

Welcome Visitors,

First, THANK YOU! We are excited to know that you are interested in worshipping God. We want you to feel very welcomed here among our group. Our goal is doing God's will. You will find that our teaching and preaching are strictly from the Bible so we encourage you to open a Bible and follow along as the lessons are presented today.

God's word is the complete guide for our life of service and worship. The all-sufficient word of God—the Bible is what we need (John 8:31-32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We desire to help one another in doing God's will. If you are interested in learning more please ask one of our members today.

Main Street Church of Christ Newbern, Tennessee

Schedule Of Services:

Lord's Day:	9:45 a.m.	Bible Study (All ages)
	10:20 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship
Wednesday:	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study

Our Elders:

Johnie Dodds
Harry Elliott
Austin Willis

Our Deacons:

Danny Carpenter
Wayne Hulme
Tommy Sawyers

Our Preacher: T. Sean Sullivan

The Gospel Plan

HEAR THE GOSPEL MESSAGE Romans 10:11-16

BELIEVE IT !!! Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6

REPENT—CHANGE Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9

OPENLY CONFESS—JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

Romans 10:8-10; Acts 8:37

BE BAPTIZED—FOR REMISSION OF YOUR SINS

Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Peter 3:21

LIVE ON FAITHFULLY Hebrews 10:35-39 I Peter 1:6-9

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The Main Street Church of Christ

Messenger

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

Cleansing our Conduct

Introduction:

Things, that we do, identify us. Jesus said that our love for one another would identify us as His disciples (John 13:34-35). Paul teaches there is conduct that identifies us with worldliness and different conduct that demonstrates godliness (Ephesians 4:22-24). Timothy was admonished to set an example of conduct (1 Timothy 4:12). When we fail to conduct ourselves as we should we sin, we hurt the success of our brethren, and we can bring reproach on the church.

Being a part of the Lord's church requires a cleansing of conduct. Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:5 says, "[one who has brotherly love] *does not behave rudely*" the KJV uses "unseemly"—"rudely" or "unseemly" are equal to "conduct unbecoming a Christian".

Since "what we do" is important, now is a good time to do some self-evaluation. We certainly do not want to sin, or cause our brethren to sin, or bring reproach on the church. Let's investigate these thoughts further by opening the scriptures to discover what is, and is not, proper conduct.

Unbecoming Conduct:

Life is a result of choices. There are choices that will enable a good life and others that will result in trouble and

Vol. Six Issue Two (A) February 07, 2010

separation from God. When we desire the approval of the world, we are on a dangerous path (Psalm 1:1-2, 5; Matthew 7:13-14). The world does a good job of clouding over our ability to reason and soon temptations leading to improper conduct become personal permission slips to sin.

Paul in his inspired epistles exposes the error of sinful conduct without reservation. In Galatians 5:19-21 he lists: *Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, and lewdness*: sexual sins—depraved behavior. *Idolatry and sorcery*: attempted avoidance and replacement of God. *Hatred, contentions, jealousies, and outbursts of wrath*: destruction of others because of overabundant sense of self-importance. He continues with: *Selfish ambitions, dissensions, and heresies*: those who would rather destroy the cause, than submit themselves in any way. *Envy and murders*: spiteful use or destruction of others. *Drunkenness, revelries, and the like*: Many forms of intoxication—rendering one unable to discern right and wrong. The great warning is: “*those who practice these will not inherit the kingdom of God*”.

Also in Ephesians 4:31 Paul admonishes all brethren to put away bitterness, wrath, and anger: Hateful resent toward others. To put away clamor: self-interested tantrums. To put away evil speaking: intentionally speaking ill of others—discrediting. To put away malice: general category of wicked (sinful) conduct.

Some attempt to see these lists as only the extremes, having deceived themselves into thinking that they can play close to the edge without getting hurt. If this conclusion is correct, why does God disagree (1 Corinthians 15:33)? There is conduct that is unbecoming to anyone who claims to be a Christian.

Proper Conduct

The world's ways do not lead men to God (Isaiah 55:8-9). Worldly actions do not belong in the conduct of a Christian (Romans 12:1-2). We must seek to cleanse our lives of all wrong and fill our lives with right (Colossians 3:1-10). When we desire to know proper conduct we need to seek God's advice. The list that we looked at earlier in Ephesians 4:31, is in contrast to the list found in verse 32. We are to be kind to one another, and tenderhearted: always having

compassion or sympathy toward the needs of our brethren. These are the qualities of a mother who cares for her children. We are to be there for one another to encourage and build each other up. We are to be forgiving in comparison to our own hope of forgiveness. Remembering what we have been forgiven for; we must be willing to forgive others (Matthew 18:23-35). Look earlier in the same chapter where in verses 25-29 Paul exhorts more proper conduct. Good conduct requires speaking the truth, resolving our issues, determining to fight temptations, working to supply each others needs, and choosing our words carefully.

Our Conduct

Just as it is difficult to stop inappropriate conduct; it is also a difficult process to build the character and determination to conduct yourself as you should. It takes character to stand up and be counted for God, like Paul (2 Timothy 1:8-12). We know that we must bring this lesson home. If we desire salvation, we are going to have to take on holy conduct (1 Peter 3:13-16). Peter warns us of the impending danger of being unprepared for judgment (2 Peter 3:9-15a). We must do what is right, right now, and for the rest of our days.

Conclusion:

When we try to have both the world and the hope of Heaven—the world will win. Christians are not to behave rudely, unseemly, or in an unbecoming way. When members of the Lord's Church conduct themselves in worldly ways: they sin, they set a sinful example for their brethren, and they bring reproach on the church.

There is nothing to be gained by leaving God and selling out to the world. The ways of man will not lead to salvation or help you avoid judgment. God's will, provides a better way to live—a way with rewards for today and for our eternal tomorrow. Can you leave behind the world's ways and successfully serve God? Yes, since God expects it, you can do it. The only question that remains is, are you ready? ~tss
