

Harboring Grudges

By Bob West

One of the most immature and petty of human practices is that of harboring a grudge against our fellowman. The nature of the offense is even more aggravated when we observe the practice among brethren in Christ.

What is a grudge? It is merely the leftovers of an unforgiving heart. It is a clear manifestation of a lack of love. While most of our Bible translations don't contain the word, the following passages deal with the subject:

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" - **Ephesians 4:32.**

"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye" - **Colossians 3:13.**

"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he

is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also" - 1 John 4:20-21

If these and a host of other similar passages were observed, the harboring of grudges and its antecedent evils would not exist.

All sins have a deteriorating effect upon those who commit them. But none seems to effect such a rapid corruption of character and personality as that of harboring grudges. Unfortunately, the guilty party is usually the last one to realize that any change has taken place.

So, brother or sister, turn loose of that grudge you have carried all these years. Repent of your lack of love. Forgive and be free from that horrible weight of both the grudge and the guilt of sin.



Classes this Week

Kid's Class at the Building at 5:15 All Are Invited	Ladies' Class at the Building on Monday Night at 7:00 "Crash" course on My Spiritual Heritage	Ladies' Class at Manna Jones house at 10 AM	Thursday Night Class at Jillian Petty's on Acts at 7 PM
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Sick

Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Pam Dial (Laura Weldon's Mother)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (William Herd's Sisters)	Matt Tenold (Toni Herd's Friend)
Adriana Mininno (Haley Chittam's Cousin)	Dave and Betty Bradford
Ed Mort (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	"Grandmama" Odessa Wyatt (Dyle's grandmother)
Blake Whatley (Hunt's neighbor)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)
Wes Bowen	Chick Wade
Rachel Bragwell	Lori Holloway

News and Notes

- Let's remember our expectant mothers: Laura Weldon, Anna Miller and Nicole Pender.
- Susan Sullivan had successful knee surgery and is recovering.
- Hanna Marsh's grandmother had surgery last Thursday to remove skin cancer. Let us continue to pray for her recovery.
- Our groups will meet tonight. Group 3 will meet at the Davis' and Group 1 will meet at the Rouse's.
- Please remember to pray for all the opportunities we have to reach the lost. There are numerous studies that are being taught each week!
- Audio CDs of Today's Sermon will be immediately available.

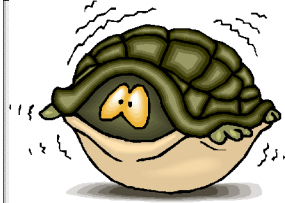
The Auburn Beacon



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **(Matthew 5:16)**

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Thought to Ponder

Fear imprisons, faith liberates; fear paralyzes, faith empowers; fear disheartens, faith encourages; fear sickens, faith heals; fear makes useless, faith makes serviceable and, most of all, fear puts hopelessness at the heart of life, while faith rejoices in its God.

Do You Have a Bible Question?
Call (334) 734-2133 or E-mail: LarryRouse@aubeacon.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

Fear and Fear

By Dee Bowman

Fear knows no boundaries. No matter who you are, how strong you are, or how reputed, there is something or someone you fear. Fear is part of the human psyche, part of what makes man what he is.

Fear takes different directions. It ranges from abject fright to total respect, and it has a part in all of man's activities. When we're small we fear lots of things. We don't like the dark. We don't like strange sounds in the night. We're afraid of some people who are bigger or more powerful than we are. We have lots of fears when we're little.

As we grow older the things we fear take on a new perspective, but the fears are just as real. We fear the possibility of failure, or we fear the rejection by our fellows, or we fear the testing of our abilities. Furthermore, as we mature, we begin to sense a new kind of fear, the need to respect and regard certain peo-

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ple because of their power or reputation, or because we admire something special about them. We fear them in a different way, the way of respect. The things we fear, no matter the time in our lives, have essentially the same effect—they make us dread things that are dangerous or not in our best interests or, in the other direction, they make us respect and revere someone worthy of our admiration.

Then there's the fear of death. All

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men, no matter their station in life sooner or later come face to face with the fact of their own mortality. Man fears death more than perhaps any other thing in life. And with good reason. Dead is the pale rider, the deadly robber of life, the enemy of every person. It's horrible to contemplate one's own demise. We dread it with a dread unlike any other. That's as it should be, for death spells the end of things here on the earth.

The Scriptures have a great deal to say about fear. They tell who and what to fear, and even how. For instance, we are told that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (**Prov. 1:7**). All that life has to offer—everything of any substance, that is—begins with respect for God. Knowing His will is the not only the beginning of knowledge, but it is the beginning place for a happy, profitable life. A lack thereof very often results in a shattered, unhappy life at the worst and an unsatisfied one at the best. We best begin at the beginning.

When Solomon had completed his grand experiment with life, he offered what he calls "the conclusion to the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." To respect God is to honor not only His person, but His commandments. His person is so connected to all that He said that it's actually impossible to honor Him without keeping His commandments. The wise man also concludes with another kind of fear to be considered, for, says he, "God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil." (**Eccl. 12:13-14**). Now that's a good

reason for fear, don't you think?

Worship is a vital part of reverential fear. Fear prompts worship by causing us to seek after the Creator, and His favor, so that He may imbue in us His wonderful grace. In fact, there is no such thing as acceptable worship without the foundation of godly fear. The Hebrew writer tells us that, "having received a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." We even show our respect for God when we fulfill the various roles He has assigned in our lives. Paul says, "submitting yourselves to one another in the fear of God," (**Eph. 5:21**) after which he cites the various roles and their proper observance.

The coming of the day of judgment is reason for both fear and fear—fear and respect for God as not only the Judge—respect for Him as our Redeemer. Any time judgment is involved in a matter, fear is present—and should be. And nowhere is this more important than at the final judgment, for it is just that—final. That should send us scurrying as rapidly as possible toward proper deportment. The Hebrew writer says it well: "Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries" (**Heb. 10:26-27**).

Fear is good. Especially if it causes you to do what you ought, and be all you should. Let us exercise fear—both kinds.



Influence: The Potential for Good and Evil

By David Hartsell

Influence as a teaching tool is not taken very seriously today. Yet, it is one of the most powerful forces that we can have over people. The word influence is from the Latin and literally means, "to flow in." It is the power of people or things to act on others, seen only in its effects. In the physical realm radiation would be a good parallel to influence. Radiation can be used constructively, as in X-rays and treatment of cancer, or it can be devastatingly dangerous, as in radiation poisoning. Let us examine several characteristics of influence that mirror those of radiation. We will see the detrimental and positive effects of influence.

Influence, like radiation, is unseen but its effects are often very clear. Jesus once told His disciples to, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees" (**Matt.16:6**). He was talking about the negative effects their doctrines had on so many people. Paul put it this way, "Evil company corrupts good habits" (**I Cor.15:33**). Sometimes it is difficult for us to see the bad influences surrounding us. We might be dating someone or have close friendships with people who do not hold to Christian ideals. Let us take inventory of the things that affect us. Are those influences making us better or taking further away from God? There are avenues of good influence that we can choose. Early Christians were those who positively affected so many people. Their love and sacrifice for God and their brethren silently reached out and attracted many to Christ (**Acts 2 & 4**).

The longer we stay around radiation the more

There are occasions where the most deadly influences are disguised in "good people." Peter is an example of this. His partiality for Jewish Christians over gentile ones caused Barnabas and other Jews to take part in his hypocrisy (**Gal.2:11-14**). We must never blindly follow people regardless of all the good they have accomplished in the past.

contaminated we become. Likewise, the influences that touch our lives have an accumulative affect. Peter instructed wives with unbelieving husbands to win them to Christ without constantly nagging them about obeying the gospel. Instead, these godly women were to live the gospel message before them (**I Pet.3:1-3**). Often the best lessons preached are delivered in this way. Sadly, Satan's sermons are given in similar ways. We might not

walk among the ungodly but we might invite detrimental influences into our houses through various forms of media. How many have allowed TVs and computers to take their hearts away from God?

Finally, large doses of radiation are deadly. This is also true of influence. Many understand this concept. They agree that the adulterous man at Corinth had to be withdrawn from immediately (**I Cor.5**). There are occasions where the most deadly influences are disguised in "good people." Peter is an example of this. His partiality for Jewish Christians over gentile ones caused Barnabas and other Jews to take part in his hypocrisy (**Gal.2:11-14**). We must never blindly follow people regardless of all the good they have accomplished in the past.

Influence is a wonderful tool for good and a dangerous one for destruction. Let us surround ourselves with those things and people that will help us go to heaven. Train our hearts to be the good influence that will aid others in reaching eternal salvation.

