

PRETENTIOUS

Ed Smithson

Dictionary definition of the word: "1. Characterized by assumption of dignity or importance, especially when exaggerated or undeserved: a pretentious, self-important waiter. 2. Making an exaggerated outward show; ostentatious; full of pretense or pretension; having no factual basis; false."

Jesus put it another way, "Take heed that ye do not your righteousness before men, to be seen of them: else ye have no reward with your Father who is in heaven." (Matt. 6:1) The Pharisees were famous for making a display of their religiosity. They wanted everyone to know just how religious they were, so they would "practice" their ceremonies, especially almsgiving in a way that others would see and glorify them.

That is one of the reasons I have a problem with praying in restaurants during meals. To me it is pretentious. Do we really believe that a prayer cannot be heard if we do so silently? How do we feel about disturbing the meal of others because we are bowing our heads and talking loudly? Would we go out on street corners and do the same?

Another reason I have a bit of a problem is that with many it is hypocrisy. My first experience with that activity was many years ago. At Sunday dinner in a public restaurant, one who seldom attended worship insisted on a prayer. I thought it was hypocrisy, still do, because I knew he prayed very little, so why do it in a crowd? Another problem is that with some you never know when they will pray sometimes and not on others.

Jesus made another statement that many think is the opposite of this. He said, "Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven". (Matt. 5:16) Here the purpose is entirely different. He is not talking about doing these thing "to be seen" but by doing good works people would see and glorify God because of it. It is not the same.

When we do good works, we should not hide them; but we should not do them so that others will glorify US because of it. When we make a display of our religion it is often seen as pretentious and that is not what God wants from us.

Our religion is not to be hidden but also should not be on display for others to see. Good works are perhaps less today than in many a year so we need to be doing them. One of the ways folks are convinced of the gospel is that its adherents do good works.

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In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.
(Titus 1:2).

We read this passage and say, "Well, of course God does not lie." But when we read a bit more carefully we see that Paul has said that He cannot lie.

The character of God, being infinitely good, precludes Him from ever lying. This is a tremendous encouragement particularly as the apostle brings to our minds God's promise of eternal life. The passage gives us insight into a time before time when the mind of God made His promise. The promise of eternal life comes to us today through the preaching of His Word, the saving gospel of Christ.

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church of Christ at Alisal

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In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. (John 1:1-5)

MEETING UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

Listen on AM Radio 880 KKMC in Salinas, California
2nd Friday of each month @ 1:30 pm

Bible Classes..... 9:00 A.M.
Assemblies..... 10:00 A.M. & 5:00 P.M.

<http://churchofchristalisal.com/>

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class, Singing, & Prayer..... 6:30 P.M.

Welcome

Good Morning Brothers and Sisters!



This Week's Sermon's

A.M. - When Good Men Do Nothing!

P.M. - When Religion Has
No Authority - #3



Clematis

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"AND BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER"

Raymond Elliott

The apostle Paul, after he had given directives to "put off" the "old man", that is their former way of life; and, to "put on the new man which was created according to God in true righteousness and holiness", he continues to list certain sins that should not be descriptive of the life of a Christian (Ephesians 4:22-31). Paul concludes this section of his letter to the Ephesian brethren by giving them this positive exhortation: "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).

It is the word, "kind", that I want to emphasize presently. It is an adjective that describes the heart and action of a devoted Christian. Paul stated that "love is kind" (1 Corinthians 13:4). In 2 Peter 1:7, we are admonished, in our Christian growth, to add faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness and "to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love." In Galatians 5:22, we read that "kindness" is one of the "fruit of the Spirit". The apostle Paul, in Colossians 3:12, instructs us to "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience."

Albert Barnes, in his 'Barnes Notes on the Bible', commented on the word "kind" as found in Ephesians 4:32: "There is no religion in a sour, misanthropic temper; none in rudeness, stiffness, and repulsiveness; none in violating the rules of good breeding. There is a hollow-hearted politeness, indeed, which the Christian is not to aim at or copy. His politeness is to be based on "kindness;" His courtesy is to be the result of love, good-will, and a desire of the happiness of all others; and this will prompt to the kind of conduct that will render his conversation. with others agreeable and profitable".

One of the most important reasons as to why we should be kind to one another is found in the word itself. Please remove the letter (d) from "kind" and what do you have? You have 'kin'. One definition of the word 'kin' is, "a group of persons of common ancestry". Jesus said, "But you, do not be called Rabbi"; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren" (Matthew 23:8). He saying that we are not to elevate one brother above another; rather, we are all brothers and sisters on the same level. But how did we all become 'kinsfolk', spiritually speaking?



The answer is found in Galatians 3:26-29: "(F)or in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise."



*Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife:
and they shall be one flesh*

(Genesis 2:24).

Our world is wrapped in confusion about marriage and the family. In the second chapter of the Bible we find the foundation for all that follows concerning the home.

A man is joined to his wife and they become one. These words find echoes in Matthew 19:5, Mark 10:6-9, and Ephesians 5:31.

Modern culture seems fatigued with these eternal truths, but true they remain. Those who follow His will and build their homes on His foundation are blessed and will ultimately enjoy the glory of paradise.

Singing and prayer this coming Wednesday evening! Please be prepared!

Announcements

1. Brother Jordan will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
~ On the Prayer list

Beverly Pereira - for better health.

Rosemarie Johnson - for better health.

Charles Barry - for strength to carry on his good work.

Norma Decker - relief from her flu and COPD.

Michael White - for his education and helping others as he serves his time.

The church at Alisal - for growth, sowing the Word, and results from our Maya theater Advertisement.

Have a blessed week!