

THE REFLECTOR

FULTONDALE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Resentment

"It just isn't fair", muttered the seven year old as the family rode to worship. "What isn't fair?", asked his mother. "Martin (who lived next door to the church building) gets to see all of Batman before he leaves for church", replied the youngster.

This little incident, which really happened about 13 years ago, gave the mother opportunity to impress three important lessons upon her young son: (1) that attending worship was more important than watching *Batman*, (2) that life is not always "fair" and (3) that it is evil to resent and begrudge the good fortune of others.

Many adults who have grown up to learn the first two lessons have yet to master the third.

"Grudge not one another, brethren," wrote James (5:9). Grudge not" in other translations reads: "Do not complain", "Murmur Not", "Do not make complaints", "Say no hard things", "Do not grumble", "Stop muttering".... All of this adds up to quit showing evil resentment. Envy is "rotteness of the bones" (Prov. 14:30) and a work of the flesh (Gal. 5:21). It is hard to remove and creates other evils. It robs one of real happiness on earth and endangers eternal happiness. It gradually drives one into isolation. The bitterness of resentment drives friends away by the constant mutterings and efforts to reduce others to one's own level of misery.

Joseph's brothers plotted to kill Joseph. (Gen. 37:18). Why? Envy (Gen. 37:11). They resented his special attention from their father. It wasn't fair! They got to where they "could not speak

peaceably unto him." (v.4). Then Joseph adds fuel to the fire by telling of dreams that predict his rule over them. Now, people can just be expected to take so much humiliation without exploding! The least the father could do was to give them ALL a new

pretty coat or else not a coat at all. After all, they were all his sons. Looks like the dream could have at least foretold of power being shared equally by the brothers. Who can blame them for resentment? Is this not the way we all too often look at things?

(See next page)

I may be old fashioned, but

I still like to hear an audible "amen" by the men in the congregation after a public prayer.

I still like to hear men use plenty of scripture when they preach.

I still like to hear a congregation of people lift their voices when they sing God's praises together!

I still like to hear the terms, "Brother and Sister" used addressing members of the body of Christ, instead of "Mr. and Mrs."

I still like to see people who are so obsessed with the work of Christ in the community that they develop a sense of LOYALTY TO THE HOME CONGREGATION.

I still like to see young people sit at the front of the building when they come to worship.

I still like to see youngsters respect and be polite to their elders.

I still like to hear young people, even teenagers, say "Yes Sir and No Sir" when addressing adults.

I still like to hear people say, "If God wills" I will do this, or that, suggesting a conscious realization of their dependence upon Him at all times.

I still like to see people who are so much in love with Christ and His church that they are persistent in inviting others to share with them in the grace of God by participating in the worship services and Bible classes. And it still saddens me to see many who are miserable with their religion

Seldom does one face up to his envyings and resentments. He had much rather think of himself as one with a "keen sense of fairness" or as believing that "right is right".

Resentment causes some to wallow in self-pity. It causes others to lash out at those who have what they have never had nor no longer have. It may cause one to mutter against anyone who adds to the good pleasure of those of whom they are resentful.

Each needs to check his attitude constantly. A little self-examination might be helpful:

1. How do you feel when another is singled out for an honor, compliment or assignment?

2. How do you feel when you see another enjoying something you have never been able to have, or could never have, or once had and

lost?

3. Do you grumble to yourself and/or others about the unfairness of such?

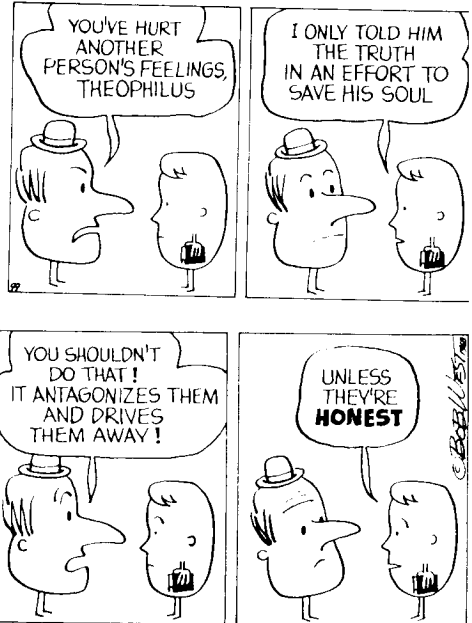
4. Do you resent and complain because you, yours, or others whom you feel just as deserving do not share in the honor, compliment, assignment or possession granted to others.

5. If the honor had come to you or if you had what the other has-- would you complain? Would you think he has reason to resent your state? Now be honest!

6. Do you rejoice that someone has something he can enjoy even if such is denied you and those whom you feel deserve it just as much as the one who has it?

If each of us were completely honest with ourselves in our answers we might find more resentment than we ever thought we had. •Ed•

THEOPHILUS



MIXED MARRIAGES

Bobby Key, who has preached for the church in Miami, Oklahoma for 20 years, has compiled some interesting facts on marriage. We have long stressed the importance of Christians marrying Christians, and this information shows how important it really is.

143 Christian young people in the Miami congregation have married during the past 20 years. Seventy-nine married non-Christians; of these 57 left the church with 25 being divorced. Twenty-two are still faithful and 14 have converted their mates. Sixty-four married Christians, and of these, 59 are still faithful to the Lord. Two marriages ended in divorce" (via *Four-State Gospel News*, November, 1977)

Young people, take another look at these facts, and be impressed with the fact that your chances of being faithful as a Christians, and your chances of making your marriage a successful one, are greatly increased when you marry a Christian. So, look again:

CHRISTIANS MARRIED TO NON - CHRISTIANS

79 - total
57 - left the church
22 - faithful as Christians
14 - converted their mates
25 - divorced

CHRISTIANS MARRIED TO CHRISTIANS

64 - total
5 - left the church
59 - faithful as Christians
2 - divorced

These facts speak loudly. In the words of brother Key, "Let us continue to stress the importance of Christians dating and marrying those of like precious faith. It is hard enough to live the Christian life when both husband and wife are trying to serve the Lord; however, it becomes increasingly difficult when one is trying to pull the whole load".

Billy Moore. via *The Sower* and *The Castleberry Bulletin*

'THOU' - 'THEE' - 'THY' - 'THINE'

"Now, let us turn to the song in the front of our book," announces the song leader, adding, "but before we sing, there's something I would like to point out about this song. You see the words 'Thou', 'Thee', and 'Thy'? Take your pencils and make them out and write in 'you' and 'your'. Such 'King James' language is meaningless to 20th Century worshippers. Now, join in as sing, 'Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to you, How great you are, how great you are!'"

Somehow, this revision kind of takes some solemnity from the song. We would find it hard to sing with the same feeling as before. No one, to my knowledge, has done this to that good song.

It is being done to our public prayers.

I think some of the critics of this practice have been harsh, unfair and down-right ornery. I am rather closely associated with some fine young men who use "you" and "your" in prayer. They are neither tainted by modernism, as suggested by one well-known critic, nor irreverent in heart. Yet, I still think there is very good reason for retaining "Thou", "Thee", "Thy" and "Thine" rather than "you" and "your" when addressing God.

Here are some reasons why "Thou", "Thine", "Thy" and "Thine" are preferable to "you" and "your":

1. They are understood and accepted by all, young, old, weak or strong who are joining in the prayer. "You" and "your" is offensive and degrading to many when used to address God.

2. They are correct modern English for poetic and religious use. Check your modern dictionaries.

3. They are an excellent means of exalting God above the human level. To me, this is important in an age when the trend is to reduce God to a "pal" or "partner" rather than Sovereign Ruler of the universe, who is "above all".

We know that "Thou", "Thee",

"Thy" and "Thine" were once common without distinction between Deity and man. They are so used in the King James version of the Bible. In a word, they were not special pronouns for Deity. Yet, modern English retains them as pronouns for Deity. We speak modern English (after a sort), why should we go out of our way to drop these very useful, modern, and correct words that show special reverence for God as we address Him?

What about the original languages? Were there special pronouns for Deity? Not to my knowledge.

But, we do not speak the original languages--though I do know an alpha, have heard of a beta, might could spot a gamma and have flown Delta a few times. So, when we pray in Greek or Hebrew we won't make any distinction between Deity and man with our pronouns.

We speak English which uses "Thou", "Thee", "Thy" and "Thine" abundantly in songs of praise and other literature when God is addressed. When God was addressed in the original languages they used the tools of language available to them to set God apart in special fashion (cf. "Hallowed be thy name"). We can use the tools of language at our disposal to show special reverence for Him. I used one such tool in the last sentence by capitalizing Him.

The solemn use of "Thee", "Thou", "Thy" and "Thine" is recognized by many modern translators who have replaced these terms with "you" and "your" except when addressing Deity. The New American Standard Bible, the Twentieth Century New Testament, the Revised Standard Version and Moffett all retain these solemn pronouns. So, one is not out of step with the times if he used "Thou", "Thee", "Thy", and "Thine" when talking to God, nor is he wed to King James language. He is right in step with 20th century useage, besides he is exalting God above man in a way that all can understand.

Think about it. •Ed•

November Figures

Sunday AM Classes

5th	172
12th	175
19th	160
26th	154
Record.....	177

Sunday AM Worship

5th	186
12th	181
19th	168
26th	177
Record.....	189

CONTRIBUTION

5th	\$1524
12th	812
19th	1219
26th	1084

WORSHIP WITH US



Are we 'playing church' today?

Two and one-half miles south of Tompkinsville, Kentucky, stands an old log meeting-house popularly known as "The Old Mulkey Meeting House". The building was first erected mid-year in 1804. It is about 30x50 and is constructed of hewn logs chinked with mortar, having a puncheon floor and split-log benches. A crude pulpit of rough-sawn boards stands midway of one of the fifty foot walls. The building has three doors and five windows. These openings are covered by rough board doors and shutters. There is no glass. The roof was framed conventionally with hand-hewn timbers and covered with shingles. There was no ceiling of any kind, and obviously no insulation. No chimneys are evident nor any means of heating the structure could be seen, yet the house was used year round for worship services. In its heyday, some two hundred worshippers used the structure even in winter months.

I visited the "Old Mulkey Meeting House" on January 10, 1978 as a pastime activity while attending the LaCoste-Thompson Debate in Tompkinsville. I had checked out of my motel at noon and visited the site as "something to do" having no knowledge of its history. It was bitterly cold although I was heavily bundled in winter clothing. Two or three inches of crisp snow blanketed the ground. It had been just such a cold, snowy morning in November of 1809 that John Mulkey and 150 other members of the Mill Creek Baptist Church in that very building had repudiated predestination and other Baptist doctrines. The remaining fifty members within six months built a new Baptist church and organized a new congregation.

As I stood shivering in the "Old Mulkey Meeting House", I felt a reverence for the memory of those hardy souls who walked or drove their wagons through the snow to sit with frost-bitten noses on split-log benches to hear the two or three hour sermons which were characteristic of that day, and wondered even more at the faith of some who in response to the Lord's invitation would have been baptized into Jesus Christ for the remission of their sins. And today folks drive their heated automobiles to worship in heated buildings where they will complain when the services run past 12 O'clock!

Tom Hickey, via Eastland News

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FULTONDALE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SERVICES

Sunday:

Bible Classes..... 9:45 A.M.

Worship.....10:45 A.M.

Worship..... 6:30 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 7:30 P.M.

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