

# Burdens Children Shouldn't Bear

by Phillip Mullins

I recently watched a television commercial that was meant to make me chuckle but instead depressed me. It was an advertisement for sandwich meats where a little girl runs a sack lunch out to her mom who is pulling out of the driveway. The intended humor is to portray the child as the "mother figure" who is watching out for her mom and making sure she doesn't forget the things she needs. I suppose the humor would have worked on me if I didn't know of children who are having to fill that role. In reality, the reversal is tragic.

The Bible places parents and children in distinct roles: "Children obey your parents in the Lord, . . . fathers. . . bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" "For the children ought to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children" (Eph 6:4; 2 Cor. 12:14).

Parents are to be leaders, teachers, providers, and protectors. It is unnatural for children to have to deal with adult decisions and pressures. Though, it is good for children to be tested and challenged, there are some burdens that children ought not to bear.

Children should not have to navigate the moral dilemmas of life without a standard. Our Society encourages everyone to determine what is right for them. While that may be liberat-

ing for some sinful adults, it leaves a child lost. Children should be taught there is a God who loves but judges all. They should be taught His word can guide them in every decision. Children should not be left to fend for themselves while parents are occupied with other things. I know of a thirteen-year old who had to learn to balance her mom's checkbook because of her mom's irresponsibility. Some kids cook their own meals and wash their own clothes because there isn't a parent around to do it. A child needs to learn responsibility but not by being totally responsible for all his needs.

Children should not be stuck in the middle while two parents fight it out in the aftermath of a divorce. One of the most unnatural things for a child to have to do is to choose one parent over another. Even in a peaceful divorce (Have you ever known of one?), kids are in an awkward position. Parents are responsible for their marriages, not the kids. In a divorce though the kids bear as much pain as do mom and dad. It is a burden kids should not have to bear and woe to the parents who cold-heartedly place it on their little ones.



### Classes This Week

<b>Sunday Evening</b> College Devo Craig Davis home, Sean Ellis teaching	<b>Monday 7:00 PM</b> Ladies' Class , Denise Davis home, "Heaven"	<b>Monday 8:00 PM</b> College study on Romans, Crawford's	<b>Thursday 8:00 PM</b> Truthseekers Room 2107 student center
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Lisa Carter (Daniel's mother)	Jesse and Martha Godwin (Troy's parents)	Billy Hunt (Cherri's brother)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Emery Anne Vest (Patsy's grandniece)	Mary Edwards (Sandra Chason's mom)	Kimzey Simpson	Ruth Addison (gmom of April and Julie)
Tory Colvin (sister of Case O'Dell)	Maria Williams	Barbara Chandler	Robert Collins (child of Walker's co-worker)
Betty Bradford	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Earl Mitchell (Debbi Coleman's dad)	Abbie Harrison
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Ara Belle Rich (Joanetta's aunt)	Matt Bishop (friend of Long's)	Doug Bailey (Keith's brother)
Tim Tucker and Kendal Decker (Brooke's friends)	William and Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	Mavis Hale (Chris Long's grandmother)

### February Birthdays

- 2-Ken Sullivanne
- 2-Wesley Herd
- 3-Chris Long
- 5-Jude Hosey
- 5-Jimmy Owen
- 5-Chase Counsell
- 6-Jackson Fowler
- 8-Bruce Daniels
- 11-Blake Tolliver
- 13-Leslie Freeman
- 14-Leighton Daniels
- 15-Ella Miller
- 16-Seth Humphrey
- 17-Emmy Cantrell
- 17-Camden Crawford
- 18-Caralise Hunt
- 18-Wyatt Boyd
- 18-Sadie McIntyre
- 18-Elio Gomez
- 24-Jeff Jerkins
- 24-Thomas Peek
- 25-Carly Beth Stephens
- 27-Julie Johnson
- 28-Chandler Sullivan

### News and Notes

- Group meetings are tonight!
- Abbie Harrison will have her appt with back doctor in Bham on Monday.
- Laura Humphrey's dad, Frank Hand, was able to go home this week!
- Pray for our expectant mothers: Kristen Diehl, Megan Hester, and Nakia Strickland .
- Maria Williams is being treated for a blood clot determined to be the source of her pain and swelling.
- This is the final week for lost and found items to be retrieved before removal.
- Jon Coleman had heart tests run and is waiting on results.
- Please consider parking on the grass!
- All audio is uploaded to [www.auchurch.com](http://www.auchurch.com)

# The Auburn Beacon



## Working on a Teachable Spirit

### Thoughts to Ponder

Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day. (Psalm 25:4-5)

**Elders**  
Walker Davis (334) 703-0050  
Larry Rouse (334) 734-2133

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**  
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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Larry Rouse  
Evangelist and Editor

## Humility: True Perspective

By Jeffery Kingry

"When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honorable man than thou be bidden of him; and he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. But when thou art bidden, go and sit in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: Then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 14:7-11).

When I was about 15 I bought a guitar and learned a few chords. Back in the early sixties, when folk-music was "in," I cut quite a figure among my fellow "teenieboppers." They even voted me "most-talented" in their innocence. It went straight to my head, and I took my \$15 Stella to New York in hopes of becoming a "star!" There was a try-out at the Bitter End, a coffeehouse

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that "discovered" Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, and Peter, Paul, & Mary. With firm confidence I strode upstairs where "other" artists were tuning, chording, and harmonizing, waiting for their chance before the spot lights. I walked around the room in wonder listening and watching. Beautiful people with beautiful voices, on finely tuned Gibsons and Martins, made beautiful music on their silver-wound guitar strings. Some could even puff on a harmonica hung before their lips by a wire contraption

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while singing and playing at the same time. I silently went home after enjoying the show, without having opened my \$5.98 cardboard guitar case and have never regretted it. The kids back home loved my "stuff" and never knew any different.

Jesus gave us instruction on how to live, and live well, with satisfaction, happiness, and confidence. Some may think Jesus' instructions in Luke 14 mundane and trivial. Why would the Master Teacher concern himself with the common details of our daily life? Luke 14 tells us that Jesus was interested in such things: to what homes we go, whom we have to dinner, what place in the house we take, how we act at the table (1 Cor. 10:31), what the tone of our conversation is (Matt. 12:31), what we wear (1 Pet. 3:3), whether we encourage or discourage (Matt. 10:42; 18:6).

In Luke 14 Jesus pointedly demonstrated the blessedness (happiness) of humility. The self-assertive personality is constantly ill at ease. No accomplishment of man in comparison to the whole is of much consequence. In comparison to the example of our Lord, man's position, power, or ability becomes nothing.

True humility stems not from thinking poorly of oneself, but in having oneself in proper perspective. It is not thinking of oneself at all. A brother in Christ who held debates, wrote a great deal, and held many meetings a year was finally asked to speak on the Florida College Lectureship. After his over-long speech, several of his family and friends came to the stage to congratulate him. Amid shaking hands and smiles a young man made his way through the crowd and stretched out his hand with a small piece of paper in it. "I have been waiting for this honor for years," he said brightly, "Can I have your autograph?" The preaching broth-

er smilingly reached into his coat pocket for a pen as the young man walked by him to the song leader. "I have enjoyed your singing ability for years . . ." and the preacher blushed in humiliation as the two stepped away from the stage in earnest conversation. How presumptions and prideful are those who compare themselves by themselves and among others like them. When comparing our meager abilities against the real thing we come off short every time. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. "But be ye not called Rabbi, for one is your master, even Christ, and all ye are brethren" (Matt. 23:8).

There is no place in our Lord's family for those who think more highly of themselves than they ought. In the politics of the world it is the vigorous, self-assertive who often pass by the humble and snatch the wilted laurel wreath of "success." Even so, it is the godly, the becoming, the blessed thing to remain lowly minded. Leave the carnal laurels to the self-willed. A humble mind is worth striving for and possessing for its own sake. "Blessed are the poor in spirit; For theirs is the kingdom of God."

It is a privilege to be asked to teach God's people (Luke 4:15-20). It is presumptuous to insert oneself in a position of honor without having been asked. Preachers who ask for meetings, seek glory for their labor from men, and "seek the high places" in public have received their reward. Spiritual pride is utterly offensive to God, and draws his most serious condemnation. Everyone is pleased when the arrogant person is humiliated. But, modesty is recognized and honored by man and God. We are not much brethren, no matter how much we may think to the contrary. Lowliness of mind is a far better way of life than to possess all the honors and glory the presumptive and arrogant may commend.

Truth Magazine - March 4, 1976



## Elders as Shepherds

By Charles Brackett

A shepherd is literally one who feeds. He is a pastor. In Bible times, the typical shepherd tended his own flock, or delegated the work to his children or close relatives. By virtue of ownership, he was highly motivated to the work. No sacrifice was too great for his sheep. He sheltered them when cold, searched for them when lost, and bound up their wounds when hurt. With only his dog and staff, he protected them from wolves that were always crouching just out of sight and scent. A hireling would not be so diligent. He would not watch with the same degree of love and concern as the shepherd who cared for his own or his father's possessions.

Most of the shepherd's time was spent feeding and watering the flock. He was the shepherd, the feeder. Sheep were not fed in a pen as a farmer might feed his pigs, but in open pasture. The shepherd constantly moved his charge from hillside to valley searching for better grazing and plenty of good water. While there were occasions when searching or binding or protecting was necessary, the shepherd's continual duty was to feed and water, feed and water. And when that duty was done, he watered and fed.

God has always looked at His people as sheep. He cares for them with the tenderness of a shepherd who gathers the lambs in his arms and gently leads those who are with young (Isaiah 40:11). Further, God has always considered those in positions of leadership over His sheep as shepherds. Overseers of the Lord's church are shepherds. Their position and their responsibility are put clearly in focus in 1 Peter 5:14 when Peter reminded elders to "shepherd the flock of God which is among you..." For those who discharge their responsibility well, Peter extended God's promise of "an unfading crown of God's glory" when the "Chief Shepherd" appears. On the other hand, God is against shepherds who "do not feed the flock" (Ezekiel 34:8-10). His words against negligent elders in Ezekiel's day were unmistakable. "The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost but with force and cruelty you have ruled them" (Ezekiel 34:4).

To each elder today the obligation of a shepherd over God's flock should be clear. And what is necessary for each to discharge his obligation is equally clear. He can do so only in his personal relationship with each member of the flock. Just as a shepherd on the

hillsides of Judea searched for and cradled a single lost lamb against the ravages of a cold night, an elder of the Lord's church must be concerned for each individual member in his care.

That kind of concern is not possible without love, that sacrificial love which demands time. Not the kind of time and concern expected of a hireling but that which distinguishes a son of the owner. To be sure, much of an elder's feeding and watering will be accomplished when he has opened to the flock the good pasture and cool streams of God's word, but some of the lambs require individual attention. There are many in the flock who are spiritually undernourished. Some are crippled by sin, and some are only a hair's breadth from falling headlong over the precipice of Satan's domain. Will the shepherd act? The one who is truly committed to the Chief Shepherd will.

God's shepherd will be ever watchful for any telltale sign that something is wrong in the life of one of the Father's little ones. He will be available to listen, and he will be a source of spiritual guidance for those who are groping. The Lord's church has never had a greater need for godly elders than it does right now. We need men who have prepared themselves to offer spiritual counseling and who are, as Paul said in Romans 15:14, "full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able also to admonish." With wise instruction and loving counsel, many members of the Lord's church today could be brought closer to the Lord. We need shepherds who will sound a loving alarm when one's faith falters, or when a marriage shows signs of weakening. We need elders who are unafraid to go after the one who strays or question the one who does not speak as the oracles of God. We need pastors who are willing to be close to the sheep close enough to know them, to feel their hurts and bind their wounds. Above all, we need shepherds who will see that each lamb stays on the safe path of righteousness and who will continually feed us on God's word, even those of the flock who lack interest. Without such shepherds God's lambs will seek counsel from the ungodly and will be led to stand in the path of sinners and sit in the seat of scoffers! We are the Lord's! We are His valuable sheep bought with the blood of His only begotten Son. Our shepherds must exercise due care in watching over our souls.

