

The Christian Courier

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Kindness and Truth

This week I read a book that I was very disappointed in. It was a children's book my daughter got from the library. The plot was fine; the action was good. What disappointed me was the theme of the book.



The theme, or message, of the book was that sometimes you have to say unkind things to be honest, or say untrue things to be kind. The case was presented of a young man apprenticed to an old woman, wrinkled and gray. At the end of a year of service, she asked him if she was ugly. In kindness, he could not bring himself to say that she was, and so failed the test of truth. Truth was presented as simply being truth, not caring about kindness or unkindness, or good or evil. Many people in this world use this kind of thinking: using honesty as an excuse to be cruel, or kindness as an excuse to lie.

Well, brothers and sisters, the Lord has blessed me by bringing a lot of old people into my life. And when I think of their love and care, their gentleness toward me, and firmness in the scriptures, you cannot convince me that any of them were ugly, even if they were wrinkled and gray.

I hope in this article, with God's help, to destroy (or prevent) in your mind this notion that honesty can be unkind or kindness untrue.

First of all, kindness and truth go hand in hand because both come from God.

In John 17:17, when Jesus was praying to God, He said, *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."* We also see in I John 4:8 that God is love, *"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."* They both come from God. They must work together.

The definition of love includes both kindness and truth. I Cor. 13:4-6, *"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;"*.

Notice how often mercy and truth are connected in the scriptures. Prov. 3:3, *"Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:"*. And John 1:17, *"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."*. Mercy and grace are definitely kind, and are connected to truth constantly in the scriptures.

On the other hand, lies do not spring from kindness. The Bible tells us the motivation for lies is hate. Prov. 26:28, *"A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin."* Verses 24-26, *"He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him; When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are seven abominations in his heart. Whose hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be shewed before the whole congregation."* We cannot use kindness as an excuse for lying.

Neither can we use honesty as an excuse to be mean. Before we call anyone names, we need to remember that God made that person in His image. James 3:8-10, *"But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be."* If we are calling someone "ugly" or "stupid" or other mean names, we are in effect calling God these things, because we are created in His image. Can we in honesty call God names? No, of course not. Then we cannot in honesty call other people names, either.

The desire to be mean to others is known as malice, not honesty. And malice is something we are to put out of our lives. Eph. 4:31-32, *"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*

Often people blurt out the first thing that comes to their mind, even if it is cruel, and call it being honest, or speaking their mind. In reality it is being hasty with our tongue. Prov. 29:20, *"Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him."* To think through our words is not dishonest. It is righteous, and is what we are commanded to do. Prov. 15:28, *"The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things."* James 1:19, *"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:"*.

Yes, there are occasionally unpleasant truths to be spoken, even rebuke and discipline. Yet even these should be dealt with in as kind a manner as possible, thinking them through, and given for the other person's benefit.

II Tim. 4:2, *"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."* Longsuffering and doctrine require both thinking your words through, and using those words for the other person's benefit. Notice Col. 4:6, *"Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."* Even when the truth is unpleasant, our speech is to be with grace.

So, hopefully we've proven our point: that we cannot use honesty as an excuse to be mean, or kindness as an excuse to lie. Kindness and truth work together if we live our lives after God's ways.

Let's close with the words of Jesus in Matt. 7:12, often referred to as the golden rule: *"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."*

In Jesus Name,
Bro. Terry Warford
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Des Moines, WA 98198

Obeying God

The connection between obeying God and knowing Him.

1 John 2:3-4, "*And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*"

1 John 2:6, "*He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*"

Obedience required.

Jer. 11:7, "*For I earnestly protested unto your fathers in the day that I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, even unto this day, rising early and protesting, saying, Obey my voice.*"

We find all through the Bible where God spoke to His people, but few heard, so God punished them in some way.

Ezek. 20:19, "*I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them;*"

John 5:14, "*Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.*"

1 Thess. 4:2, "*For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.*"

Rewards of obedience

Matt. 7:21, "*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*"

Mark 12:34, "*And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.*"

His word is our lamp that will keep us on that path to our goal. Someday before the throne we will stand, and with the ransomed be when they receive shining crowns. Will there be one for me? If we trust and obey, then we will wear a crown of victory.

In Christian love,
Don Johnston
Sea-Tac Church of Christ



Cards and Letters

Bellflower, CA

Dear loved ones in Christ,

A very short note to let you know we are still alive here at Bellflower. Down to four or five for service and it's getting hard for Jerry and I to keep the building maintained. We will struggle along as the Lord provides the strength, but sure are looking forward to that home in heaven.

I have been out of work for six months, but am working again, thanks to the Lord and good friend's help.

We are all doing okay at this time. We send our love to all our dear Christians friends. You are always in our prayers; please keep us in yours.

We continue to meet at Bellflower Sunday, 10:30 am. You are always welcome.

For the church at Bellflower,

Bro. Al Way

Sea-Tac, WA

Dear ones in Christ,

Greetings from the Sea-Tac congregation.

We had a few visitors since we last wrote. Bro. Vernon & Sis. Eunice Bentz from Chico, CA, spent a couple of nights over the weekend. They were on their way to meet up with her brother and other relatives in Canada. It was wonderful visiting with them. Bro. Matthew, Sis. Kelly, & family come whenever they can. We also had a visit from Bro. Bill & Sis. Cindy McCay of Yakima, WA. It's always such a pleasure when we have visitors.

In February, Sis. Nell McCay had a skin cancer removed from her leg. It hindered her walking some, especially while she was moving to another apartment. She is still attempting to get settled and adjust to the loss of her faithful kitty companion of 17 years. Now, she has acquired a mature female kitty roommate.

Sis. Jeannean McSwane is more mobile now and is able to come to services again. For this we rejoice.

In the past few months, we received news of the loss of the following:

Sis. Betty Roberts Carlson (92), Yuma, AZ/ Yakima, WA, passed away in February. God and fishing were the most important things in her life. She was an aunt to the McKinney family.

Bro. Merle McKinney, Selah, WA, passed away in February. He was a beloved Christian who also loved hunting.

Bro. Russ Wolfe, Yakima, WA, also passed away in February. Russ was the father of Sis. Monica Johnston.

Sis. Nelda Mullins, Muleshoe, TX, passed away in March. Nelda was the mother of Sis. Winetta McCay.

Bro. Jack Cooper, San Pablo, CA, passed away in April.

We want to congratulate those who will be graduating this June: Bro. Joseph Usrey, Bro. David Orendorff, & Sis. Nicole Foss. We also want to congratulate those from other congregations who are graduating, both from high school and college.

We always appreciate the prayers from others, as we also pray for all of you.

In Christian love,

Sea-Tac, WA, congregation

Lorenzo, TX

Just dropping you a line to let you know that our summer meeting will be
from June 9th - 16th. Mark Perigen will be the speaker.

Matt Matlock
Lorenzo, TX

Yuma, AZ

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It has been awhile since we last wrote. Hope this message finds all well. We are doing fairly well with some still ill.

Probably, most of you know Sis. Betty Carlson passed away, and most of you have known her longer than I have. The short time I have known her, she has been an inspiration to me. She would be at services if she could possibly make it. I think there was only one time she missed and that was because she couldn't get out of bed. We will miss her presence. God was good to her in that she lived a long life and was active to the day she went into the hospital. She soon was in a coma and passed away in her sleep.

Our meeting will soon be here and there are several who plan to be here. Good lessons, good singing, good food, much good visiting, and who knows what else. I enjoyed the visits under the shade tree last year and look forward to some more this year.

Brothers, our newsletter could sure use some correspondence from the churches. They can't publish without material. Besides, I like to hear from you all.

This is about all of the news at this time. I hope to see many of you soon. May God bless us all and let us all be at our Father's business.

Love from all at Yuma, AZ

Yuma, AZ

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

A news letter from Yuma, AZ, hoping all are well. Our sister in Christ, Bonny Schmidt is having bad problems with her back. With much pain; others are having their problems mostly related to age.

Our meeting of March 24-31 has come and gone. It was a good meeting with good visitor attendance. I won't attempt to name each that came, but thanks to you all for being here and the great contribution you made in your time and expense to get here, your help with the activities, the great lessons, singing, association, and Christian love you showed and shared with one another. The times and events will not be forgotten.

Let us all (each congregation or individual) support our newsletters with news of the congregations, lessons, and financially. The ones that prepare and publish the papers need this help from us. They give so much of themselves to get this news out to us, so let us do our part. Besides, I enjoy hearing from you all, to know you are well, and still there.

This is about all the news for this time, so until the next time, may our God bless us all richly and take good care.

The church in Yuma, AZ

Harlingen, TX

Dear Brethren:

I greet you in the name of the Lord; we always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our



God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.



Them I comment that during April, I worked with the churches in Matamoros, Rio Verde, and Victoria City in Mexico, and the brothers in these congregations each day are more firm in the truth.

The brethren in Rio Verde and Matamoros are contacts for evangelizing in these areas, and several attend the meetings.

During this month, I baptized six persons, and we have the hope that other persons also obey the gospel shortly. We have many doors opened to preach the truth, but there also exists many religious people that do not wish for the truth and cause many problems to the brothers in these areas.

Many brothers of different areas of Mexico write to inform us that the work of the Lord continues forward. Also, brothers of Guatemala



write and call by phone, informing us that the churches there continue firm in the truth, and that each day there exists more people that wish to learn the truth.



I send photos of the new brothers in Rio Verde and Matamoros.

Your brother in Christ,
Otto Alvarez and family

Precious Memories

***Gospel News Courier*, May, 1962.** * The Bellflower, CA, congregation listed several recent visitors and mentioned of getting together with the La Habra congregation with some fine singing. * Bro. J. G. Condor, La Habra, CA, also mentioned the singing with the Bellflower congregation. * Bro. F. H. Logan, Modesto, CA, sadly reported on the passing of Sis. Francis Cordelia Treat. He also covered their meeting with Bro. Lloyd Treat. * Bro. W. E. Daniels, Stilwell, OK, invited others to come and meet with them. * Sis. Laura Willis, Carlsbad, NM, mentioned a few recent visitors. * Bro. James S. L. Morse, Hammond, OK, reported that number was getting pretty small. * Sis. Eddie Wise, Abilene, TX, announced the baptism of Wayne Lightfoot. * Bro. I. N. Ferguson, Pomona, CA, mentioned a digressive congregation in their area was attempting to unite with them, but unwilling to change their unscriptural practices.

***The Christian Courier*, April, 1972.** * Bro. Homer Bryant, San Pablo, CA, wrote that his mother, Sis. Marietta Bryant, was in the hospital four days with a very bad case of the flu. He also mentioned the return of Bro. & Sis. Amos Beaver to the church; listed several recent visitors; and his son, Richard, 15, was taking part in the services. * Bro. Hayse Morris, Akin, OK, wrote about their new congregation of 3 months. * The Modesto, CA, congregation announced their meeting in April with Bro. Howard McCay.

***The Christian Courier*, May, 1972.** * Bro. Lloyd Treat, Broken Bow, OK, announced their meeting in June with Bro. Harry Dye. * Bro. Hayse Morris, Akin, OK, announced the marriage of Bro. Bob Eldridge and Sis. Shirley Ross on March 14th. He also mentioned they had three baptisms at Broken Bow. * Bro. Donald Dabbs, Ventura, CA, wrote of a new congregation they had started there. They had baptized Brian Couch, a young man. * Bro. Bill McCay, Yakima, WA, announced their meeting in June with Bro. J. D. Logan. He also mentioned Bro. Vernon Roark was in the hospital for 3 weeks and very ill; Sis. McKinney had surgery; Bro. Dan Ross had an appendectomy; Sis. Pearl Mack celebrated her 81st birthday; Sis. Phobe McCay celebrated her 84th birthday; Bro. Ted Loveland had stomach trouble; Bro. Elza Loveland hadn't been feeling well; and Bro. Jerry McCay graduated from chef's training. * The Modesto, CA, congregation listed several recent visitors and mentioned Sis. Alice Weakley had to return to the hospital.

***The Christian Courier*, May, 1982.** * Bro. Frank Ridlon, Aztec, NM, announced the birth of Kenny Duane to Bro. & Sis. Duane Bixler and the 100th birthday of Bro. Earl Noyes. * The Gardendale, TX, congregation sadly mentioned the passing of Sis. Jane Tate and announced their meeting in June with Bro. Donald Dabbs. * Bro. Jerry Perigen, Bellflower, CA, listed several recent visitors and mentioned the sickness of Sis. Myrtle Clouse and the ski accident by Sis. Lori Perigen where she broke her wrist. He also announced their meeting in July with Bro. Howard McCay.

Bulletin Board

Meetings

June 9-16, 2002	Lorenzo, TX	Mark Perigen
June 30 -July 7, 2002	Delta Camp Meeting	Guest speakers
July 13-21, 2002	Broken Bow, OK	Guest speakers

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Hazel Harville	Broken Bow, OK	Heart condition & diabetes
Maysel Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Letha Ferguson	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Leroy Mullens	Randlett, OK	Infection
Jeannean McSwane	Sea-Tac, WA	Diabetes
Ruth Duncan	Yuma, AZ	Ill
Alice Davis	Yuma, AZ	Ill
Bonnie Schmidt	Yuma, AZ	Back problems

Passings

Betty Carlson	Yuma, AZ / Yakima, WA	February, 2002
Merle McKinney	Selah, WA	February, 2002
Russ Wolfe	Yakima, WA	February, 2002
Nelda Mullins	Muleshoe, TX	March, 2002
Jack Cooper	San Pablo, TX	April, 2002

We are thankful for those who support *The Christian Courier* in submitting articles, letters, and financial support. However, in the past few months, with the exception of a few, this effort has been pretty weak. If you want this paper to continue, we urge you to show it by taking the time to send us a line. The last issue we put out was in December, and after 5 months we received enough material to put together 8 pages. You like to hear about what others are doing; they in turn would like to know what you are doing. The ones who greatly supported *The Christian Courier* in the past have gone on to meet their Lord. Others must pick up where they left off. Again, we thank those of you who continue to support this effort.

— The Editors