FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS QUICK, AND POWERFUL,
AND SHARPER THAN ANY TWOEDGED SWORD...

THE CHRISTIAN COURIER

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TO LOVE YOURSELF

Man is made in the image of God and since God loves us, then we should love ourselves also. God instructed very clearly for this to be so in His 2nd greatest commandment, *"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."* God never meant this to be a high-minded love, the comparing of yourself to other people and things, and thinking yourself better; but an inward feeling of self worth. And we are, all of us worth something, because God loves us and He put us here, each, for good reasons.

In the Bible we find many verses which tell us of the love we are to have for our neighbors. These verses also apply to the love we are to have for ourselves, because we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. In I Jno. 4:20 let us substitute "ourselves" for "our neighbors." It would say, *"If a man say, I love God, and hateth himself, he is a liar: for he that loveth not himself whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"*

If, then, we love God and would follow His commandments, we must love ourselves; and, as in the last scripture, first comes the love for ourselves and then comes the love for God. So we see that loving ourselves is a worthwhile goal, because it stands for being able to love God and thereby gaining an eternal home in heaven. Still, how do we love ourselves, and how do we learn to love more? What is love made of?

Love is an action that we do. All actions we do are controlled by our attitudes (how we think). An example might be sweeping our neighbor's sidewalk. The love we show them, (our actions), is controlled by the

good thoughts we think about them, (our attitudes). In the same way, our attitudes are controlled by our emotions (how we feel). Then our emotions are controlled by our mental pictures(the records of everything in our memories). Finally, words (the things we hear) make up the mental pictures we have in our memories. So we see that words lead to pictures, which lead to emotions, which lead to attitudes, which leads to actions.

An example of this chain would be the boy who is told that he is not a good student. Soon he begins to dislike school and feels like there is nothing enjoyable about school. Now, based on what he feels, based on all the things from his memory, he thinks himself a poor student, and sure enough, he is. This could have all been avoided if instead of being told that he wasn't a good student, he was told that, he was the kind of student who always tried his best. Someone put this into a statement: "Whether you think you can, or whether you think you can't, you're right."

Life is a series of inputs (things we hear, record, feel, think, and do), which go into our brains and are recorded permanently. These records in our minds, are what we think of ourself. If we have had some positive or good experiences during our life, we have love for ourself. Still, we know Christianity is an onward thing, to love more, to have more faith, zeal, and works. Yes, to make a better life for ourselves. Do you consider loving yourself more a worthwhile goal? Would you like to love God more? After all He has done for you? Think about it! It is really simple.

To make a better life for yourself, plug in the right words and reap what you have sown, the right actions, for which we will be judged (Jude 14,15). There are several ways to plug in the right words. Right words make up right statements, which you hear or see. When someone pays you a well-deserved compliment or you read about how God loves you, you are receiving the right words. Every time you say, "Amen" for what you have prayed to God, you have said to yourself that those right or positive words and ideas are things you want in your life.

Since all the words you continually hear control what you are like (Read Gal 6:7; I Cor. 15:33), why leave it to happen-chance? We want these positive statements living in us, to work our attitudes for God, so lets keep them around us. Take time to write on a sheet of paper the things you like about yourself and then write about anything that you may wish to succeed in. Make these statements about you personally in a positive way and write them in the present tense. Be realistic, and make it fun. After all, this isn't something vain or puffed up, but an effort God loves and cherishes. You can make a poster for your wall or glue one to the bumper of your car. Anywhere that you will be reading

it (as often as several times a day). They may just be words at first, but they <u>are</u> your soon-to-be attitudes.

The statements can sound like: "I like me," "I am loving God more all the time and doing good for Him any chance I get," "I am doing all things I can through God who strengthens me," "I like the way I can always remember scripture when Satin tempts me."

This idea is exactly what Paul is talking about in Phil. 4:4,7,8, 11,13. Verse 8 says, *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."* Yes, God is praised only when you <u>show</u> your love for Him. Therefore in order to show, or have the right actions, Paul says to continually *"think"* on these things. Paul has also said in I Thess. 5:16-17 *"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing."* The point is this: How ever much you think on the right things, that is how much of a Christian you'll be. Read James 1:2 and Jno. 15:11 and while these verses are very inspiring, you could think about them more if you didn't look at them like words on a page but as positive statements God has written personally to you.But remember, unless you think on good things, you can't show good actions, so the first step is up to you. James 4:8 says, *"Draw nigh to God and <u>He</u> will draw nigh to you..."* What do you want out of life? Complete happiness? A deep love for God? Eternal salvation? These things can be, but first you must have them on your mind all the time, and then they will become you. Do you love yourself enough to write down and think on these things?

In Christian Love,
Bro. Greg Staley

AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

When Cain was asked of God, *"where is Able thy brother?"* Cain lied concerning Able's whereabouts and then asked God if he, Cain, was his brother's keeper. He soon found out that he was, and many centuries later, Jesus in the New Testament, teaches us that we still are. In I Jno. 2:9 we find, *"He that saith that he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now."* It seems that God has not

changed His mind on the matter at all. Just how big a responsibility we as members of the body of Christ owe to each other is mainly what this article is about.

We find that we are not to cause anyone to fall. In Rom. 14:9-13 it says, "*For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and the living. But why dost thou judge thy brother? Or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? For we shall all stand before the judgement seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.*" We should study these verses to get the point. Also we are told in Jno. 5:22, "*The Father judges no one, but has given all judgement to the Son.*" Most of the 14th chapter of Romans is devoted to making peace in the brotherhood in things that they had liberty in, which means, those things that a Christian had a right to do or not to do. We see how quickly one's right is withdrawn if it causes another to fall. Seeing how perfectly we are governed by the Gospel even on matters of liberty, how much more heed should we give to commandments that have been given to us without so much as a hint of liberty in them. For example, if we should declare anyone who was baptized for the remission of sins (exactly as you and I) and added to the body of Christ (as God did in Acts 2:47) the very same as you and I, and if we should declare those people sinners, whom Christ cleansed, and declare them nonmembers, just who's ways are we working against? Can we withstand God and say they are not brethren? Shame on such reasoning and lack of understanding. All of the love and mercy that our Bible abounds with is what we <u>should</u> be showing and preaching and practicing. Christian charity and peace among all our brethren especially.

We find in Matt 7:1-2, "*Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgement ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.*" If we were to say to our brother who was cleansed and sanctified by obedience to the same Gospel commands as everyone of God's children are, "I don't want you around me, so you will have to leave," what would happen to us if God should mete out to us the very same measure of judgement as we did our brother? Brethren, how we treat a baptized believer in Christ is a <u>very</u> serious matter. In order not to let evil overcome our good we have to respect the commands that were obeyed by a brother or sister because those commands came from God and not man. Even those who do not now worship as we do, yet were added to the Church as we were, we still show our respect to God and His

commands they obeyed the same way we did, and this in no way means that we endorse any part of another church'es worship if it can not be read in the New Testament scriptures. I John 3:10-11 says, "...*whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.*" If we start judging our brother, as to being fit for the kingdom of heaven, as this is exactly what this kind of judging amounts to, how could we say depart from me? Usurping of God's authority over His people was first practiced by satan in heaven. He was the first to accuse the brethren (judging them) unto God. Rev. 12:10-11 says, "...*for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb...*" How does false judging come about in the first place? The 28th chapter of Ezekiel reveals that it was high esteeming of one's self, and being lifted up by false pride. This can also be true of us, if we forget to be humble. Here is an example on how it can sneak up on us. In reading a very fine commentary on the book of Revelations, I noticed a list made by the author of how many baptisms he had performed which was fine and how many funerals he had conducted, and went on to say that at all the funerals he preached he never once said anyone went to heaven if he didn't believe that they did. If he thought they never made it, he didn't say they did, unless he thought it was so. Man's honesty is required of him, yet even more so must he remain under God's authority. This is stating and judging who God will save and who will be lost. Where does any minister receive the right to take God's judgement in hand?

The apostle Paul has something to say about himself concerning this subject in Phil. 3:13-15, "*Brethren, I count it not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded...*" Do you hear Paul tell us how to be perfect?

David who wrote the book of Psalms begins the first chapter and first verse with, "*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*" If we won't have anything to do with some of our brethren, we must surely believe them to be sinners, and if we turn sinners away from us, are we not standing in their way for salvation? If so have we lost our blessedness? David calls the man that <u>didn't</u> do these things blessed.

I pray that this article may be received in the way in which it was intended, with the love and mercy found in the Gospel of Christ.

In Christian Love,
Bro. Harry Wegley
234 Woodside
Grants Pass, Ore. 97526

Editor's Note: This article was sent to us several months ago but was misfiled.We apologize to Bro. Wegley for this mistake. If any send articles or letters to the Courier and you do see them in print, please contact us to make sure they were received.

IS BAPTISM THE LAST STEP?

One who is not in Christ, but close to conversion, has more of a dilema than it may seem. When he goes to services or talks with a Christian, he is bombarded with a multitude of reasons why he should be converted. Fear of eternal flame and torment, weeping and gnashing of teeth, no communication with God, no forgiveness of sins, and no association with Christians fills his mind.

The evangelist, like the car salesman, tries every trick in the book to show his friend the error of his way. He will devote endless hours to save this one soul. When the unbeliever is finally convinced of his need to be converted, he is quickly baptized before he can change his mind. But what happens to him then? Is he then just a trophy or feather in a cap to be displayed before lookers-on and then covered by dust and cast aside? Is there a continued change; does knowledge inctease; does faith?

Do we make it easy for others to ask us questions? Can they confide in us? Do we instruct them in righteousness? Do we help them study and understand the scriptures?

Let us consider these scriptures: Proverbs 23:12,23 *Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge. Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom and instruction, and understanding.* Ephesians 4:11,12 *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.* Acts 14:21,22 *And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and Iconium, and Antioch, confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in*

the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Are these things happening in your congregation? If any of us feels uncertainty, fear to ask questions or express inspiring ideas, feels a lack of study and a draining of faith, could it be because someone has let you down? Have we let somebody else down?

Written in Christian Love,
Kep Orendorff, Glenwood
Congregation

"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."
Prov. 25:25

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Perhaps to help us be thankful for good health and to appreciate it all the more, we have had a few colds, sore throats, and flu-bugs over the past several weeks. At present all of these minor problems are clearing up. Very few times has illness been a cause for any of us missing the services for which we are thankful. By the time this is in print some of the scheduled meetings will be concluding or underway. May the Lord shower his blessings of good-will, peace, love, and increased knowledge of His word to all who have the priviledge of attending and being a part of these efforts to spread the gospel.

He have had the pleasure of visitors fromother congregations, among whom were Bill and Debbie Taylor of San Diego; Howard and Leola Taylor and Teresa and Odley Barnes of Duncan, Oklahoma; Earl and Zelma Broadway of Yuma, Arizona; Bill Jared of Chesterton, Indiana; Ellis Forsman and Wayne Orendorff of Seattle, Washington.

Several members of the Church as well as friends and relatives attended a reception of Dayton and Myrtle Lee Claus on the Fiftieth anniversary of their wedding. Congratulations!

Time of services for our meeting beginning on July 10th is; Sun. at 10:30 A.M. and 6:30 P.M. then Mon. thru Fri. at 7:30 P.M. Come meet with us and hear Bro. J.D. Logan as he brings us the GOOD NEWS from the Bible.

Bro. Tom Broadway
Bellflower congregation

Brethren,

We have just finished our meeting at Waterford, California. There were no additions to the Church but we did enjoy the preaching of Brothers Bill McCay Jr., Dan Ross Howard McCay, Dean Guyer, Ken Harper, Claude Perigen, Tom Broadway, J.D. Logan and Gene McKinney. We are appreciative of the effort these brethren made to help make our meeting a success. The interest was not as good as we had hoped it would be but the attendance was fair. It is very hard to create interest when all you have to offer is the truth.

I am sorry to report we lost one of our oldest members in April. Sis. Smith, wife of Bro. John Smith who passed away recently, passed away in April.

I would like to admonish all brethren everywhere to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with those who are sanctified.

In Christian Love,
Bro. L.E. Arnett
Waterford Congregation

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

All at the Glenwood congregation are doing well and feel the Lord has blessed us richly. Our meeting was very uplifting and strengthening to all present. We had several visitors from outside the body of Christ from the Puget Sound area who heard the preaching of Bro. Sammy Boen from Arkansas. We also had visitors from the Yakima congregation including Howard and Nell McCay, Sis. Mack, Mike and Paula McCay and family, Kelly McCay, Larry and Polly Roark and family, Larry and Bonnie Fulkerson and family, Belle Taylor, Bob and Wilma Farley and family, Richard and Monica Johnston and family, and Dale and Glena Fulkerson. Also visiting were Dale and Annalee Roberts from Cresswell, ore., and Ada and Don Johnston from Redmond, Washington. Although no new members were added to the body of Christ, there were several who asked for the prayers of the Church for strengthening. Very good fellowship was shared by all.

Bro. Ellis Forsman
Glenwood congregation

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Just a note from the Yuma congregation. Most of us here are fine.

We had Bro. and Sis. Al Way from Bellflower with us a while back. Bro. Way gave us a very fine lesson. We enjoyed having them meet with us. Bro. and Sis. Ken Baldwin are back home in Colorado. We sure do miss them but know that they are glad to be back home after so long a time. Bro. Ken is doing fairly well.

In Christian Love,
The Yuma congregation

Dear Brethren,

The Church at Elk City, Oklahoma wishes to announce our meeting to begin July 31, and run through august 7, 1977. Bro. James Brown of the Baron, Oklahoma congregation will do the preaching. An invitation is extended to any who can attend and help with their presence.

Bro. Earl Atchley began his meeting June 5th with the Gardendale congregation near Midland, Texas. We pray for much success with his efforts.

Your's in Christ,
W.R. Farrar
Rt. 1, Carter, Okla.

Brethren,

It's very hard to convey my feelings concerning the love and interest that was shown my family following my recent accident and recovery. It only confirms the knowledge that love and prayer are two of the greatest tools in our possesion.

While at the hospital and all through recovery, everyone kept repeating how truly lucky I was to be alive, but I was secure in the knowledge that it was not merely luck but the grace of God, which all Christians have going for them. Not only will he provide for us in this life, but life after judgement.

I wish to thank you all for your prayers. They helped with my recovery, both physically and spiritually. I'll close with one verse for us to think about. Rom. 8:31, *"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us who can be against us?"*

With humble thanks,
Mike McCay

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS: To Jim and Rene Dawson, a girl, Leah Rene born June 14.

To Mike and Charlotte Brockman, a girl, Angela Michelle, May 27.

To John and Debbie Randolph, a girl, June 30.

BAPTISMS: Ed Hopfner, June 28, Glenwood congregation.

MEETINGS

Bellflower, Calif. - July 10-17 - J.D. Logan
Baron, Okla. - July 3-10 - Horace Orendorff
Delta, Colo. - July 18-25 - Guest speakers
Furnish Canyon, Okla. - July 24-31 - Tom Broadway
Elk City, Okla. - July 31-Aug.7 - James Brown
Chesterton, Ind. - Aug. 10-14 - Charlie Burt
Loco, Okla.,-July 24-31- Claude Perigen

Brethren,

Make your plans now to attend the Happy Hollow Church of Christ family camp meeting in Cedaredge Colorado. We have rented the Assembly of God camp again this year, north of Cedaredge. There are plenty of dormitories, bring your own covers and pillows. The nights may be cool, so bring warm sweaters or coats. The dorms will be ready by July 16. Campers, trailers, and tents are welcome.

There will be a fee of $1.50 per person per day staying at or on the camp grounds. Meals will be extra unless you are camping and doing your own cooking. Children up to school age will be free.

There is a new kitchen and dining room. The old kitchen is a dorm. The tabernacle is finished. It should be very interesting, convenient and exciting. A place of warm fellowship and spiritual food. Many of you have asked to have the camp meeting this year

and we need your support to continue this year and each year. Plan your vacations now to attend. For more information contact:

Bud Wilkerson
Rt. 1
Cedaredge, Colo. 81413
303-856-3703

Ken Baldwin
P.O. Box 188
Delta, Colo. 81416
303-874-4581

There will be no set price on the meals. Donations will be appreciated at the end of your stay. The following camp rules will be observed:

1. Keep grounds clean.
2. No smoking.
3. All children must be in services except when with an adult.
4. Speed limit will be 10 M.P.H.
5. Please give due consideration to others on the grounds.
6. No loud talking after 12:00 P.M. each evening.
7. No loitering on the grounds or in cars during services or after 12:00 P.M.
8. Cooperate with those authorized to direct traffic and police the grounds.
9. Distribution of literature on the camp grounds is prohibited except by permission of the camp meeting committee.
10. No shorts allowed.
11. $1.50 a day per person- plus meals.

See how many of the following you can answer:

1. The astonishment expressed by Paul in his letter to the Galations referred to: (Gal. 1:6)
   a. his own achievements
   b. their conduct
   c. the Corinthian's conduct
   d. the state of the world

2. The gospel preached by me, wrote Paul, I received from: (Gal. 1:11-2)
   a. another man
   b. two other men
   c. three other men
   d. no man

3. Paul opposed Peter to his face, at Antioch, because peter:
(Gal. 2:11-12)

a. ate with the Gentiles
b. did not eat with the Gentiles
c. opposed the circumcision
d. sided with the Galations

4. In the fruit of the Spirit, Paul did not specifically list:
(Gal. 5:22-23)

a. humbleness
b. joy
c. meekness
d. longsuffering

5. "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual restore such an one in the spirit of (Gal. 6:1)

a. meekness"
b. impartially"
c. reproof"
d. sternness"

6. "...for whatsoever a man soweth,
(Gal. 6:7)

a. that shall others also reap"
b. that shall he also reap"
c. that shall he also sow again"
d. readiness is all"

7. While Paul had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, the gospel to the circumcised had been entrusted to:
(Gal. 2:7-8)

a. Andrew
b. James
c. John
d. Peter

"And now brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." Acts 20:32