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So now you know. Just follow these simple rules and in just a few weeks you will have created an atmosphere that is charged and virulent. And then in a month or so, you'll begin to feel put upon. Then you'll start to feel sorry for yourself. And in just about a year, you may begin to look around some. And then...and then...

It's just the Devil at work. It's just his plan in action. Don't fall into that trap. It's a trap. Rather than subscribe to the above plan, why not,

1. Talk to one another, find common interests. Build a home instead of just a house (Prov. 24:3).
2. Encourage one another. Learn to listen. Give some room for mistakes. As John Wayne once said, "talk slow, talk low, and don't say too much."
3. Learn patience. Love is patient (1 Cor. 13:4). You have warts, too, you know. Learn to disregard the insignificant, to tolerate the unimportant, to correct only when it's important. Don't make a hobby of criticizing. In other words, don't nag (Prov. 26:20-21).
4. Dress up sometimes. Put on something appealing, something crisp and clean—just to show that you're still courting, that you still care. It's part of living joyfully (Eccl. 9:9). No matter how old you are.

5. Get involved. Involvement is a part of love (Rom. 12:15). And you can learn to care, you can learn to practice empathy. And it begins with loving your mate like you ought (Eph. 5:21-25).

Well, there—I've said it. I hope it will help some. It helped me to just say it. I don't know about you, but I'm going to try and do better, OK, Shug?

--Dee Bowman

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.
1 Timothy 6:6-8

ELDERS: Doug Driver
Johnny Felker
DEACONS: Ralph Brown
Mark Claypool

Service Times

SUNDAY
Bible Study—9:00 am
Worship—9:55 am & 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 7:00 pm

Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

Perry Heights church of Christ
423 Donelson Pike
Nashville, TN 37214
(615) 883-3118

"...let us consider how we may encourage one another"
Heb. 10:24

June 28, 2009

The Power of God's Word

The very first sentence of the Bible makes the following claim: *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."* How did He do it? What unfathomable power does God possess that would enable Him to create this world and all that is in it? The Bible answer is that the power is in His word. God said, *"Let there be light,"* and there was light. God merely spoke everything into existence (cf. John 1:1-3). *"By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible"* (Hebrews 11:3). Not only did God create everything by His word, but it is also His word that sustains the creation. Hebrews 1:3 states that He is *"upholding all things by the word of His power."*

God's word is so powerful that it will accomplish whatever He pleases. In Isaiah 55:11 God says, *"So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."* Just think about that. The word of God can and will accomplish whatever He wants it to accomplish!

Among the many amazing facts about God's powerful word, consider the following:

--It is eternal. Every material thing in existence will one day be destroyed, but God's word will endure eternally. *"All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever"* (1 Peter 1:24-25). Jesus said, *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away"* (Mark 13:31).

--It can give you a new and everlasting life. Christians have *"been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever"* (1 Peter 1:23).

--It cannot be destroyed, and yet it will destroy the heavens and the earth. In 2 Peter 3:5-7, Peter is writing about those who mock the promises of God's word concerning the second coming and the destruction of the world. He says, *"For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."* The

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Five Ways to Ruin A Marriage



Marriage is the oldest institution of God. It is the fabric for society and is among the choicest of all of God's blessings to man. And yet, its joys and blessings have been eroded by the lack of concern for its sanctity and purity. Divorce runs rampant in this age. Extra-marital sex is now considered normal conduct in some (far too many!) circles. Loyalty and dedication are almost diminished today. Real love seems to have taken a holiday and disappeared.

The home has suffered irreparable damage as a result of the desecration of marriage in our culture. The role of the husband is, at best, nebulous and ill-defined. Wives have left the home in droves and are more interested, in many instances, with their careers than being a "keeper at home." Children have become home-rulers, determining how and when time is used, how schedules are concocted, even, in many cases, how parents dress. They are the product of the ill-defined roles of both the husband and the wife.

Youth is the object of today's society. Everything is done, everything is bought, every thing is planned in order that you "might look younger longer." As a result of such thinking, the wisdom of age is disregarded, demeaned, degraded—even scoffed at. One of the cardinal sins of our society is getting old. Resultantly, the wisdom and experience of older people is not being used. Actually, the philosophy of today's populace is that if it's young its good and if it's old it's not.

I was just thinking recently about some of the things that have caused marriages to become unraveled and eventually be destroyed. I admit to being one of the world's poorest marriage counselors. I mostly just listen and read scriptures. If husbands and wives won't listen to that, I can't do much for them. Actually, by the time most couples come to me for help, they have so complicated their relationship that only the Lord could work it out; and they aren't inclined to listen to Him. I want to cite: Five Ways To Ruin A Marriage

1. Go your separate ways. Don't do things together.
2. Criticize. After all, if you can't say it at home, where can you say it? And, don't hold back. It's the place to vent your wrath without restraint.
3. Be sloppy. In your dress, in your speech, in your consideration of one another. Let your hair down. Every day.
4. Be intolerant. Certainly you don't have to tolerate all those personality deficiencies, all those little things you don't like. Be up front about it. Nag.
5. Never sympathize. Be autonomous. Why should you hurt just because he or she does? After all, it's not your problem, not your deal. Do it your way. Don't consult.

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Remember in Prayer:

The Sick:

Lucille Hall, Ethel's Wohlrabe's mother, is improving at home after being hospitalized with congestive heart failure.

Pansy Hensley is improving and has been moved to Room 104 at HQM of Nashville on McCampbell Ave.

Continue to remember others recovering from sickness, surgery and those dealing with cancer or chronic illness including:

Dennis Blanton, Xenna Gooch, Ronald Miller (Larry's father), Carolyn Lowder, Wayne Reeves (Debra Baham's father), Burton Brown (Betty's brother).

News & Notes:

--**Group 1** will meet today in the Library after the morning service.

--If you can help in **preparing the Lord's Supper**, please sign up on the list on the bulletin board in the lobby.

--Next Sunday begins a **new quarter**, and adult classes will rotate. There are sign up sheets in the lobby, so sign up today for a new class.

--**Assignment Sheets & Calendars for July** are available in the lobby.

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word that caused the earth to be destroyed by water in the days of Noah is the same powerful word that will destroy the earth in fire at the end of time!

--It can tell what is inside you. Like a spiritual x-ray, MRI or CAT scan, God's word can see deep inside of us. *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart"* (Hebrews 4:12).

--It can save your soul. It does not matter how filled your life is with filth and wickedness, God's word has the power to save you. *"Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls"* (James 1:21).

There are many things that we as mere men do not have the power to do. We are limited not only by time and space, by our humanity and mortality, but also by the restraints that others sometimes place on us. But friend listen to the apostle Paul; we may be limited and restricted *"even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained"* (2 Timothy 2:9). God's word is powerful and it is not chained! It can change your life! It can save your soul! It can enable you to live forever! Receive it with meekness.

--Steve Klein