

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

May 7

2023

Don't Carry A Grudge

A man who observed an old farmer plowing a field with his mule once said, "I don't want to tell you how to run your business, but did you know that you could save yourself a whole lot of work by saying 'gee' and 'haw' to that mule, instead of just pulling on the reins?" The old farmer stopped, pulled out a handkerchief from his pocket, mopped his brow, and said "I reckon you're right, but this critter kicked me five years ago and I ain't spoke to him since."

Now, this little story may bring a smile to your face, but the fact of the matter is, it illustrates very well the price that many pay when they carry a grudge. You see, when defined, a grudge is: "a persistent feeling of resentment or ill will toward another." Sadly, there are some Christians today who are carrying around grudges each and every day without realizing the price that they are paying for doing so.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, we all need to beware of the ill effects of carrying around a grudge, and we need to strive to be a people who avoid bearing grudges toward one another. Even the children of Israel were instructed to avoid bearing grudges when they were told, "*You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your*

people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself..." (Leviticus 19:18). I encourage us to take heed to those words of the Lord that was spoken to the children of Israel, and I likewise encourage us as His children today to make proper application of the need to not carry a grudge against one another.

Knowing that, let's be a people who love one another (Matthew 22:39; John 13:34-35; Romans 13:10). Let's not be angry toward one another, and if there is a problem, let's make an honest effort to make it right (Matthew 5:22-24). Let's have the courage to go to another who has offended us, in an effort to resolve that issue (Matthew 18:15), for often times, many ill feelings are formed due to a simple misunderstanding or by false preconceived thoughts, and these problems can often be resolved by simply talking it out.

Likewise, let's remember, if a brother sins against us, and he repents, we are not to feel ill toward him, but rather we are to forgive him (Luke 17:3-4). Therefore, may we never forget the need to forgive. For, as Jesus teaches, our forgiveness from our Father in heaven hinges on our forgiveness of others (Matthew 6:14-15). So, do not carry around a grudge, but rather be one who makes every effort to put behind you any feelings of resentment or ill will that you may have for another, always remembering these words of the Hebrews writer, "*Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled*" (Hebrews 12:14-15).

✍️ Brad Phillips

“Truth Does Not Fear Investigation”

There's a good saying that brethren have used over the years to show our sincerity in what we practice and preach: "truth does not fear investigation." The idea is that if one is genuinely concerned about doing right, he'll not be afraid of someone else questioning what he does. By frequent examinations and regular defenses one is constantly kept "in check." If by an "investigation" one's preaching and/or practice is proven true, great. If however it is proven to be false, there's a since in which this is also great, for now the sincere individual can make the necessary changes to get back on track and be right.

Unfortunately, not everyone is interested in truth. Some are content to go on in their error hoping no one will ever challenge them. If they are questioned, too many write it off as being "bothered" and ignore the "investigator." How sad!

Those fearful of investigation need reminding of what Peter wrote, "...be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you..." (1 Pt. 3:15). When a person gets to the point where they cannot defend or give an answer for what they're doing, it's time to do something else. While error may clam up, get aggravated and run from it - truth does not fear investigation. What about you?!

✍ David McPherson

Something's Not Right

When teachers of error are praised and teachers of truth are condemned, something's not right. When compromisers of truth are commended for their "wonderful attitude" and defenders of truth are charged with self-righteousness, something's not right. When false doctrine goes uncontested and truth proclaimed is called "traditionalism," something's not right.

Yes, all of these things are going on and something's not right. Men can verbally declare their soundness all they want, but when they show more support for those who teach false doctrine and compromise the truth than they show for men who courageously proclaim and defend the truth something's not right.

✍ James Hahn

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	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

Brad Phillips (765) 720-2816