

Respect For God

A fifth grade teacher in the San Francisco Bay area was censored by the principal for teaching the Declaration of Independence because it "contained references to God and religion". Three high school students declaring themselves to be "Christians" were suspended because they testified in a daylong event at school of the sin of homosexuality.

Many do not hold God or His word in high regard. It is rather disturbing to see people lose their respect for God. Several reasons can be given for why such disrespect exists. But let us consider one for now.

People like to adjust God to fit themselves. Many like to mold God into the image they want Him to be. Instead of us fitting God's standard, we make Him fit us and our lifestyle. It may be because we do not want to be embarrassed about Him around those who are not Christians. Most people like to "smooth out" some rough, tough edges of God and polish Him up some. They do not want Him to sound tough on marriage, divorce, or remarriage or judgment or instrumental music in worship.

Friend, if we are interested in following the Lord, let it be done God's way. Malachi 3:6 says "For I, Jehovah, change not...". James 1:17 says in God "there is no variableness..." His nature, name, word, counsel, purpose, and promises have been the same and never will change. True respect for God is to let Him be as He is. Do not adjust the Creator (Rom 1:21-25). If there is an adjustment to be made, the created (you and I) must adjust to Him.

- J. Shawn Bain - Westside Church of Christ, Owensboro, KY

AND THE SURVEY SAYS ...

A Gallup Poll* (2009) indicated the following statistics about some religious questions. *The number of people polled was not given.

1. How important would you say religion is in your own life — very important (56%), fairly important (25%), or not very important (19%)? No opinion (1%).
2. At the present time, do you think religion as a whole is increasing its influence on American life (25%), or losing its influence (70%)? Same (2%), no opinion (3%).
3. Do you happen to be a member of a church or synagogue? Yes (63%). No (36%).
4. Did you, yourself, happen to attend church or synagogue in the last seven days, or not? Yes (42%). No (58%).
5. How often do you attend church or synagogue — at least once a week (31%), almost every week (11%), about once a month (13%), seldom (29%), never (15%), no opinion (1%).
6. Do you believe that religion can answer all or most of today's problems (59%), or that religion is largely old-fashioned and out-of-date (28%)? Other (8%), no opinion (6%).
7. Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" Christian (2008)? Yes (40%). No (55%).

Source: gallup.com/poll/

"Be still, and know that I am God..." — Psalm 46:10

News & Notes

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Denver & Florence Cooper and family. Florence is now under Hospice care. Also, remember the family of Mary Beth Robinson at the untimely passing of one of her relatives.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. All ladies are invited to participate in this project.

PANTRY: Soup & crackers.

BOX TOPS & LABELS FOR EDUCATION: See the bulletin board for details and sample labels to save for Mid-Western Children's Home.

THOSE WITH MEDICAL CONCERNS: George Wiersbicki (brother of Ed), Michael Hanlon (son of Michelle), Ruth Brewer, Jackie Parsons, Fred Rayl, Marilyn Miller, Harry & Imogene Nice. Weirton Medical Center (Skilled): Jessie Stiles (grandmother of Docie Moore). FOX: Ruby Eddy. In Iowa: Jack Board. Check the bulletin board for others who are shut in.

LECTURESHIPS & MEETING

Ohio Valley Lectures	St. Marys	Aug. 8-12
Chester's Fall Meeting	Charles Pugh	Sept. 12-16
WV Christian Lectures	Weirton Hgts.	Sept. 26-29

Christianity Is Looking Up

"Looking up, they saw the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large" (Mark 16:4). Three women wondered who would roll away the stone. They had their minds on completing the burial process of the Lord. But God had other plans. Better plans! Jesus rose from the dead! God moved the stone, not so our Lord could get out, but that they might enter to find Him raised.

When we look up as those three wonderful women did, we can see what God wants us to see. When we look up, we take our minds away from what we consider to be failures and catastrophes. (The disciples had their minds on a disappointing death instead of a remarkable resurrection.) We are called to look up to see Christ seated at the right hand of God, victorious (Colossians 3:1). When we look up, we set our minds on things above, not on earth (Colossians 3:2). Christianity is looking up if we'll keep our hearts and minds "looking up."

Rick Laing, Highland Village Church of Christ, Austin, TX - via *Bulletin Digest*