

No Bitterness

Paul wrote, "Let all bitterness ... be put away from you" (Eph. 4:31). Christians today need this admonition so very badly. In the midst of all the controversies now raging among brethren, bitterness is everywhere evident.

One of the most dreadful things about this problem is that few are able to see any signs of bitterness in themselves. It is only in others that we see this fault. We all stoutly declare our own innocence.

Yet bitterness toward brethren often shows in the following ways:

- 1. **A critical spirit:** This does not mean that constructive criticism is wrong, but this critical spirit manifests itself in that we become fault-finders almost habitually. We may seek to find faults.
- 2. **Those with whom we differ become constant victims of our ire.** Whatever they do, we search it with a critical eye, seeking error in it.

by by Leslie Diestelkamp **3. Sometimes our criticism is in complete conflict with principles of common decency, and courtesy.** We make our criticism actual attacks upon people for whom we should be deeply concerned and for whom love should fill our hearts even if we do disagree with them.

This bitterness is a double -- barreled problem. Bitterness in my heart will hurt the one whom I oppose, but bitterness will hurt me more than it will him. My own heart is sure to fall victim and be shrunk into an evil one. In other words bitterness is accumulative--a speck of it will grow into a mountain in our own heart.

Bitterness will undoubtedly keep many out of heaven. Let's put it out of our lives, for it is altogether unbecoming to the gospel of Christ which we believe and to which we have claimed to give our allegiance.



Lisa Carter (Luke's mother)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father)	Nell Holcomb (Ben's grandmother, Joanetta's aunt)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Ruth Addison (gmom of April and Julie)
Madeline Morton (Greg Lanier's g'daughter)	Alexander Locke (Jeremiah's cousin's son)	Betty Bradford	Reba Patterson (Heath Fowler's mom)
Jean Buchanan (Abbie Harrison's grandmother)	Tina Atnip (Orie's cousin)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	William Smith (Ken Sullivan's brother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Arabelle Rich (Joanetta's aunt)	Jane Hunt (Chuck's mother)	Charles Hunt, (Chuck Hunt's dad)
Gay Ulrich (Emma's mom)	Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	John Duke (Jared Johnson's cousin)

July Birthdays

1-Collins Hanners
2-Josh Gooch
8-David DeFoor
8-Angela Fernandez
11-Chase Winslett
11-Madi White
11-Clay Morris
11-Kelsey Gallahar
12-Tyler Tucker
14-Laurel Jerkins
14-Megan Hester
15-Bradley Seymore
16-Katie Martin
17-Whitney Sutton
19-Jay Borden
21-Tori Luther
22-Kate Fortenberry
24-Haley Gay
24-Carla Zacarias
25-Betty Bradford
25-Yvette Rouse
26-Brandon Hester
27-Tiffany Green
29-Hayden Phillips

News and Notes

☒ - Please pray for the Lauderdale's son, Shawn, who was in a car accident this week, injuring his jaw.

☒ - Anna Price had successful surgery on Thursday to insert a shunt. She is recovering well.

☒ - Jeremiah Johnson's cousin's baby son, Alexander Locke, has made progress toward going home!

☒ - Toni Herd's niece, Amber, is now home from the hospital.

☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Paula Davis and Xiang Li.

☒ - Abbie Harrison will undergo a series of surgeries/procedures beginning on July 19.

☒ - All audio is posted to www.auchurch.com. CD's will be in the foyer after services.

☒ - We ask our visitors to fill out a visitors card and give it to any member!

The Auburn Beacon



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

The Nature and Character of the New Covenant

By Larry Ray Hafley



Thoughts to Ponder

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah (Jeremiah 31:31)

Noting and quoting **Jeremiah 31:31-34**, the Hebrew writer (we will assume it was the apostle Paul) said:

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: and they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away (Heb. 8:8-13).

"a new covenant," at that instant He made the first covenant old and "ready to vanish away." Hence, the first covenant was "old" in the days of Jeremiah, not in the time of Paul. It was "ready to vanish away," not in the days of the apostle, but in the days of Jeremiah.

What Covenant?

What was the covenant that was to be done away? It was the one God made when He took the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt. That covenant included the ten commandments. "And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone" (Deut. 4:13). Moses said, "The Lord our God made a covenant with us (Israel) in Horeb. The Lord made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day" (Deut. 5:2,3). "When I was gone up into the mount to receive the tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant which the Lord made with you, then I abode in the mount forty days and forty nights, I neither did eat bread nor drink water: And the Lord delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God; and on them was written according to all the words, which the Lord spake with you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly" (Deut. 9:9, 10). "And the Lord said unto Moses, Write thou these words: for after the

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Sunday
Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel. And he was forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments" (**Ex. 34:27,28**).

That covenant was old in Jeremiah, and it vanished away in Jesus.

What Superseded It?

The "second" or "new covenant" was different in kind and in character.

First, it was made with spiritual Israel. To physical, fleshly Israel, Jesus said, "The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof" (**Matt. 21:43**). Essentially, a kingdom cannot be separated from its constitution. It derives its nature, its character, from its covenant. This new covenant is the constitution of the kingdom of God. The kingdom is the "holy nation;" it is that "spiritual house" which offers up dispiritual (not material, animal) sacrifices" (**1 Pet. 2:5-9**).

Second, its laws are enshrined "into their mind" and "written in their hearts." This contrasts with laws inscribed upon tables of stone. Fundamentally, though, it describes the difference between the birth of the flesh and the birth of the spirit. God was the God of Israel after the flesh, and they were His people. Now, unto those who have the law put into their minds and into their hearts, God is their God and they are His people, not of or in the flesh, but of and in the spirit. "For he is not a Jew which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit" (**Rom. 2:28,29**).

Hebrews 8:11 adds to this point, "And they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest." Under the first covenant, the children of God had to be taught to "know the Lord." They were physically born into the kingdom of Israel, and as they matured they had to be instructed of this fact, i.e., "know the Lord." But it is not so under the second covenant. Why not? Because one cannot be born in the spiritual house until he has been taught to know the Lord. Jesus said, "It is written in the prophets. And they shall be all taught of God" (Jn. 6:45). Where was it written? It was written in our text, in Jeremiah 31:33,34, and Hebrews 8:10,11. "Every man therefore that hath heard and learned of the Father,, cometh unto me."

The baby in fleshly Israel was a child of God at birth. As he grew, he was taught to know the Lord. The "newborn babe" in Christ has the law, the gospel, impressed and implanted in his heart and mind. Thus, he has learned of the Father and has come unto Christ.

For this cause, Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel" (**Mk. 16:15**), and "Go ye therefore and teach" (**Matt. 28:19**). For this reason, Jesus spoke of "them which shall believe on me through their word" (**Jn. 17:20**).

Third, it provides the promised forgiveness. The blood that gushed from the altars of Abel and Abraham, the blood that cascaded down the sorrowing slopes of Sinai unto the last lamb of the last temple service, amplified the fact "that the blood of bulls and of goats (could not) take away sins" (**Heb. 10:4**). Rivers of blood flowed from the mount of Moses to the preaching of John, but a full, free, final sacrifice had not been made. When our Lord hung His head on the cross of Calvary, when He uttered, "It is finished," the dying stopped, the blood was dried up on the altars of men. And then God could declare, "Their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance" (**Heb. 9:12,15**). "Now where remission of sins is, there is no more offering for sin" (**Heb. 10:18**).

The dying lambs bleat and bleed no more. The suffering Savior poured out His soul unto death. Amid the angelic armies and heavenly hosts, He sits with the scepter of victory, crowned with glory and honor. The binding bars of hades are bent and broken as the "everlasting doors" are opened to receive the "King of glory." At God's right hand, He reigns and rules in unlimited dominion with "angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him" (**1 Pet. 3:22**).

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (**2 Cor. 7:1**). "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire" (**Heb. 12:28,29**).

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Train Up A Child

By Steve Klein

Vines grow the way they are trained. Children do too. Like the nurseryman who trains vines to grow on a trellis according to his design, parents are to "train up a child in the way he should go" (**Prov. 20:6**). Fathers are to bring up their children "in the training and admonition of the Lord" (**Eph. 6:4**). Vines and children trained improperly when they are young and tender, cannot easily be retrained after they have been stiffened with age. Godly parents will make a sincere and serious-minded effort to properly train their children by word and by example. Here are some practical tips for parents who are interested in having their children grow the way God wants them to grow in three important areas -- worship, morality and Bible knowledge.

Tips For Training Children To Worship

1. Attend every assembly possible (**Heb. 10:25**). The example parents set will have more effect on a child than anything parents say. When parents neglect assembling they are training their children to do likewise. If there is a discussion in the home each week about "whether or not we are going to church today", the child gets the message that worship is unimportant and optional.

2. Do not allow school age children to draw, play or sleep during a worship assembly. If they are expected to pay attention in school because "education is important", surely they should also pay attention during worship to Almighty God.

3. Encourage children to pray - at meal time, bed time or any time they have a problem.

4. Encourage children to sing - during worship assemblies, in the car - any time they are cheerful (**James 5:13**).

Tips For Training Children To Make Moral Decisions

1. Teach children to respect authority. Children who are allowed to be disrespectful to teachers and parents are not being trained to respect the God of heaven. A child who is allowed to constantly question authority will be an adult who questions God's authority. It is one thing to explain to a child the reason for something when he needs to know; it is quite another to indulge every "why?" question a child asks in defiance of plainly spoken commands. Children must learn that the proper response to expressed authority is simple obedience.

2. Do not allow children to engage in activities which God will consider immoral when they become adults. For instance, if parents allow their six year old daughter to where a swimming suit in public, what are they training their child to do when she is eighteen years old? Following this advice may mean that a child will be looked upon as being different from other children. Children need to know that God's people are special to Him precisely because they are different from the world (**2 Corinthians 6:17-18**).

3. Discuss with your children the moral training they receive from other sources. Children in public schools may often be shown standards of morality which are out of harmony with the Bible. For example, we are hearing of cases where elementary students have been told that there are certain circumstances under which it is alright to lie! Parents should make it their business to know what others are teaching their children.

Tips For Training Children To Know The Bible

1. Take children to every Bible class arranged by the church. It would be a shame for any parent to let such an excellent learning opportunity go to waste.

2. Make sure children get their Bible class lessons ahead of time, and that they do any memory work that has been assigned. It does little good to get "little Johnny" to Bible class if he is not prepared to learn when he gets there.

3. Study the Bible with your children. When they ask a question about God's will, about right and wrong, open a Bible and read together the verses which answer their questions. Setting aside time for Bible study can greatly benefit both you and your child.

In his book, Good Homes in a Wicked World, brother Irvin Lee wrote the following: "The child is like a mound of potter's clay. The potter can take the clay and fashion it into whatever form he chooses. He can then dry and temper it, and the form is set into its permanent shape. That is a frightening thought. As the twig is bent, so the tree is inclined. As the child is molded and shaped so the man will be. The challenge is very great when the parents realize that they have the power to shape the very eternal destiny of the soul that inhabits the body of their little child. How many parents will be lost because they failed in their duty to their children?"

