I am the Door:by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved...And there shall be one fold and one shepherd..."

(2) 1Cor.12:12,"...For as the body is one, and hath many members...so also is Christ, for by one spirit are we all baptized into one body," ...But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him...

(3) Rom.6:3,"Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" Rom. 6:17-18,"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you, being made free from sin..." The free from sin are saved:Right? Christ adds to the church(His Church) such as should be saved,Acts 2:47. No man can join it. No man can add you to the church of Christ. When you obey, the Lord adds you to HIS CHURCH.

(4) Christ said,"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost..." By the authority of Christ: Aren't these proper words to use when baptizing? Isn't doing it this way, doing it by the authority of Christ? Isn't this the way to baptize into Jesus Christ?

(5) Peter said in the first gospel sermon, in Acts 2:38, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." When sins are remitted, you are saved; Right? then, the Lord does his part: the Door is opened to receive those who are being saved, but the Lord does this; are we instructed to prompt Him? Acts 2:47,"...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." 1Cor.12:13 & 18,"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body," "But now hath God set the members every one into the body, as it hath pleased him." We can trust Christ never to make a mistake and add an obedient believer to the wrong church.

JUST THINK:
(1) If a person obeys the gospel from the heart, buried in baptism (Rom.6:3), for the remission of sins(Acts2:38), In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost (Matt.28:19): can't we trust the Lord to add him to the right church? Not just one particular congregation of the church., but to the Church of Christ, every where. The body of Christ, the Family of God.

(2) If a person obeys thus from the heart the Gospel,(Rom. 6:3, Acts 2:38, and Matt. 28:19). Is there any scripture that teaches that God holds him responsible for the faith of his baptizer?

(3) If a person obeys from the heart the Gospel as taught in Rom. 6:3, Acts 2:38, and Matt. 28:19;can't he trust the Lord to add him to the one body, the Church of Christ, without mistake? Regardless of where he may subsequently worship?

(4) If, through ignorance, or any other reason, he does go to the wrong congregation, it is necessary for him to confess his sins and pray? or must he be baptized again for the remission of sins? In that case, does the Lord add him again to the Chruch?

WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO SALVATION FOR THE ALIEN SINNER?

1. Without faith it is impossible to please him."(Heb. 11:16). "Faith cometh by hearing the Word of God."(Rom. 10:16).
2. "Ecept ye repent, ye shall likewise perish."(Lu.15:3)
3. "With the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Rom. 10:10). I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."(Acts 8:37).
4. Acts 2:38,"...be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins."(Matt.28:19) "Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."
5. At this point we have presented ourselves to the Lord, in strict obedience to his instructions. He is theDoor. He add us to the Church. (Acts 2:47).

WHAT IS THE LAW OF PARDON FOR THE ERRING CHRISTIAN?

Jas. 5:16, "Confess your faults one to another and pray one for another..." 1Jno. 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
Acts 8:22, "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness,and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee."

Let us insist for a "THUS SAITH THE LORD" in all we do, but let us be careful not to bind what God hath not bound. "Thus shall ye say every man to his neighbor, and every man to his brohter, what hath the Lord answered? and what hath the Lord said?" (Jer.23:35).

Let us, with all of our heart, seek to "walk worthy of the vocation where with we are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in Love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the

Spirit in the bond of Peace". (Eph.4:1-3).
Submitted in Love of the truth, for consideration.

In Christian Love,
Curtis C, McCluskey
1829 Laurel Lane
West Sacramento,California 95691

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HOLD FAST

In Ezekiel 3:17-19, the Lord said unto him,"Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth and give them a warning from me." "When I say unto the wicked,Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life: the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thy hand." "Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul."

Paul speaking to the Elders of Ephesus, says in Acts 20:26-27,"Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." (by so doing Paul had delivered his own soul also). The servant that hid the talent, in Matt. 25th chapter, he had not delivered his soul, and he was cast into the outer darkness.That is something to think about.

Paul says in 1Cor. 9:16,"...woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"

Jesus said, The Father seeketh true worshippers to worship him. "God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 4:23-24. The Apostles were instructed in all Truth, by the Spirit of truth. John 16:13. Jesus sent them to teach all Nations. Matt. 28:20, and he said that he will pray forr them also which shall believe on him through their word. (Apostles teachings). John 17::20. They taught the early Christians to worship according to Truth.and its written for our examples.

We read in Acts 20:7,"And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them,..."(We notice that the Apostles did not teach the early Christians to be Seven Day Advents) They came together upon the first day of the week to break bread and thats when they were commanded to give. 1Cor. 16:2 "...so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." Jas. 2:12.

...DESPISING OTHERS...

In Matt. 18:1-4, they ask Jesus, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them: And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.: and in verse 10 that,"... in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven."

In Matt. chapter 23, Jesus speaking of the scribes and the Pharisees, saying in verses 3 and 28, that they say, but they do not, that outwardly they appear righteous, but within they are full of hypocrisy and iniquity."

Then reading in Luke 18:9-14, (we notice verse 9 says), "And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:"(So if we despise others, are we righteous?). Verse 10 on, "Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God,I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, and give tithes of all that I posess" (outwardly he appeared righteous),"And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner." Jesus said in verse 14, "I tell you, that this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." (we exalt ourselves if we despise others as the Pharisee did, and there is not much chance that our prayer will be heard in heaven. Jesus said that the publicans, prayer was more acceptable in heaven, than the Pharisees.) Little children, they do not despise others!

Jesus brings out in this parable, that we are not to be as the Pharisee, he despised others, and Jesus said,"Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matt.5:20. (In No Case). And in Rev. he said, I am he that shuts, and no man opens. (Rev.3:7). God knows our hearts.Jesus said, I will search your hearts, and give unto everyone of you according to your works. Rev. 2:23.(So there will be no mercy in the Last Judgement!)

...CHURCH DINNERS...

In the parable in Matt. 22:1-14, Jesus spoke of a king which made a marriage for his son, and sent forth his servants to call them that were invited and they would not come, one went to his farm, another to his merchandise, (business). In John 2nd Chapter we read how Jesus cleansed the temple, and in verse 16, he said unto them that sold doves, "Take these things hence: make not my Father's house an house of merchandise." (business place).

Jesus said, "I will build my Church." Matt. 16:18. (we are not to add to the Lord Church), for the Church must be a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. Eph. 5:27, and the scripture advises ; "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." 1 Thess 5:21.

Does the Gospel of Jesus Christ give permission for Church dinners? In 1Cor. 11:19-22, Paul rebukes them, saying in verse 20 on, "When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken." And when he says in verse 22, "What! have ye not houses to eat andto drink in?"...(so they were doing this in the Church.)"or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not?"

We understand from these verses, that the Lord's table is the only approved table in the Lord's church. and as Jesus said in Luke 22:29-30,"And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father had appointed me; that ye may eat and drink at my table, in my Kingdom..."

The Church is subject unto Christ. Eph.5:24."Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: Psa. 127:1. Paul says in 1 Cor. 11:23,"For I received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you..." and in verse 2, that,"...keep the ordinances, as I delivered them unto you." And when he said in verse 34,"And if any man hunger, let him eat at hom; that ye come not together unto condemnation." (so why bring Dinners to Church?)

"So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the Law of Liberty."(Gospel). Jas. 2:12.(The church must be a glorious Church according to the perfect law of liberty "Prove all things",(what we cannot prove from the perfect law of liberty, we have to answer for it.) Rev. 22:18-19. "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." 1Cor. 5:6. "If thine eye offend thee, pluck it out." Mark 9:47

If the scripture would give authority for Church Dinners, then Paul would not say, "If any man hunger, let him eat at home," etc.... There is not any scriptural authority

for neither Sunday School, or Church Dinners. (so while we Judge others because of Sunday School, "For wherein thou Judgest another, thou condemnest thyself." Rom.2:1

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Matt. 28:20. Paul said, "For I received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you." In Rev. 3:3 Christ warns the Church at Sardis, "Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast and repent."

Heino Stolnake
1208 So. 9th
Yakima, Washington 98901

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SHARPENING YOUR BIBLE VOCABULARY
By Dan Ross, Yakima, Wash.

AGORA- market place-town meeting place. Mk.6:56 Acts17:17

BRAZEN SEA- large object placed in front of Solomons Temple 2Kings 25:13 2Chron.18:8 Jer. 52:17

CONGREGATION-the Hebres people viewed collectively as a group; "Gods people" 1Kings 8:65

DWARF-thin, small, or withered man; having this blemish he could not approach the alter to sacrafice.Lev.21:20

FARTHING-coin of small value ¼ of 1¢ Matt. 5:26

GENTILES-non-Israelite people Judges 4:2 Is. 11:10

HALLOW- sacred Jer 17:22

JOURNEY-Sabbath Days- 3,000 feet Acts 1:12

MESOPOTAMIA- area of land between Tigris and Euphrates rivers(possibly the area of the Garden of Eden) Acts 7:2

PAVILION- a place God uses to protct or hide his children. Psa. 18:11

ROD- piece of tree limb used as a support or a weapon. Ex. 4:4 Heb. 9:4

SACKCLOTH- a coarse, dark cloth, usually made of goats hair; worn by mourners Gen.37:34 Rev. 11:3

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PROVERBS 3:5
Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

This is in reply to the letter stating that the author was tired of members of Christ's body limiting the length or complaining about the length of a lesson. I can very well sympathize with the author because it is definitely discouraging for a speaker to hear that he is taking up too much time doing the work of the Lord.

However, there is the other side of the issue whch might be interesting to the readers of this paper. A speaker, in my opinion, should not be limited in the time which he needs to preach the word of God. However, he should not speak so much and for so long that the audience becomes numb and the speaker becomes hoarse. In my opinion, the speakers duty is to deliver a sound presentation of the word of God, substantiated by Bible scripture, with as few errors as possible, condensed as far as possible, and deliver it in an easily understood manner.

The speaker must keep in mind an inevitable fact. The audience has only a certain length of time it can absorb information. After that point (usually 25 to 35 minutes) information cannot be accurately stored in the human mind. Another thing the speaker must remember is that a person or audience can only handle 4 to 6 points at a time or at one sitting. Anything over that, slips right by. This is just a beginning. There are also elderly people in the congregation who cannot hear clearly what is being said; so if the speaker carries on for an hour or so, these people have to strain the whole time. Afer a period of time, young children become restless. The longer the time, the more restless they become. The parents of children have to find ways to either keep the children still so as not to detract from the speaker, or give them something to play with in order to be still (which could develop into a very bad example).

In order then to do a good job for the Lord, the speaker has to realize the cold hard facts of the game, and construct his lesson accordingly, and make it a length of time suitable for learning. If the audience is entirely made up of men and women well read and eduacated in the Bible and scholarly to a certain degree, then a technical lesson (meat of the word) could be given over a period of an hour or two. But put in the audience a new Christian or a child, you have to change the whole presentation so that all can understand, if this isn't done, then the word of God is not preached to its' fullest.

A brother brought up a very good point with which I agree fully. He said that the less time he spends preparing for a lesson, the more he has to repeat and stall. But the more time he takes to prepare, the lesson is

more complete, more consice, and takes less time to present, and the idea is much easier for the audience to understand. I have found this true for myself and I am sure true with many others.

Also I think it important to remember that outside restraint or limits can be eliminated when a person uses self-restraint, self-discipline, and self-limits.

Written in Christian Love,
Bro. Dan Ross
414 So. 7th. St.
Yakima, Washington 98901

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ELK CITY OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

Have been intending to write ever since our meeting closed, but have been real busy, along with company. Our meeting was a great success. Brother Jim Brown did a great job preaching. Had wonderful co-operation from other congregations.

Those attending from the Lugart, Oklahoma congregation were: Bro.& Sis. Goldtrap, Sister Oneda Johnson, Sis. Johnson's husband, Cletus was there one night and Sister Henry Francis. The Goldtraps only missed two nights, driving about fifty miles.

Brother and Sister Spurlin from the Reydon, Oklahoma congregation, along with some of their grand children from Alaska. Brother Spurlin missed only two nights, including Sunday nights. They too came about forty miles. Which we think was wonderful, considering he being near 84 yrs young. Sister Spurlin isn't feeling too well these days. But she came several nights.

From the Colter, Oklahoma congregation were: Bro. Wade Rennels, Bro. & Sis. Alvin Rennels, also their mother Sister Beulah Rennels. She is not able to stay home now, so at present is living in the Hodges Nursing home, and Brother & Sister Glen Peterson.

Now, Needles to say we enjoyed having all of them with us.

Well I've saved the best for the last. Bro. & Sis. Brown's daughter and son-in-law spent part of their vacation over here and attended a few nights. The son-in-law, Gene Barrett was baptized before they went home. A Sister Ada DeGarmo was re-installed after being out of duty for some time. So we had a WONDERFUL MEETIG.

We need help from anyone who could see fit to move this way or even a visit.

We enjoy reading the Courier. Keep up the Good Work.

Written for the Church
313 N.Washington
Elk City, Oklahoma
(Earl Atchley 921 W. 2nd St. Elk City, Okla.73644)

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BARON, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethern:

We had good results from our meeting this year.Bro. Ken Baldwin is a good speaker and he gave us some good lessons.

We are looking forward to next year's meeting to begin June 16th,1974. Brother Jack Morris will be the speaker next year. We were fortunate to have our meeting for next year planned so that those who want to attend have a year to plan for it.

We have four new christians this summer so the church is growing a little. Remember us in your prayers and pray for the new ones that they may desire the sincere milk of the word that they may frow.

For the Church of Christ
Baron, Oklahoma
Bro.Marion Warford.

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren:

The congregation at Glenn and Dallas Streets are about as usual, with some illness. Seems as though we can never report without some illness. Do pray it could be possible.

Sister Stephens sill is unable to be at worship. Sister Mae Johnson seems to be getting weaker all the time, she is now in Memorial North Hospital in Modesto, admitted Oct 12th. Sister Stark is still in the convalscent Hospital but not able to attend worship. She has two new Great-grandsons, which are as follows: Justin Elliott Cutler born Sept. 5th unto Sister Dianne Cutler & Charles Cutler- Grandson of Brother and Sister Sam Henderson-CONGRATULATIONS! Jason Grant Arnold weighing in at 7lbs. 12 oz. born Oct. 15th unto Sister Shelia Arnold & Grant Arnold- Grandson of Brother and Sister

Dean Guyer-CONGRATULATIONS! Both babies and mothers are doing well.

We have had a number of visitors in the past few weeks, very glad to have had them and invite them back everytime possible.

Anone passing this way stop & be with us in worship at Glenn and Dallas St. South Modesto-10:30 A.M. & 7P.M. each Lords Day. All are welcome.

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AMARILLO, TEXAS

Dear Brethern:

I made an error in my article,"Strong Wine in the Communion or Lord's Supper"(See May'73 issue, page 12) The last paragraph should have read;(Some claim 1Cor. 11:21 allows strong-wine as it talks of some being drunken. The new article will explain better,(See next issue for Brother Couchman's new article).

We were very thankful and happy to have Sis.Myrtle Whitley for worship on Lords day Aug. 26th. She was here on account of a sick grandchild. We are thankful to have Earl Crawford with us again on Lords Day Sept.2nd The James Clements from Lubbock, Texas were here for worship Aug. 19th.

We are thankful for all the visitors, It encourages us a lot. We are encouraged to press onward to the mark of our high calling in Christ Jesus.

In Love of the Truth
Clyde Couchman

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BRETHREN:

As stated in September'73 issue, the reason for no Courier for a while was insufficient material to print. Some of you have been good to write and now again our incoming mail is picking up but still very light and money to support the Courier is picking up but it too is very light; Without your full co-operation we cna't go on for long. Please respond if you wish us to continue the paper. For it is your paper and it is just what each of you make it.

Also please notify us if you move or you no longer wish to recieve the Courier- for it cost for the ones returned undelivered.

Many thanks to all who have helped in anyway.
The Editor and Staff.