



**Forest Hill
Church of Christ**

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Ministers:

Barry M. Grider, Pulpit
Matthew Martin, Associate
Douglas Alvarenga, Hispanic

VISIT US SOON!

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A..M.
Morning Worship.....10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship..... 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

**HOME OF THE
MEMPHIS SCHOOL
OF PREACHING**

www.msop.org

Missions Supported:

Far East/World Evangelism
Gospel Broadcasting Network
Iglesia de Cristo (Getwell)
In Search of the Lord's Way
Kakinada, India
Manila, Philippines
Murmansk, Russia
Truth for the World
Words of the Master

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Number 7

BENEFITS OF BROTHERLY LOVE

Bobby Liddell

Brotherly love is a blessing of those in Christ. Like other blessings of faith, love of the brethren brings many side benefits. This Christian attribute (2 Pet. 1:7) is also a requirement of the faithful. When brotherly love is absent, various soul-stealing, church-killing problems arise. Sadly, the root problem, that is, lack of brotherly love, is rarely recognized. Elders, preachers, and brethren wrestle with varied problems, seeking scriptural solutions, often without their considering the real problem—lack of love for the brethren—which may be manifested in so many ways.

Brotherly Love Brings a Change in Attitude

Paul, inspired apostle, wrote to the saints in Rome these words found in the “Christian’s Manual” (Rom. 12), “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love: in honour preferring one another” (Rom. 12:10). The attitude enjoined is that of love of the kind which a parent would have for a child and esteem which is selfless and without envy. Christians are to exhibit such pure affection and desire for uplifting of their beloved brothers and sisters in Christ. Jealousy, envy, pride, backbiting, malice, anger, wrath, evil surmising and whispering would be eliminated as they ought.

Again, Paul wrote, “For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another” (Ga. 5:13). Brotherly love brings “Service With A Smile!” Christians are motivated to serve, not by coercion, manipulation or injunction, but by love. Such love makes the unpleasant tasks bearable and daily service beautiful.

John, the “Apostle of Love,” wrote in 1 John 3:17, “But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?” Brotherly love brings concern about a brother’s need, compassion for that one in need, and is shown by care of the brother’s need. Sleep is sweet for the saint, who has opened his heart and shared his goods with a brother in need.

Imagine the change in attitude in the average congregation if all the brethren were motivated by pure affection to be selfless sharing servants. Brotherly love brings a change in attitude.

Brotherly Love Keeps Good Company

“Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph. 6:23). When brethren dwell together in peace, the situation is good and pleasant (Psa. 133:1). Many congregations lack peace and are fraught with painful disturbances when the real problem is not a lack of peace, but a lack of brotherly love. Brethren who love the Lord and one another will seek peace (1 Pet. 3:18-22).

“For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother” (Phile. 7). Brotherly love brings great joy, consolation and refreshing. Dedicated followers of the Lord do not serve long without opposition from Satan and his servants. Often, the way is hard and lonely, but God’s chosen have great cause for rejoicing in the knowledge that there **are** faithful brethren all over the world, who, some even having never seen them, love them, and who would lay down their lives for them (1 John 3:16).

“Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous” (1 Pet. 3:8). Unity, pity, courtesy and compassion, needed but often lacking characteristics, are companions of brotherly love. Life, spiritual life, is also evidenced by love of the brethren. “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death” (1 John 3:14).

Brotherly Love Is Commanded

Peter by inspiration, writes to Christians, “... see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently” (1 Pet. 1:22). John says, “And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also” (1 John 4:21). Love of brethren is as important as any other command of God for one will be lost if he fails to observe this divine decree. 1 John 4:20 shows the absolute necessity of pure, fervent love for those of like precious faith, “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?”

Brotherly love does not make sinners saints, nor followers of error “our brethren.” It does not condone sin by open acceptance nor by sinful silence. It does not substitute carnal lust for Christian love. It does not replace Bible knowledge, worship in spirit and truth, or faithful service. It is not simply emotional (though the emotions are involved), or silly. It is an often overlooked Christian characteristic with boundless benefits, here and in eternity.

“Let brother love continue” (Heb. 13:1).

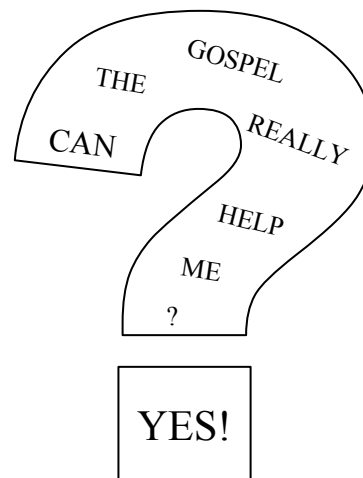
CONGRATULATIONS BIBLE BOWLERS!

Matthew Martin

We are so proud of the hard work and dedication of the Forest Hill Bible Bowl team. We almost had a clean sweep Monday night. The Forest Hill team won the elementary division, and the senior high division. Also, the Forest Hill senior high won the “overall” competition. While that is impressive in and of itself, the fact that they won, despite our having to cancel the final practice because of the ice, makes it even more impressive.

They are an exceptional group of kids, who always put forth 100% effort. So to the entire Bible bowl team (Katie Dawson, Cason Grider, Jonathan Hanel, Willy Ling, Mallory McAlister, Ryan McAlister, Chase Mangrum, Greer Mangrum, Daniel Manning, Evan Manning, John Manning, Adam Maund, Madeleine Maund, Halle Phillips, Sarah Phillips, Eddison Ray, and Sarah Ray) the Forest Hill staff says thanks, and keep up the good work. We also wish to thank the families who hosted practice sessions in their homes, as well as all of the members who served food and made the delicious cookies.

**2006 FOREST HILL YOUTH DAY
MARCH 26, 2006**



THE GOSPEL CAN HELP THE SKEPTIC
Joey Davis

THE GOSPEL CAN HELP THE ADDICT
Jeff Johnson

THE GOSPEL CAN HELP THE SUICIDAL
Jason Mullenix

THE GOSPEL CAN HELP THE LOST
Ben Wright

Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided. For more information call Matthew Martin at the church office (901-751-2444).

IGNORANCE & APATHY pt. 2

Matthew Martin

At the conclusion of last week's article, this question was posed: How can we stop our children from being swayed by Max Lucado, or becoming the next Benny Hinn?

The answer is *simple*, but not *easy*. If our children are to remain faithful to the Lord when they are on their own, they need to be faithful to the Lord right now. In other words, our children need to have respect now, so they will have respect later. Now, that's a *simple* answer, but it is not *easily* done.

Obviously, sometimes a faithful young person grows into an unfaithful adult. And sometimes, an unfaithful young person will become a faithful adult. It happens, but it is not as common as a faithful young person *remaining* faithful, or an unfaithful young person *remaining* unfaithful. Case and point, look around at your congregations. Notice the 25-30 age group? How many of them were faithful between 15-20? If it's the majority, then the point is made.

Now, with it being understood that (for the most part) a faithful young person will remain faithful, the question that needs to be addressed is: How can I ensure my child is faithful when he is still a child? As said last week, the biggest problems facing the church (and in turn, facing our children) are ignorance and apathy. If our children are ignorant of the Bible, then they are more likely to be swayed by a false teacher. If our children are apathetic to the Bible, then they are more likely to become false teachers themselves.

How can I ensure my child does not become ignorant of the Bible? I can study the Bible with my child. That means I have to know the Book well enough to be able to answer all of the questions my child will ask me.

And notice I said "study *with* my child" not, "order my child to study." Being just a couple of years removed from being a teenager, I can tell you that a child is more likely to respond to doing something with a parent than being told by a parent to do something. If you tell them to do it, you give it the connotation of it being a type of chore, or punishment.

Now you may say, "But my child does not have any desire to study, and when I try to study with him, he acts bored and disinterested." In that case your first priority is dealing with his apathy, not his ignorance.

How can I ensure my child does not become apathetic to the Bible, and to spiritual things: Basically, he needs to understand the importance of it. He needs to have respect for it. Unfortunately, respect is not something that can be forced on a person. He will have to develop it based on his parents attitude toward the Bible, as well as what the Bible itself says.

Like I said, the solution is simple, but not easy. This preacher still believes that ignorance and apathy represent the biggest threats to the church. Not liberalism, not radicalism, not any other 'ism' that is so often fought against. If we are to win the fight against Satan for tomorrow's leaders, we must make sure that they have the know-how, and the will to fight for themselves.



2006
FOREST HILL SWEETHEART BANQUET
For all senior members of
the Forest Hill Church of Christ
Saturday, March 4 at 6:00 P.M.