

“Guilty, So What?”

We recently read the following joke in Nuggets and chuckled.

When it suddenly reminded us of an attitude among brethren, it ceased to be so funny.

"All right, I like to spend money," admitted the harassed wife, "but can you name one other extravagance?"

The good brethren say, "So, we don't have any Scripture for what we are doing, but can you name one other thing that is wrong with our practices?"

Brother N. B. Hardeman used to say in illustration of some point, "I have fifty-two (or some other figure) reasons for not be buying a new car — the first being I don't have any money; there isn't any need to mention the others." Surely our apostatizing brethren ought to use the same kind of good common sense with reference to their digressive practices. If they do not have Scripture for them, that is sufficient; there is no need to mention other deficiencies even if they exist.

Sad days have fallen upon us when elders, preachers, and experienced brethren among professed churches of Christ do not regard a lack of

By James W. Adams

Scripture for practice as being any argument against its acceptability. The distinguishing characteristic of the brethren has up until only a decade or so ago been their demand for a "thus saith the Lord". Now it is different. To demand a "thus saith the Lord" is to identify oneself among the majority of professed churches of Christ as a "legalist" or an "anti." This reminds us of an incident which was related to us some time ago. I think the preacher involved was Brother Cecil B. Douthitt. At some length, he had demonstrated to an individual that many of the practices of the brethren today are parallel to the missionary society. The individual to whom Brother Douthitt was talking said, in substance, "Well, I can see that all right, but I don't see anything wrong with the missionary society!" Everywhere we turn with the indictment, "But that is not Scriptural," we hear brethren in effect, say, "Guilty, so what?"

Gospel Guardian – November 26, 1964



Sick			
Kevin Simpson (Bob Simpson's son)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)
Donna Pridmore (Erin Miller's Mom)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Andrew Westphal	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)
Betty Bradford	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Dale Herd (Brother of William Herd)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Eli Williams	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Madi Wise (Friend of the Robert's)
Diane Lewter (Kyle Lewter's mother)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkins' Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Amy Baswell Hall

July Birthdays
3 - Nathan Rouse
6 - Nathan Bradshaw
6 - Katie Carter
11 - Madi White
11 - Chase Winslett
11 - Clay Morris
11 - Hope Walker
14 - Laurel Jerkins
15 - Bradley Seymore
19 - Ben Holcomb
25 - Yvette Rouse
26 - Brandon Hester
28 - Jacob Bradshaw

News and Notes
☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Fallon Hartsell and Brittany Bagent!
☒ - Hollis Creel, grandfather of Nichole Pender, was buried on Friday.
☒ - There will be a weekly Tuesday night class at Ashton Guy's apartment on Tuesday Nights at 7:30. It will be held at Eagle's Landing Unit 62. Anyone is welcome!
☒ - Remember Tim Morton in your prayers as he is deployed to Afghanistan for nine months.
☒ - Yvette's brother, Stephen Guy, will have neck surgery this Wednesday.
☒ - Tonight is singing night!

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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Thoughts to Ponder



“He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother Is a son who causes shame and brings reproach.”
(Proverbs 19:26)

Elders
Walker Davis
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(334) 734-2133

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday
Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM
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Evangelist and Editor

How to Raise a Heartache

By Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother. (Prov 29:15)
Though I have been a father for many years and a grandfather for a few years, I still do not claim to be an expert on child-rearing. I am still learning. I do believe that children are getting better. My little angelic grandchildren do not need as many spankings and their parents did. This is not purely a personal judgment on my part. I have talked with other grandparents and they are seeing the same thing in their cases as well.

Seriously, I am concerned about the quality of rearing that today's children are receiving. I am aware of the anguish of heart of many parents over the conduct of their children. I know that this may be in spite of the training given by the parents. I also know that sometimes it is because of the training (or lack of it) given by the parents. I have sat up nights with distraught parents trying to comfort them and make some kind of sense out of the waywardness of their child. (The only thing sadder to me is for such parents to not be concerned at all). Often, as far as it is humanly possible to judge, the parents had done everything that good parents should to guide their children in the proper direction. At times, I have sat as parents agonized, "What went wrong?" Many times there was no fault of the parents that I could see. At other times, I could have told them and often had told them in sermons, in articles, in conversations and in classes — but it seems hardly profitable now to add to their heartache by saying, "I told you so". So, I hold my tongue and try to help them pick up the pieces.

Hence, these words are not directed to parents who have already done their work (good or bad) of child-rearing. It is directed to those parents who have the bulk of this grave task still facing them. The advice in this article has no guarantee of success in every case because even children are free agents with the

power to choose between good and evil. But, I do believe that the Bible teaches some vital principles that have to do with child-rearing that need to be taught and practiced by those who love the Lord and will prevent many of the heartaches that come to parents. The things I will say are from experience and observation over the years, but also based upon the teachings of the Scriptures.

If you want to raise your child to be a heartache then follow these rules:

1. Constantly criticize his symbols of authority. Don't let it be enough to allow your child to have free reigns at home to do as he pleases, if any other authority tries to restrain him, let your child know that you will be his automatic ally in his conflict with that symbol of authority. Every chance you get throw in some critical remark about someone in authority so that your child's big ears will be able to soak it up.

While we need to teach our children that there is no authority that transcends the authority of God, we need to teach them that authority at all levels (including school personnel, baby sitters, Bible class teachers, church leaders, grandparents, etc.) must be respected to have an orderly society and to please God as Christians. While you, in your maturity may be able to distinguish between the man and the position of authority that he represents, very few children are able to make the distinction. Hence, criticism of a policeman's conduct becomes criticism of law in his mind. Criticism of a teacher is criticism of school discipline in his mind. Criticism of elders, preachers, or Bible class teachers is criticism of divine government in his mind. The person represents the principle to most children. Granted that occasionally some people in positions of authority over your child may abuse their positions, making it necessary for you to point out that while such abuse is wrong — It still should be the general rule that you praise rather than, criticize those whose position of authority should

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be respected by your child. In my judgment, even in those cases of abuse it is better to take it up with the person's involved without the knowledge or participation of your child, if at all possible. It is sad that about all some children hear about their school, their country (government), or the church is criticism of work done by the personnel of these institutions. How can we expect them to grow up to respect them?

2. Let society take the blame/or his conduct. Let your child know that you "understand" that he would not have acted the way that he did had it not been for the corrupt society into which you so thoughtlessly caused him to be born. Let him know that he is being constantly victimized by others. Allow him to constantly console himself in the notion that he deserves a better shake in life than society has banded him. Always express your sympathy to him when he complains that "it is just not fair". Let him know that you believe that it is impossible (or nearly so) to rear a child right in the kind of world we have today. Then he can grow up believing, really believing, that whatever happens to him and what ever he does is just a product of the times in which he is living — rather than the product of his own making. He can then go through life blaming his wife for domestic problems, blaming the church for his spiritual problems, blaming the government for many of his failures and blaming you for the rest of his woes — after all you brought him into this world.

No Christian has ever had an ideal society in which to live and rear children. This is a sinful world. It was sinful in the first century. Christians were told to "become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life..." (Phil. 3:15-16). It was not an impossible task then and it is not now. Parents who were Christians were told to "bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4) in a world filled with ungodliness. (Eph. 4:17-5:14). Our children must understand that they are going have to live godly in spite of society and quit blaming their moral, ethical, or spiritual behavior with its consequences of such upon society.

3. Do not teach your child how to properly use his or her body. Mothers, do not teach your child the effect that nakedness or near nakedness has on the opposite sex, nor the seductive power of "body language" (See Prov. 6:24-25). In fact, when they become of age they will learn the effect and use it to the fullest if you don't teach them the dangers involved.

One is simply burying his head in the sand if he does not recognize that the sex drive in strong in young people after they reach maturity. One way to protect it so that it ultimately will be used properly in the marriage relationship is to protect the sense of modesty and shame. One cannot allow that sense of shame to be destroyed without weakening the restraints necessary reserve the body for a husband or a wife. It disturbs me to see parents allow their children (even while very young.) to get into the habit of going nearly naked. Though it may be harmless enough in small children — habits can be formed early. It disturbs me further to see parents of teenagers actually encourage their children to publicly display their bodies in scanty attire (often setting the example for them) or else ignore and/or defend them in their actions. Even if the attire is justified by many in the name of sports and/or

recreation, it is still immodest. Still worse parents become quite upset and even hostile in their defense of their children's right to such immodesty without any thing being said by anyone trying to reason with them about the dangers they are exposing themselves to. These same folks seldom offer any real guidance to their children about how to conduct themselves in dating except "don't get in trouble and cause us embarrassment". Young people need some teaching by their parents as to how to keep from kindling the fire that might eventually burn them. Teach your child to "flee fornication", including actions that lead to fornication if it is allowed to run its full and natural course.

Not every young person who gets in trouble" is a bad person. Not every one has been neglectful in parental guidance. Not every young fornicator gets caught and has to pay the temporal consequences and shame of their actions. Those who escape such consequences are just a much sinners as the others.

Young people are given a far better chance when they have been taught from very early childhood to respect their bodies as given to them of God to be used properly and to become the temple of the Holy Spirit when they become Christians (1 Cor. 6:14-20); and that they are to eventually become the cherished possession of a loving husband or wife (1 Cor. 7:2-4). Such modest behavior will probably make one an "odd ball" in modern society, but we have an idea that it will help prepare one for that heavenly society anticipated by Christians.

4. Let him know that you think happiness and success in life depends on outward circumstances, This has all kinds of potential for heartache. It could cause your child to become a ruthless, ambitious, selfish, driving, social climbing, work-a-holic — thinking that "moving on up" is the key to happiness and success. Or it could cause him to become a worthless bum — thinking that poverty and/or becoming a social dropout will bring him happiness and make him a better person.

We need to impress upon our children by precept and example that one's relationship to God is the only thing that can bring eternal -happiness and success and that one's station in this life has little to do with it all. If one is right with God, he can learn contentment and happiness regardless to outward conditions (Phil. 4:4-ff).

If children constantly hear us equating success with some external condition (A good job, a good house, social acceptance, a vacation home, or even by denying themselves of these things and "escaping the rat race" by going back to the "old ways") they will likely grow up believing it and reacting accordingly.

We must make a determined effort to teach WHATEVER (external) state one is in that he can be happy and content - but even then that happiness in this life is not our real goal, but eternal happiness with die Lord in the next life.

5. Wait until he is grown to teach him bow to live righteously and godly. Let him do what "a Christian should not do" while is young and "not a member of the church" and then when he becomes of age try to put the brakes on his behavior. If anyone questions you about his conduct be sure to answer, "Now, he knows that when he obeys the gospel he can not do those things any more".

Don't be too surprised when he learns that lesson well and will not obey the gospel because he has learned to love his conduct that you have allowed him to practice "until he becomes a member".

May we ever pray to God for the wisdom to rear our children as we've should.



Cultivating Feelings for God

By Doy Moyer

Feelings are strange. We don't usually pick our feelings consciously. We just feel a certain way, and in that sense we probably think of them as our mood. When something needs to be done, we might then think, "I don't feel like it," and instead think, "I feel like doing that." Then there are the deep-seated feelings that we may have developed over time—feelings that culminate in lust, outbursts, and other actions that are contrary to what we know is good and right. These are feelings that, if not brought under control, will destroy us.

The problem, I believe, is that we haven't given enough time to cultivating how we feel. We might just chalk our feelings up to the way we are, but this is a mistake, for the way we are can be directed, focused, and changed for the good. This is not easy, though, so how do we begin to make these permanent changes in our thinking patterns?

1. Target what you think about. Phil 4:8. You can decide to think on things that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, excellent, and worthy of praise. Don't accept from yourself the idea that you can't help thinking a certain way. Decide you will target your thoughts toward the higher ideals.

2. Deliberately set your mind on things above. Col 3:1-2. Think about the resurrection of Jesus. Then think about what He has done for you. If you have been raised with Him, then you have every reason to set your mind on things above. This takes discipline, but by con-

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stantly focusing on this, you can change your attitude.

3. Read regularly and with purpose. Psa 1. The blessed man learns to read God's word regularly, meditating on it, focused on it. He learns to take delight in God's will. Since faith comes by hearing God's word (Rom 10:17), regularly reading and hearing it will increase faith, change attitudes, and help us direct our feelings.

4. Surround yourself with people who lift you up to higher thoughts. Heb 10:23-25. Your brethren are there to encourage and strengthen. If you will surround yourself with those who will do this, your own spirit will be lifted, and you can also encourage them. Discuss God's word with them. Confess your own failures. Help each other grow in His grace and knowledge. We need each other.

5. Develop the mind of Christ. Phil 2. This is the culmination of all these points. Notice in the context of **Philippians 2** that developing the mind of Christ is very much tied to focusing on the needs of others (vv. 3-4). The more selfish we are, the more we will not feel disposed toward doing what is right. The more we can think of the needs of others, the more we will think like Christ, who died for us that we might live for Him.

Like anything else worthwhile, we must commit ourselves to the time, effort, and discipline necessary to change our thinking, habits, feelings, and actions. May God help us to so commit.

