



Learning to Love the Unlovely

Will Rogers is reputed to have said, "I've never met a man I didn't like." Most of us cannot say that. And yet, as a Christian, many of us can honestly say, "I never met a man I didn't want to like." On the other

hand, one of the most common sins I find among us is "grudge holding".

I have seen this moral disease devour Christians. Hatred spreads throughout their very being. It causes one to lose the joy of his salvation. His peace with God slowly ebbs away. Soon the disease has spread into his "witnessing" and "stewardship". He begins to dry up and be but a semblance of what he used to be Spiritually. We cannot help but pity those who have been smitten by this spiritual malady.

An old High School friend wrote me sometime ago. She had asked me how to love the cruel. "How can I adjust my thinking to Christ-like thinking toward those who have sinned against me? How do you distinguish between the sin and the sinner?" These are pertinent questions. I do not know of anyone who has not grappled with them. The Christian must seek solutions for such questions.

FIRST – Visualize Christ dying on the cross because He loved this person in spite of his sin. He did do that, you know! Christ loved that person enough to die for him. He suffered the agony of the soul at Gethsemane for him. He accepted the mocking of Pilate's hall for him. He suffered the torture of Calvary for him. Can you not love him for whom Christ, your Savior gave His all? You love a pesky dog because your little boy loves him. Should you not love a man for whom God's Son died? How can you not love him whom Christ loves?

SECOND – Consider the potential as well as the present. The following illustrated concept may help. A man walked briskly into a sculptor's studio and saw an unfinished statue of Abraham Lincoln. It still looked a little unlike Lincoln, so he smashed it to smithereens. Another man walked aimlessly into the studio of a famous painter. An uncompleted picture of a beautiful woman was on the easel. He looked closely at the picture and saw it did not yet do justice to the one who had posed. He took the picture off the easel and lit a match to the canvas and watched it burn. In the first instance, a majestic statue may have been destroyed. In the second, a masterpiece of art may have been denied to the world. Why? Because they were not valued in their unfinished state. The people never gave enough time for the creators to complete their work. The kids today are wearing buttons that say, "Please be patient with me, God's not through with me yet." I like that concept. See the man you do not like as an unfinished creation of God.

THIRD – Look for the good points in the person you dislike and imagine how wonderful he could be if he surrendered his life to Christ. Imagine his abilities turned to Christ's work. Think what a powerhouse he could be if converted to the cause of Christ.

FOURTH – Pray for him earnestly. It is hard to hate one whom you are bringing before God's throne in prayer. Pray for his reformation. Pray that the "burr that is under his saddle" may somehow be removed. Let that prayer activate you into helping him locate that burr. Pray that you may see the reflection of God's image in him so that you may more easily love him. God's image in him is blurred by sin. Pray that the image might be restored.

FIFTH – Try to find why the person is as he is by inquiring into his background. Ugly experiences make ugly people. Was he mocked as a child? Did his parents reject him? Was he living in the shadow of an older sibling? What warped the personality? Then you may find yourself his sympathetic friend rather than his bitter enemy.

SIXTH – See yourself in this person. Have there not been times that you too were unfair and cruel? Are you not someone else's villain at times? Physical cruelty is sometimes not as cruel as mental cruelty. Pouting, revenge, coldness, unforgiveness, are sins more common and cruel than physical abuse. Are you always a loving person? Are you always the one who is ready to forgive? Are you perfect?

SEVENTH – Look at the person through the eyes of eternity. Do you wish him to be lost? Move toward him as you would toward one who unknowingly is about to plunge into Hell. When you have that interest, your compassion may be just what will transform him.

EIGHTH – Remember that he is not sin. He may be a murderer but he is not "murder". He may be an adulterer, but he is not "adultery". Love the sinner but hate the sin. Anger at sin is not wrong. Jesus became angry at the hardness of men's hearts when they complained that He healed on the Sabbath. He zealously drove men from the temple when they perverted it with graft. But He died for those men.

I do not believe I ever met a person in whom there was not some good, enough at least to respond to genuine concern. People often fight back at a cruel world they don't understand or that doesn't understand them. If they can ever comprehend the love of Christ for them personally, and if they can experience Christ's love through His Body, the Church, they can lose their frustrations and be transformed men.

Love produces love. God's kind of love is not loving the lovable but loving those who oppose themselves. This kind of love is really not produced merely by such arguments as I have given. It must be prayed for from the source of all love.

God is love.



Time for Prayer!

Father God,

May we again be known as "People of the Book," and may it be Your Bible, not Rick Warren's book, "*THE PURPOSE DRIVEN CHURCH*".

May the Lord's model prayer be our model, and may it not be the Protestant rosary, "*THE PRAYER OF JABEZ*"

May we compass land and sea to make proselytes but may they not be a two-fold child of Hell more than we ourselves.

May Your laborers in Your vineyard not be schooled by "*THE VINEYARD*"

May we continue in the apostle's doctrine and not the doctrines of men.

May we seek rich opportunities and not opportunities to be rich.

May we realize that men are saved by the foolishness of preaching and not by the preaching of foolishness.

May we have old-time preaching and not NEW AGE preaching.

May we be followers of the old paths and not trailblazers of some supposed new truth.

May our preaching be affected by the Rock of Ages and not the age of rocks.

May we be restorers of the Church of the New Testament and not customizers of it.

May we have Scriptural elders, deacons, and evangelists and not young pastors, team leaders, and church boards.

May we sing spiritual songs that edify not vain, repetitious, incomprehensible, chaotic noise that deafens our ears.

May we have modest and appropriate dress and not casual, immodest, sloppy, apparel that demonstrates a worldly mindset.

May we not run so far from Rome, that we pass by Jerusalem.

May we continue to come together on the First Day of the Week to break bread and not to be entertained by music, skits, and sermon-ettes.

May our people be participants in corporate worship and not spectators of a staged show.

May we attract people with the consistency of a holy life and not the promise of food, fun, and foolishness.

May we get people to stop coming to church for their so-called "felt needs" but may their real needs be felt.

May our people never trade truth for their kind of music, a fun loving youth program, or the convenience or beauty of the meeting place.

May those who attend our assembly realize it is not about them but that it is all about YOU.

May each of your preachers desire to hear, "Well done" from You at judgment than to be well spoken of by all men in this life.

We ask this of you, Father, in the Name of Your blessed Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Dear Brother Faull,



You made a very astute statement that there is just one difference between you and a Roman Catholic.

What is that?

Answer:

If one can prove that Peter had primacy over the other apostles, and that he was ever a Pope with universal domination over all Christendom, and that supremacy and headship passed by God's authority to the Pope of Rome, then I will become a Catholic.

If the Pope holds such an office today as God's unique spokesman instead of a usurper of God's authority, then he would have the right to decide everything, which we Christians disagree with the Catholic Church.

I maintain that Peter never had supremacy over the apostles, or that he was ever a Pope, nor that he had any successors to his authority, especially at Rome.

I believe that the Bible is an all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, not the Papal imposter.

This is the difference between a Catholic and a Christian.



President Obama Supports the Gay Lifestyle!!

He says that those of us who oppose it are good and decent people but we hold fast to worn arguments and old attitudes. He wants Congress to pass Hate Crime bills and repeal the Defense of Marriage Act!!

He told a crowd of homosexuals, *"I expect that by the time this administration is over, I think you guys will have a pretty good feeling about the Obama administration."*

President Obama is correct about people using worn arguments and old attitudes. They are old and worn and have been used for at least 4,000 years! God Himself delivered a pretty strong declaration on the abomination to Sodom and Gomorrah on the subject.

God also gave the definition of marriage. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife, they two shall be one flesh".

Jesus said He made them male and female in the beginning. Those are indeed old and worn arguments.

But along comes a president who speaks of separation of Church and State as if that expression was in the Constitution.

He then proceeds to prescribe a new morality to a 2,000-year old Church who has always taught, like all religions, against this perversion.

Somehow some pseudo-intellectuals wormed themselves into the leadership of some apostate denominations that believe nothing and fall for anything and started ordaining perverts into the ministry.

Today, American pulpits are filled with homosexuals, lesbians, pedophiles, bisexuals and even cross-dressers and gender changers. They declare their sin like Sodom and do not blush because they have no shame.

President Obama calls good evil and evil good.

He believes that morality demands universal Health Care but believes it is immoral to call what God calls an abomination, sin. Yet he professes to be a Christian. I've seen no proof of that by his fruits.

This is one preacher who would like to make a deal with the President. Mr. President, you keep your ideas of morality out of our politics and stop trying to recruit preachers to push your socialistic agenda and I will keep your socialistic agenda out of my sermons. You stay on

your turf and I'll stay on mine. When you start trying to push your agenda as if it were moral based, then I will start to push my Political agenda against your socialistic politics.

I do not need a president who is pro-death for the unborn (and even live-borns when the abortion failed) and pro-perversion to lecture me on any issue of morality. These two particular sins are chief causes that God brings a nation to judgment!!

The audacity of saying that Universal Health Care is a moral must is beyond the pale of common sense. Universal Health Care is a new socialist agenda and to infer all past civilizations that have not paid for everyone's medical cost have been immoral, is ludicrous and arrogant. Mr. Obama is not a new Messiah giving us the mind of God.

Stick to politics, Mr. President, and leave your mistaken ideas of morality out of the equation. Thousands of years of history and all religion run counter to your views of morality on these subjects.

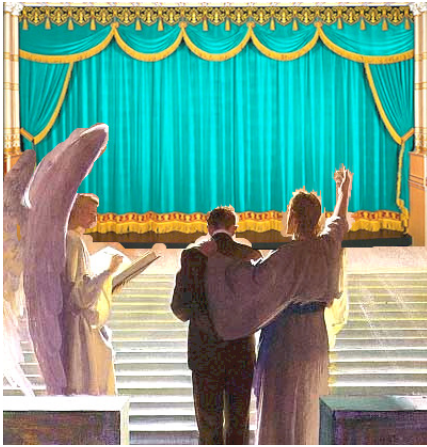
When I see you change water into wine, walk on water, and raise the dead, I'll begin to listen to your idea on what's moral.

Until then, try sticking to the teachings of nature and nature's God!

Please Contact Us If You Desire Any of the Following:

- **Summit Theological Seminary Catalog** (Free)
- **Voices of Victory (tape, CD and article) Catalog** (Free)
- **Information on Annuities and Retirement**
- **Sermon Subscription:** Audio Tapes at \$12.50 or CD's at \$16.00 a month. (These are mailed out every 2 months to save on postage, making it \$25.00 every 2 months for Tapes and \$32.00 for CD's.)
- **One Year's Subscription of the Gospel Unashamed**
\$5.00 a year, which is mailed out quarterly. You will receive 4 issues a year. Or, GOSPEL UNASHAMED on the Internet for **FREE**. (Please send your name, contact number and email address.)

SUMMIT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
2766 Airport Road - Peru, IN 46970
(765) 472-4111
summit1@myvine.com



A Dream Well Taken!

One night a man dreamed that he had died and was brought to the judgment bar of God. Perhaps it was because he had heard a

sermon that night from the Book of Jude, which said that the Lord was coming to convict men of unrighteousness. The preacher pointed out that to convict someone it was necessary for evidence to be brought against the one being judged. He pointed out that God would have no problem of supplying the evidence to convict the guilty.

In the dream, he was standing before all the angels of Heaven. He felt pretty comfortable in the dream. There were no skeletons in his closet. There were no immoral or filthy DVD's, pornography magazines, hidden liquor bottles, crack pipes, or any such things. He had never owned such trash nor had he even tried booze or drugs.

He had known no woman but his wife nor had he embezzled or stolen. In the dream he thought almost like the Pharisee in the temple that had boasted of what he had done and what he had not done. However, on the table were boxes, which looked as if much evidence had been brought for exhibits against him. He wondered what was in those boxes.

The prosecuting angel reached into one of the boxes.

First, he presented many moth-eaten clothes from the man's closets. He had not worn them but a few times. Instead of giving them to the naked, he had stored them and they were moth-eaten. They were marked, "Exhibit A".

Next were pictures of old cars and machinery sitting around his house. They were filled with rust. He remembered how he refused to sell them or give them to poor people who did not possess an automobile. He knew others could have been hauled off for cash that could have helped the poor. These were marked, "Exhibit B".

"Exhibit C" was bankbooks, CD's, old faded bank notes, and a myriad of annual statements of Mutual Funds and Annuities. Included in Exhibit C were old tainted silver and gold coins and some mildewed dollars that he had hoarded. Worse yet, were beautiful shining silver eagle dollars in a piece of sewer pipe that he had hid in the ground.

There were hundreds of dollars of silver. He thought no one would know where they were hidden. He felt like the unprofitable servant who had hid his money in the ground because he was afraid. What was it the Lord had called such a man? "A wicked and lazy servant". He shuddered.

He had been commanded by Jesus not to lay up on earth where moth and rust corrupt and thieves break in and steal. He remembered that James had said such things would be a witness and eat his flesh as if it were fire.

Then, "Exhibit D" was displayed for all to see. It was a bottle of tears. "Do you know what these tears are?" asked the angel. "No" the dreamer answered in a trembling voice. "These are the tears of those that worked for you and gathered your harvest that you underpaid and defrauded. When they cried unto God, He heard their cries and caught their tears as He said He would do." (**James 5:4, Deuteronomy 24:15, Malachi 3:5**)

The dreamer who had felt so righteous and claimed he had never stolen, shook with grief and shame. And then a curtain was drawn back and a movie of his life came on a large screen. The details of the movies were so clear that no producer could ever produce such quality of a movie. It was actual footage of his real life. It showed the dreamer of his living in pleasure on the earth. He had been wasteful and destructive. He had defended the abortionist who had killed the innocent. **James 5:5-6**

He saw his cars, boats, and campers, even his house and fields were more than was necessary for a man to be content. The dreamer wept and howled for he was in great misery at seeing his selfishness and the vanity of all these things.

Then the screen of his life was changed to his disposition. It showed his pride, arrogance, and lack of compassion for the poor. His grudges and attempts at revenge out of bitterness and unforgiveness was easy to see. He cried out in agony at his sinfulness. It was not just fear of punishment but a genuine sorrow for his evilness. He had never realized what a wretched sinner that he was.

Suddenly, a hand was laid on him. A light came on. His wife was shaking him asking him why he was shaking and screaming in his sleep. She assured him that he was only dreaming. The dreamer sat up and looked at the beautiful room. His closet was standing open and he could see all of his clothes. He got out and walked through the house beholding the antiques, the costly furniture, the expensive gadgets, and the useless figurines and old paintings. He knew what kinds of cars were housed in his garage.

He fell on the sofa and covered his eyes and wept. He repented. He resolved that he would view his possessions differently. It would definitely make a difference in his life and his family. However, that decision was already beginning to make him very happy. He knew the Beatitude was true, "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted."



Have Churches Gone Crazy?

Recently I read of a church that decided to show the Muslims their willingness to learn from “their Muslim brothers”. So they joined them in observance of Ramadan in a fast for peace, fellowship, and neighborliness. Their reasoning was “Since the Bible teaches us the importance of fasting and being generous to the poor, we can participate as Christians in fidelity to the Bible, as our Muslim friends do, in fidelity to the Koran.”

Oh, how about this one!! A Theology professor at a Lutheran University, Dr. Herbert Hoover, wants the churches to be more Muslim friendly. He wants us to stop praying in Jesus’ name, stop quoting Paul as an authority, confine ourselves only to the Gospels, avoid calling Jesus the Son of God in our preaching and witnessing, and stop using any kind of music in our services. He wants Muslims to feel comfortable in our “context”.

Our church camps, including our local ones, are having “Labyrinth’s” installed. This is a ‘supposed’ prayer journey used by pagans, Catholics, New Agers, and Universalists. It is an old occult practice, but finding its way into the Church. One clergy person said, “God is blessing the use of our labyrinth; many are being drawn closer to Jesus, experiencing healing and gaining Spiritual clarity as they pray on its path!”

It is simply a mingling of faiths. It teaches that there is no wrong way but that all paths lead to truth. It will result in an inclusion of all faiths or a universal faith and so is the basis for a great world church.

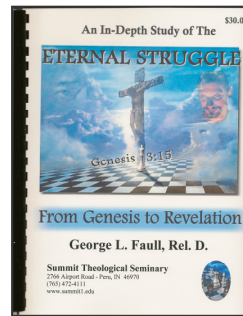
Another church has Santa Claus serve communion to worshippers!!!

At an alleged Christian woman’s meeting in the north, they held a celebration to the Goddess Sophia in which their communion element was the milk from women’s breasts.

Believe me, the time has come to realize that there is an organized effort to destroy the Church, the Bible and the Christian faith. Many of these things now branded “Christian” are simply copied from ancient paganism, the occult, or New Age philosophy and Universalism. It is an attempt to have a world religion that combines all religions into one universal faith.

Do not be deceived. The Restoration of simple New Testament Christianity is the only antidote to this Spiritual sickness.

Dear Brother Faull,



At the bottom of page 146 in the Eternal Struggle book, it says, “The priest could not drink wine while offering sacrifices; and our Lord refused to drink the wine he was offered on the cross, when He was offering Himself up as the supreme sacrifice.”

One of our members read **John 19:29-30**, “29 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. 30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’”

We looked at some other Scriptures from other Gospel books, but we could not settle the matter.

Do you have an explanation for the discrepancy?

We’d appreciate your comments.

ANSWER:

In **Leviticus 10:7** the priest was told not to drink wine (*Yagin*) nor strong drink (*shekar*, which is often very sweet and is where we get our word sugar) when they served as a priest.

Psalms 69:21 prophesied they would give gall (Heb. *Rosh*) and vinegar (*chemets*) to Jesus to drink. This Scripture was fulfilled in the following verses.

(The above words are Hebrew words, while the following words are Greek words.)

Mark 15:23 says they offered Jesus wine (*oinos*) mingled with myrrh (*smurnizo*). **He refused it.**

Matthew 27:34 says vinegar (*oxos*) mingled with gall (*chole*) was offered and **He did not drink it.**

Matthew 27:48 Offered vinegar (*oxos*) on a sponge. **He drank it.**

Mark 15:36 Vinegar (*oxos*) on a sponge. **He drank it.**

Luke 23:26 Vinegar (*oxos*) was offered by soldiers, but **does not indicate if He did or did not drink it. He later said, “I thirst”.**

John 19:29 Vinegar (*oxos*) offered and **He received it.**

Notice He did not drink;

➤ **Wine** (*onois*) He did not want intoxicating drink.

- ↳ **Myrrh** (*smurnizo*) A narcotic. He did not want to be stupefied.
- ↳ **Gall** (*chole*) Bitter and some times a poison. He did not want to die of poisoning.

He did receive vinegar (*oxos*).

The Nazarite vow required that a Nazarite was not to drink wine or strong drink **or the vinegar of wine or strong drink, nor liquor of grapes nor eat moist grapes or dried ones. Numbers. 6:3**

However, Jesus was not a Nazarite, He was a Nazarene (from Nazareth). This verse shows clearly that wine and vinegar of wine, strong drink and the vinegar of strong drink, are not the same things.

The priests were not Nazarites and not forbidden as the Nazarites were to drink vinegar of wine or vinegar of strong drink. They were not forbidden all grape products as the Nazarites were.

Therefore, Jesus was not forbidden to drink from the sponge the ordinary everyday drink of the Roman soldier, which was the watered down vinegar.

It is not likely soldiers on duty were given to drink intoxicating drinks, but they may have drunk the vinegar of fruits, which as we have shown, was sometimes very sweet.

The history of vinegar says, "All that is necessary to make vinegar is to let wine-fresh uncooked cider or other fresh juices, stay uncorked. You will get a batch of vinegar in a week or so."

Another source says, "*Romans made a vinegar called 'balsamic vinegar' and they made it from boiled grape juice. Balsamic vinegar is not wine vinegar and it has been made for thousands of years.*"

There is no way of knowing which Jesus was given.

So Jesus, our High Priest, did not violate the Levitical Law of the priest that served in the tabernacle, by partaking of the vinegar they offered Him on the sponge from someone who ran to quench His thirst.

It appears then, that He was offered wine and myrrh in the beginning and later was offered vinegar and gall. He refused both of these.

Later He drank of that which was not forbidden of a priest.

Besides, less than 24 hours before this He had drank of the fruit of the vine in the upper room. It was not grapes that were forbidden and so He was free to quench His thirst and still be our Savior.



Is Baptism Necessary?

Is it necessary to WHAT?

Many churches believe it is necessary to be a member of their church but not to be saved. In other words, you have to do more to get into their church than you do Heaven.

Some believe it is necessary for parents to baptize their babies for the baby to go to Heaven. Pity the poor child that has unloving, careless, or ignorant parents.

Some believe it is necessary for parents to baptize their babies to keep the child from going into limbo, what ever that is.

Many churches believe it is necessary but not essential. What? Say that again! I thought those two words were synonymous. Evidently not but when I looked up the word "essential", the first definition was "absolutely necessary". When I look up "necessary," the first definition was "being essential". I guess words do not mean anything if it is a religious discussion.

Some people say it is necessary to be baptized to obey Jesus but not to be saved. Does that mean we do not have to obey Jesus to be saved?

Some say it is not all that important. Yet Jesus walked over 60 miles to be baptized of John to fulfill all righteousness, and He was not even a sinner.

Those who obeyed John's baptism were said to have justified God and those who did not were said to have rejected the counsel of God against themselves. **Luke 7:29-30**

As for me personally, I believe what Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." This agrees with what He also said, "Except a man be born of the water and the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

Is Baptism Necessary?

I guess it all depends if you believe your church or what Jesus says. I'd trust Jesus if I were you.

He is the one with the authority. He is Lord and He says "The words that I speak unto you will judge you in the last day."

In that day, it will not be your preacher sitting on the throne.



Dear Brother Faull,

I confronted my preacher about his plagiarism. He did not stop though he said he would.

The Elders rebuked him, but after they called a Bible College who said plagiarism is an accepted practice today, they would not do anything about it.

What is your opinion?

ANSWER:

A Bible College cannot give us permission to steal.

The sermon that I preached this morning had two illustrations that I had read in a couple of sermons. I never gave credit because I did not know who told the correct version of the story.

If I quote, I usually say, "Someone has said...". I do not always give the author because it is probably not original to him.

President Reagan used an Abraham Lincoln story that Lincoln did not give. He credited Lincoln and everyone said he was an uneducated bumpkin.

Kennedy's famous, "Ask not what your country can do for you, etc.," was not his but someone else's.

There is an old saying, "He who never reads will never be read and he who never quotes will never be quoted." That is true, but with the Internet, one should not attribute things to someone because it is probably not theirs.

Better to say like Paul, "One of your own prophets has said"...and then he quoted it. I say, "Someone has said..." and so that shows the thought was not original with me.

A famous preacher among us, with permission preached another well-known preacher's sermons. One time he was preaching and he said something and said, "Wait a minute....that's not what I believe." Of course everyone laughed.

One good brother says using another man's sermons allowed him to preach another five years. Once he preached somewhere and then the author of the sermon came and preached the same sermon. They accused the author of doing almost as good as the copycat.

That's the problem. One of these days your preacher will be caught by others and then his influence will be hurt.

Someone has said, "If you quote it word for word, that is plagiarism. If you take several men's sermons and put them together, it is research".

Most preachers do research and as long as he does not steal it and pass it off as his own, I don't get bent out of shape.

If it's from a sermon book, it was meant for others to preach. Obviously you could not call that stealing. It is still wrong to plagiarize and pass off material as if it was your own original idea.

However, remember that we often forget where we learned something. But if it is "word for word", "scripture for scripture", "illustration for illustration", and not studied out, it is deceptive.

The college is wrong.

I could name a half a dozen preachers who were fired for doing exactly what you say. Some were men who preach in very large churches. Sometimes the other staff members will warn the man if they catch the preacher doing it again that they are going to expose his practice.

Now, I tell my students, "Use my material, but don't give me credit".

I have several enemies and they will reject truth just because the idea came from me. I tell them, "If it's worth using, then use it." I probably heard it somewhere along the line and do not even recall it. Who remembers where they heard a joke or an illustration?

Imitation is the greatest form of flattery.

I have a sermon called "Joe Brown's Funeral". Dozens have preached it. I am not offended but flattered and I have given wholesale permission for anyone to use it. I do not want my name mentioned every time because then people would begin calling their preacher "Faull-ites". I do not want that. So there are two sides to the story.

Many take Baptist preacher's sermons and just add water. This is especially dangerous because false doctrine can creep into the sermon and if he is not studying it for himself, then he might not be smart enough to catch the error.

In my opinion, to steal another's sermon without permission and to tell the illustrations as if they happened to you or lead people to think you originated the main idea, is stealing.

I would discourage it.



THE EMPTY PEW

Pardon my empty pew, but....

There are things I want to do today rather than have communion with Jesus who said, "Do this in remembrance of Me."

There are people I prefer to be with than experience His presence as He promised. "Where two or three are gathered in My name there am I in the midst of them."

There are other gatherings more important to me that prompt me to disobey the command, "Do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some do."

There are other events that just seem more important than the events that will take place there today. I do not figure I am going to miss much.

I just do not think that my being there is more important than the sleep that I missed due to the important engagement that I had last night which kept me out so late.

I just feel the enjoyment of the sports event that I am attending today has much more eternal consequences than listening to the Word, communing with the Lord, and edifying the other Saints.

I think my family reunion is much more important. A person ought to love mother and father, brother and sisters, a mate and one's children, and one's own well being more than being a fanatic about being His disciple.
Luke 14:26

I cannot see that missing the assembly is going to make people question my commitment, ruin my influence, cause someone else to stumble, or why it should discourage other believers. Am I my brother's keeper?

There is only so much time in a week. I have places to go, people to see, things to do, events to attend, and a living to make. I think that I should seek them first before I seek the Kingdom of God or His righteousness.

I think it's nice that you took hours preparing a Sunday School lesson or a sermon or worked on a special number, but I just do not have time to be there and listen to it.

I was there this morning. After all, Jesus did not demand us to be there twice on the Lord's Day. I fulfilled my obligation, so the rest of the Lord's Day is mine to do with what I want.

I feel closer to God in my bass boat on a nice calm lake, walking in a beautiful woods hunting, or relaxing out on the golf course than sitting in church. I think that worship is all about me and my feelings about God.

So when you see my pew empty, do not think I am unfaithful, just realize that I have a different set of priorities than perhaps you do.

I am glad that you are there to keep the doors open though, so that when I do not have somewhere else to go, someone else to see, or something else to do, I can stop by and worship the Lord with you!



George L. Faul's Speaking Engagements For 2010

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Feb 9 | Palmyra Church of Christ
71184 Zolman Rd
Fredericktown, OH
S.I.P.S. Meeting |
| Mar 28-31 | Fairview Church of Christ
4200 US 50 W – Hillsboro, OH |
| Apr 11-14 | Victory Christian Church
660 Stanford Rd - Lancaster, KY |
| May 15-16 | Seaman Church of Christ
176 Broadway - Seaman, OH |
| May 18-19 | Spring Clinic
Hillsboro, OH |
| May 20-22 | Preaching Camp
Hillsboro, OH |
| July 21-23 | Cumberland Valley Meeting
Corbin, KY |
| July 26-29 | Hillsboro Family Camp
Hillsboro, OH |
| Sept 19-22 | First Christian Church
113 Park St. - Adairsville, GA |
| Sept 26-27 | First Church of Christ
2584 S. Busn 31 - Peru, IN |