



The Sword

*“And take... the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God.”* Ephesians 6:17

“The Sword” is published weekly by the OAK GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST, as a teaching and information tool for the congregation. Articles are intended to encourage the study of God’s Word every day! — Jack W. McNiel, editor

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“Out of the Heart” by Rick Brumback

The Bible’s teachings concerning the importance of proper attitudes cannot be overemphasized. It may be accurately said that a proper attitude underlies everything that a Christian is supposed to be. It therefore behooves us to study the ways in which our attitudes affect all aspects of our lives.

In both the Old and New Testaments, the Bible teaches that one’s attitude is the source of all action directed to a person or thing. In Proverbs 23:7, it is stated, “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...” Jesus remarked that “Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man, but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man” (Matt. 15:11). This statement becomes significant when coupled with his comment that “out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh” (Matt. 12:34). The point being made is that the heart (mind) is the spring from which all action flows, and the stream cannot be better than its

source.

It is precisely for this reason that Jesus begins His sermon on the mount of Matthew 5, by giving the “be”-attitudes. A child of God is to possess these attitudes, not simply as a matter of course in human existence, but as a consequence of our standing before God. These attitudes and qualities are to be inculcated in the Christian, with all action and interaction deriving from their influence. It is worthwhile to note that Jesus saved the discussion of light and salt in the world until after he had discussed attitudes (Matt. 5:13-16).

The New Testament writers make numerous exhortations to grow into the fullness and stature of Christ, maturing as children of God (1 Cor. 2:16; Eph. 4:13-15, 24; 5:1-15; Col. 3:1-4; Heb. 5:12-14; 2 Pet. 1:5-8). Paul stated that he and the other apostles had the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16) and encouraged all Christians to be like-minded (Phil. 2:1-11). In Gala-

tians, Paul contrasted the fruits of the spirit and the flesh. In describing the fruits of the flesh, he listed numerous actions which characterize the carnal person. In comparison, he listed several attitudes possessed by those who are Christ's (Gal. 5:19-24). If a Christian's attitudes are what they should be, the proper actions will be manifested.

With the proper attitudes, the Christian will be well-equipped to carry out the will of God. In fact, it is impossible to become a Christian without a proper attitude. In Romans 6:17, Paul expressed gladness that the Roman Christians had obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered to them. Obedience owing to any other motive than the heart's desire would be unsatisfactory. The Hebrews writer points out that we are able to draw near unto God with a pure heart, our evil conscience and dirty bodies having been cleansed (Heb. 10:22).

As God's children, we are to render acceptable worship to Him. As with all other aspects of our lives, this is possible only when we possess acceptable attitudes. In John 4:23-24, Jesus stated to the Samaritan woman that those who worship God must worship in spirit and in truth. The use of "spirit" here conveys the meaning that our hearts and minds must be motivated by the attitudes of Galatians 5:22-23. Anything else would be vain worship. Jesus stated in Matthew 22:37-38, that the first and greatest commandment was to love God with all of our heart, soul, and mind. The external forms of our worship only mirror, or derive from, our attitude toward God. In the

very next verse (22:39), Jesus stated that the next greatest commandment was to love our neighbor as ourselves. Here, an attitude is mentioned, not an outward expression. Once again, the attitude is the source.

Some may acknowledge the validity of the preceding thoughts, but this issue of proper attitudes may be directed in less obvious areas. It is because of love that God and Jesus enacted the plan of redemption (John 3:16). It is because of love, both to God and man, that Christians are to carry the Gospel to the entire world (Matt. 28:18-20; Eph. 3). It is even for the sake of love that discipline is administered to wayward brethren. Certainly, disciplinary authority could be abused, but God has intended that discipline be used to return the erring to the true way (Matt. 18:15-17; Eph. 4:15). This reclaiming of the wandering brother or sister is to be done with love as the motive, not vindictiveness or spite, borne out of a desire for the well being of others (Gal. 6:1; Eph. 4:15; 2 Pet. 3:9).

We cannot stress too greatly the need, and requirement, of proper attitudes in a Christian. Jesus' entire life was devoted, because of love, to serving God and men. He likewise urges us to possess the correct attitudes, developing them in ourselves and those around us. When our hearts and minds are filled with love and devotion, our service to God will be viewed as a privilege, not a requirement. The result of our efforts will be that God's will is carried out and the brethren will be strengthened and increased.

NEWS AND NOTES:

OUR PRAYER LIST:

Congregation:

- Lorene Cooper is home and recovering from triple heart bypass surgery.
- Jim O'Connor is home from the hospital.
- Opal Reed had a pacemaker put in last week.
- Please remember in your prayers all who have been sick, bereaved or in the hospital recently: Marjorie Alley, Freda Bentley, Lloyd Cooper, Irene Jennings, Jim O'Connor, Wendell Osborne, Alberta Petering, Opal Reed.

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Oak Grove:

- April 11-14—Gospel Meeting with Marvin Rickett
- Ladies' Class 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at 10 AM.
- Personal Evangelism II each Sunday 4:45–5:30 PM. Beginning Feb. 21.

Local Area:

- March 5 - Youth Event at Higginsville
- March 20 - Saturday Bible Study Seminar at 39th Street
- March 21-24 - "Home Grown" Gospel Meeting at Blue Springs

SERVING ONE ANOTHER:

LEADING IN WORSHIP: *February 21*

Announcements: Walter Hutcherson
Usher: Lowell Smith
Lord's Table: Hershel Hunt
West: Glenn Wyman – Roger Stephenson
East: David Wiesemann – Walter Reed

Sunday AM

Song Leader: Darrell Andrews
Opening Prayer: Sean McLaughlin
Second Prayer: Jim O'Connor
Scripture Reader: Peyton Jenkins
Sermon: Jack McNiel
Closing Prayer: Tom Newberry

Sunday PM

Song Leader: Roy Smith
Opening Prayer: Richard Petering
Sermon: Jack McNiel
Closing Prayer: Leland Reed

Wednesday Night:

Song Leader: Walter Hutcherson

February 17

Devotional: Tim Smith
Closing Prayer: Vernon Logan

February 24

Devotional: David Wiesemann
Closing Prayer: Dean Evatt

OUR CURRENT RECORDS:

Wednesday: *February 3*

Bible Class 74

Sunday: *February 7*

Bible Class 78
AM Worship 90
PM Worship 72
Contribution \$1,614
Budget \$2,020

The King James Version is requested for pulpit, classrooms, & scripture reading.

Work Program 2008-2009

Team	Leader/s	Next Assignment
1	Jack McNiel	Mar. 28
2	Roger Stephenson	April 4
3	Walter Hutcherson	Feb. 21
4	Vernon Logan	Feb. 28
5	Dustin Hall	Mar. 7
6	Roy Smith Tim Smith	Mar. 14
7	Justin Liljegren Dixon Liljegren	Mar. 21

WHO WE ARE:

The Oak Grove Church of Christ is independent of any denominational organization. We are not associated with any national or world headquarters. Yet, we cooperate voluntarily with our sister congregations in the Lord's work and fellowship.

The church of Christ is noted for its emphasis upon returning to New Testament Christianity and for its desire to "*be perfectly joined together in the same mind and ... judgment...*" (1 Cor. 1:10). We try to follow the basic, innocent faith that was proclaimed on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

If you are earnest about learning more by means of studying the Holy Bible and obeying what it says, you will truly find a home here at Oak Grove Church of Christ.

Oak Grove Church of Christ

104 SW 6th Street,
Oak Grove, MO 64075 (816) 690-4599
www.ogchurchofchrist.org

Head of the Church:

Christ (Eph 1:22; 5:23; Col 1:18)

Elders: (1 Tim 3:1-7)

Claude Andrews
Walter Hutcherson
Richard Petering
Lowell Smith

Deacons: (1 Tim 3:8-13)

Darrell Andrews
Dean Evatt
Vint Hall
Hershel Hunt
Leland Reed
Tim Smith
David Wiesemann

Preacher: (2 Tim 4:1-5)

Jack W. McNiel
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– Schedule of Services –

Sunday:

Bible Study – 9:30 a.m.
Worship – A.M. 10:20; P.M. 6:00

Wednesday: Bible Study – 7:00

Bi-Monthly: "House to House / Heart to Heart"