

Serving This Week:

Sunday Morning

Announcements: Howell Todd
Song Leader: Kyle Richardson
Opening Prayer: Howell Todd
Lord's Supper
Presiding: Ken Grandstaff
Serving: Eric Horne
Kyle Richardson
Preaching: Howell Todd
Closing Prayer: Ken Grandstaff

Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer: Kyle Richardson
Preaching: Howell Todd
Closing Prayer: Brian Horner

Wednesday Evening

Opening Prayer: Brian Horner
Devotional: Howell Todd
Closing Prayer: Ken Grandstaff

Serving Next Sunday:

Lord's Supper: Howell Todd
Preaching: Kyle Richardson
Opening Prayer: Ken Grandstaff
Closing Prayer: Howell Todd

To all our visitors - Welcome!
We hope you will come back
and worship with us soon!

TEAM MEETINGS

Correspondence - Sunday evenings after worship see Kyle Richardson.
Visitation/Bible Study - For assignments see Brian Horner.
Member Care - Regarding Member needs contact Kyle Richardson.
Flower Request - Please call Lynda Ann Sparkman: 444.0938(h) 587.8187(c)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Friday Night Singing:

March 29th 7 PM. Mark your calendars!

Pantry:

Please let Howell know of anyone in our community who needs help!

Building Fund:

Collected: \$6,538
Goal: \$20,000

All money donated will go towards roof repair.

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear the Word
(Rom 10:17)

Believe in Jesus
(John 8:24)

Repent of your sins
(Luke 13:3)

Confess faith in Christ
(Rom 10:10)

Be **Baptized** for forgiveness of sins
(Acts 2:38)

Live **Faithfully**
(1 Cor. 15:58)

Daily Bible Reading

Day	Scripture
Sunday (<i>Epistles</i>)	1 Corinthians 5-6
Monday (<i>The Law</i>)	Genesis 40-43
Tuesday (<i>History</i>)	1 Samuel 1-5
Wednesday (<i>Psalms</i>)	Psalms 30-32
Thursday (<i>Poetry</i>)	Job 21-22
Friday (<i>Prophecy</i>)	Isaiah 56-61
Saturday (<i>Gospels</i>)	Mark 1-2

Bethel church of Christ

2427 Sparta Pike, Lebanon TN 37090

<http://www.bethelcoc.net>

March 24, 2013

Sunday Bible Study: 10 AM

Sunday Evening Worship: 6 PM

Sunday Morning Worship: 11 AM

Wed Bible Study: 7 PM

Resolution and Forgiveness

We all have been there. It's a great day, everything is going fine, and then someone does something to hurt or offend us. Maybe, it's a co-worker, our boss, a fellow student, a teacher, a clerk in the store, or even a member of our own family who says or does something that injures us physically, mentally, and/or emotionally. Our first instinct, usually, is to feel a bit surprised and angry. We are now at an important crossroads, a significant point of decision. We must now choose what our next response will be.

At this "fork in the road," we can choose the path that many take in this situation that leads to further anger. We may decide to remain angry and nurture this anger until it becomes expressed as malicious thoughts and hatred toward the person or persons who initially injured us. We may even use our time to formulate ways to "settle the score" with that person - to extract our "pound of flesh" as repayment for what they did to us. Holding closely to that "grudge" that gives meaning to our anger, we may now strike back by saying things intended to hurt their feelings and/or damage their reputation or even try to attack them physically. That same person may then be encouraged to respond in kind and so begins and is perpetuated the "cycle of hatred." Is this resolution? Does this solve the problem? Hardly!

Anger is a God-given emotion. Even our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at times, became angry (**Matthew 21:12 - 13; Mark 3:5**) yet He knew how to control it. We, too, are expected by our Creator to control our anger and not allow it to be transformed into sinful, malicious thoughts and outright hatred (**Ephesians 4:26 - 27, 31; Colossians 3: 8**). We cannot, must not hold onto our anger - that's the easy way out, the "path of least resistance." That sort of attitude leads only to further sin and even more frustration, guilt, anger, malice, and hatred.

There is another, better path to take when someone hurts or injures us. In **Luke 17: 3-4**, Jesus offers us all a way to achieve a positive, righteous, godly solution to just such a situation. He tells His disciples

(continued from page 2)...
(and us today):

"Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him." [NKJV]

Jesus clearly lays out a step-by-step process to resolving the issue. We must, first, make the effort to approach the person(s) who sinned against us and "rebuke" them. The word "rebuke" is translated from the Greek term EPITIMAO which means: "to tax upon, i.e. censure or admonish;...charge, rebuke." (1) We have to confront them and let them know, in no uncertain terms, that their actions were hurtful and wrong. They need to know! There is no doubt that people will do things intentionally, at times, to hurt and offend us. But there also circumstances where people can "sin against us" unintentionally, without knowing that they have done anything wrong. (We all have been guilty of this at one time or another.) Thus, we need to take the time to communicate with them about the matter. Then, once they have been informed, it is up to them to repent and make things right.

We must remember that forgiveness is not unconditional. It is always dependant on an attitude of repentance. Some may say: "I forgive everyone, even if they continue to sin against me!" How can that be? God only forgives us if we repent of our past sinful actions (**Acts 2:38; 3:19; II Peter 3:9**). We can do no more than what God does for us – He is our Creator (**Isaiah 45:9 – 12; 64:8**).

When the person who wronged us realizes that have they have sinned and approaches us with a spirit of true repentance then we should and must be ready to forgive them. This is to be forgiveness with a kind, loving attitude without any lingering resentment or ill-will on our part. Moreover, as our Lord and Master tells us in **Luke 17**, we should always maintain a spirit of forgiveness even toward those who frequently wrong us, even "...if he sins against you seven times in a day." We can do no less for we should always remember how much God has forgiven us! Let us be reminded what Paul wrote to the brethren at Ephesus: "*And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you*" (**Ephesians 4:32**).

Erik Smith
churchofchristarticles.com

Overcoming Self Pity

"For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another" (Gal. 5:13).

There's an old saying that says, "If you want help in overcoming your problems, help someone else with theirs." T. Huffman Harris (in his book titled, "Open the Door Wide to Happy Living") gave a good example of this when he told the story of a young man who became tired of life, and decided to leap from a bridge into a turbulent river. A total stranger saw the young man being swept downstream and plunged into the water in an effort to save him. The young man (who was a good swimmer) noticed the rescuer floundering desperately in the strong current, and knew that without his help he would drown. Something stirred within the heart of the young man, and with all his strength he swam over to the rescuer and rescued him. Saving the stranger, who had attempted to save him, brought new hope and meaning to the young man's life.

Likewise, friend, should you ever find yourself in the depths of despair, do not drown yourself with an attitude of self pity, but rather, "*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ*" (**Gal. 6:2**).

Aaron Veyon
churchofchristarticles.com

Remember in Prayer

Shut Ins:

Fannie Bell Warren
Janelle Arrington
William Wells

Others:

Hollis Cluck
Muril Todd
Karen Hudson - cancer
Christy Garrett
The Bryan Family
Annie and JW Smith
Margie Taylor
Priscilla and Patrick Graves
Jessica Richardson
Dan Smith
Diane Grandstaff and family
Joe Allen
Linda Kay Edwards - surgery recovery
Janice Garrett
Carol Goins - Mary L.'s sister
Lila Kirk
Wanda Gates - cancer
Kathy Greer
Jeff Greenblatt - auto accident
Forbes Family

Please call to inform us of News items or Prayer Requests: Kyle Richardson (495-7106) Dorothy Jean Smith (444-5437)

March Birthdays:

10 - Ken Grandstaff

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20