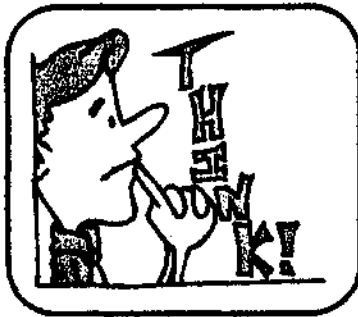


What's Wrong With Being Tardy?



Our congregation is presently grappling with a widespread brotherhood problem — tardiness. A brother who serves as an usher in a church of a thousand members recently made the comment, "If we were to lock the doors at 7:00 (the worship hour), one third would be inside and two thirds would be outside." Since it appears to be such a prevalent problem, let's ask the question: "What's wrong with being tardy?"

(1) IT IS DISRUPTIVE. One high school teacher recently stated that when the bell rang, one student was in the class room. It was not until twenty minutes later that the last of the eight students finally arrived. How can effective teaching take place in such a setting? This is magnified many times further when the teacher is late, which does not allow those who are waiting with their small children to be on time for their classes. It is also common to find pockets of people talking in the halls even after Bible Classes have begun.

(2) IT INDICATES WRONG PRIORITIES. How many of us would be late responding to a dinner invitation to the White House? How often do we allow our children to be tardy at school? Or at ball games in which they are playing? How would it go over with your husband or wife for you to have been late for your wedding? Are you late to work (in which case you may be docked)? The point is we are on time to the events or occasions which are important to us. Since corporate worship and Bible Study should be among the most important times of our week, shouldn't we be on time?

(3) IT IS JUST PLAIN SLOPPY. Being tardy falls in the same category with the unprepared Bible class lesson or the unfulfilled cleaning assignment. It is demoralizing to those who are on time. Being tardy is just not consistent with the urgency of discipleship under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Being on time costs something. In the long ago it was David who said, "I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God which cost me nothing" (2 Samuel 24:24). It takes effort to be punctual. It was the Preacher of Ecclesiastes who admonished, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10). As the hymn puts it, "Give your best to the Master." Let's all make the commitment and put forth the effort to be on time for every occasion of the work and worship of the church.

Doug Smith, Montgomery, AL (Submitted)

The Bible is old with age, but always fresh with the dew of heaven.

News & Notes

BAPTISM: Don Reynolds, 140 N. Surrey Rd., East Livepool, OH 43920. Phone: 330-385-9258.

CONFESSIONS: Pat Allison, Bob Cyphers, Don & Donna Parsons, Lori States.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Join the ladies in this worthwhile project.

PANTRY: Tuna & noodles.

SICK & SHUT-IN: UPMC, Pittsburgh: Diane Robinson. Weirton Medical Center: Jean Larrimore. AT HOME: Bob Cyphers, Ruth Brewer, Bobby Hadley (son of Bob & Pat Hadley), Janet Malcomson, Lloyd & Virginia Ferrell, Lynn Duncan McCall (in Texas), Lloyd Cowdery, Mabel Sprout, Virginia Rickerd, Bette Gentry, Fred Larrimore, Sr., Fred Larrimore, Jr., Cheryl Stackpole, Betty Dunn (Pat Wright's mother). NURSING HOMES: Fox: Ray Baker. Calcutta Health Care: Virginia Clutter (sister-in-law of Eva Stefl). Nentwick: Ruby Kenny. Weirton Geriatric Center: Edna McKitrick, Ila Plum. Aspen Manor, Wellsburg: Ione Asher.

Anyone Can Count The Seeds In An Apple

Cut open an apple. Now count the seeds. How many did you find there? Three? Eight? Ten? More? That was easy! Even most kindergartners can count the seeds in an apple.

Now for something a little more challenging. Since you know how many seeds are in the apple, go back and count the number of apples in each seed. How did you do this time? Probably laughed at the assignment and didn't even attempt it. You see, it's easy to count the number of seeds in an apple, but only God can count the number of apples in a seed. The same holds true concerning every kind act or dollar given out of a spirit of generosity to benefit another person. It is easy to count seeds or tabulate amounts; impossible to know the good either does. Impossible, too, to know how far reaching any act of kindness or gift, large or small, will be. Or, how long either will travel though time, affecting others and multiplying as it moves.

- *The Biblical Messenger*, San Angelo, TX



FAIR-WEATHER CHRISTIAN?

Am I a fair-weather Christian?

If you're not a Christian everywhere,
you're not a Christian anywhere.

And if you're not a Christian all the time,
you're not a Christian anytime!

- Author Unknown (adapted) -

via *Vigil*, Adamsville Church of Christ, Adamsville, AL