

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

August 5

2018

Breaking Bad Worship Habits

A habit is, by definition, a "tendency, constantly shown, to act in a certain way, acquired by frequent repetition." Of course, some habits are good - bathing, brushing your teeth, etc. But, unfortunately, some habits are bad. These are the ones we need to change. We call it "breaking a habit." It's not always easy, but it is necessary.

Some folks have developed certain bad habits in regards to worship and Bible study assemblies. They "constantly show" certain "tendencies" that they have "acquired by frequent repetition." Consider some of these bad habits that folks need to break:

- Being late: Everyone will be late occasionally. Things may happen that cannot be anticipated and these can result in one's being late. However, some folks are always late. This is nothing more than a habit - and it can be broken. Make up your mind to leave home earlier and arrive before the services begin. You really need to be here at least 15 minutes early. Doing so will allow you to meet and greet visitors, encourage your brethren, and take your seat without a frantic rush. These are not trivial matters. What if everyone followed the habit of these perennial late-comers. Our services would be in total chaos. If you have this habit of being late, you need to think about the seriousness of it.

- Sleeping: Again, anyone can get drowsy in the course of a service - we've all done that. But some people do it all the time. Unless

there's some physical condition you can't control, or some medication that you must take that has this side-effect, you need to break this habit. Be well rested before you come. Taking notes will help keep you alert. Follow along in your Bible. Do what it takes to stay awake.

- Talking: We often think of the young people when it comes to whispering, passing notes, etc. Certainly, they need to pay attention and not engage in such distractive activities. But, we've seen older folks - some who don't even realize that their whispering is so loud it can be heard by everyone - who talk and chatter right through the service. This needs to stop.

- Playing with the babies: We love babies. They are cute and fun and a pure joy to be around. However, during the worship services and Bible studies is no time to be playing with them. Your close attention and participation is needed in the service. And, the little ones need to be taught to sit quietly on Mom or Dad's lap and not be a distraction. Some folks need a "time out" for such misbehavior.

- Parading to the restroom: Again, we know that some people may have medical conditions, and others may have an unexpected emergency that requires them to go out during the services. But, we are sure that some are in the simple habit of doing so. We recommend that you take care of such matters before services begin. There should be only a few who, if they will do this, cannot sit through an entire service without going out to the restroom. And, parents, we especially urge you to coach your kids in this regard. Too many young folks are steadily streaming out and in. When they do so, they get nothing out of the service themselves, and they produce an annoying distraction for others who are trying to concentrate.

- Rushing out at the end of services: There are certain members who are in the habit of almost running out the doors as soon as the final "amen" is spoken. A few others won't even wait that long, and leave before the service is even dismissed. What's the hurry? When you hurry out you miss out on the opportunity to associate with your brethren. You can draw strength from them and be an encouragement

in return. Sadly, some people hardly know anyone else in the local church. This is not only a bad habit; it directly circumvents a part of God's plan for the local church. Hang around!

A good rule in regards to all of these "bad worship habits" is to ask yourself: What if everyone did as I do? Sadly, if we all followed the practices of certain members, we'd never get started on time, you wouldn't be able to hear anything over the talking, snoring, and giggling babies, there would be a line waiting to enter the restrooms, and there would be a stampede to get out at the end of services. Think!
✍️ Greg Gwin



God Said – Enough

As the Israelites came into the promised land. God commanded, *“Take heed. . . that thou inquire not after their gods, saying, How do these nations serve their gods? that I also may do likewise. What thing soever I command you, that shall ye observe to do: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.”* (Deuteronomy 12:29-32 see footnote, A.S.V.)

There were some things they did not need to know — were better off not knowing, if their curiosity was coupled with a desire to imitate. God had given them sufficient information concerning true worship — to look elsewhere was to deny His authority. And isn't this the Old Testament equivalent of Speak Where the Bible Speaks, Be Silent Where the Bible is Silent?

Paul wrote, that in us ye might learn not to go beyond the things which are written. (1 Corinthians 4:6) And John wrote, *“whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God; he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son”*. (2 John 9)

One has not erased this principle by applying 2 John 9 to a

particular error concerning Christ; nor by citing cases where some have sought to bind or loose expedient methods of operation by misuse of the principle. Human organizations are not methods of either go teach or care: and one does not sing with a piano, one sings with ones voice. If we deny the validity of silent where God is silent we bury the first part (speak where God speaks) beneath the rubbish of human invention.

Habakkuk said. The *“Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him.”* (2:20) And we sing this sometime as though it meant be quiet in the church building. It says, in our vernacular, SHUT YOUR BIG MOUTH, AND LISTEN TO GOD.

If we would spend more time reading and studying God's word. and learning to be content therewith, we just might learn that God has adequately provided for us, all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.

✍️ Robert F. Turner

Remember our meeting with Mo Hafley September 9-14.

Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

James Hahn (317) 745-1507