

Family & Friends..... January 9th, 2019

We are all happy and excited for Jeff Grisham and his family for his graduation from Harding University in Searcy. Jeff graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Bible and Ministry, with honors. We had a reception in his honor Sunday evening; the turn out was fantastic, and you could see the love everyone has for Jeff and his family. Thank you Jeff for your hard work, and using your gift to serve our Lord with this congregation. We love you! Thanks to his wife Staci who kept everything going at home while he achieved this goal. Congratulate Jeff on his accomplishments as he continues his ministry in our congregation.

We welcome two new members Elisa Hester and Kory Goodwin. They placed membership with our congregation Sunday evening! They come to us from Searcy, and are anticipating a June wedding. Make them welcome!

We wish everyone a Happy New Year! We spent our New Years with the two Cardinals who slept on the front porch while we slept in our chairs in the house. The good news is we woke up in time to see the New Year in! We thank you Lord for all the blessings you give us daily. To God Be The Glory!

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:16,17,18

We were blessed with our visitors on this beautiful winter day: Ruth Franklin (Smithville, MO), Tyrel, Jubal, Arianna, and Melinda Johnson (Searcy), Debra Lewis (Rogers), Susan Cluck (Gravette), Brenda, Reese, & Caliopy Taylor and Craig Miller (Bentonville), Carolyn Byers, Samantha, Karrie, & Chris O'Neal, Leonard Haley, Abigale Butcher, and John Shepard (Bella Vista), and Lilah-Kate, and Schon Booher.

Those on our prayer list: Mary Louise is still at Highlands Health, and is anxious to get home. Mary Kerley is home. We pray for both Mary's a speedy recovery; we love them very much. J. B & Patsy Tarr have had the stomach flu, but are feeling better. Sally Geren also has the stomach bug. Her husband, Gene, had a series of heart tests looking toward a valve repair or replacement. Nancy Cash is ill at home with respiratory issues. We need prayers for Michael & Jill Barnett. Susan Duffy has been having a really hard time with her chemo. She needs lots of prayers. Harold Akridge is having a difficult time and needs our prayers. Continue to remember: Doug Klingman, Glenda Wright, Patterson Morgan family, Judy Hackworth, Mike Lacey, Marvin Thomson, Becky Pittman, Sharon Schell, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president. Heartfelt sympathies go to Mary Kerley in the loss of her husband Marlin. We all loved him very much, and he will be greatly missed! Keep Mary, Ed, David, family, and friends in your prayers.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: Pancake mix and syrup, soups, cleaning supplies, disinfectant wipes, and toilet bowl cleaner.

Obedience to God is the key to a life of blessing.

Love you, see you next Lord's Day. *Karen*

**Bella Vista
Church of Christ**

Highway 71 and County Road 40
989 NW McNelly Road
Bentonville, AR 72712

Return Service Requested

ELDERS

Tracy Bowman.....899-3089
Don Butcher.....855-1636
Dallas Dobbs271-8609

DEACONS

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Woody Barker Bryan Busbee Don Harless Joe Hott
Robert Horton Perry Johnson Harold Phillips Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Mitchell Whittington

MINISTERS

Randall Caselman.....855-4447
Jeff Grisham.....531-9135
Selwin Nel.....Cape Town, South Africa
Javier & Helmer Rosero.....Bogota, Colombia

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LORD'S DAY		9:30 AM
Bible Class	Worship	10:30 AM
Evening Worship		6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY		9:45 AM
Ladies' Class	Bible Class	6:45 PM

Phone: 479/273-2434

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Bella Vista

MEMBER NEWS

**A New Year
A New Way Of Thinking
Like Jesus**

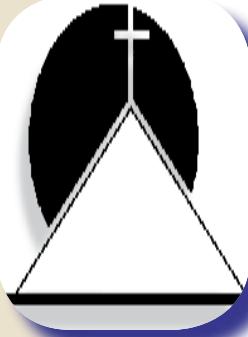
A few weeks ago, Martha Moser handed me an article titled "An Entirely Different Approach." As I read it, I thought wow, what a great way to start the New Year, cultivating a different attitude toward people, all people.

It's interesting to note that God saw fit to remind Peter of this new way of thinking about others as he approached the house of Cornelius. In fact Peter would never have gone there had not the Lord intervened three times in his wrong thinking. Three times God had to remind him that others, all others, had worth and that none should be judged impure or unclean. "God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean" (Acts 10.28). The MSG reads "Common or unclean," the CEV says "Unclean or unfit." Here it is, none, not one of God's creation is beyond His grace, beyond His blessings. Titus 2.11 tells us "His grace has appeared to all men." "He sends both rain and sunshine on the righteous and unrighteous" (Matthew 5.45).

In light of these Scriptures, why do we insist that we have a right to judge others? Then proceed with a behavior based upon our own judgments. Listen folk, we are repeatedly told not to do this? Why do we insist on labeling or pigeonholing anyone as common, unclean, or unfit?

Interesting isn't it that such judging and labeling seems to relieve us of our God-given responsibility toward those we judge. We say, oh he's a drunk, she's a prostitute, they're Catholic, Muslim, Buddhist, she's been married twice, He's a liberal, He's a bum. She is a floozy. They're just old. They're just kids. She's too young to understand. They made their bed; deserve what they getting. We've all guilty, all made such judgmental statements, right? Indeed, we will never rise above the labels we place on others, just or unjust.

True, there are occasions where we must make righteous discernment and judgments concerning the behavior of others. But, we must be careful that we do not intrude into God's territory.



Revenge, withholding our grace, goodness, and mercy based upon our personal judgment is condemned. *“Do not take revenge, but leave room for God’s wrath” (Romans 12.19).*

Think about this, labeling people stops our compassion dead in the water. According to Jesus, making such unrighteous judgments may serve to make us Levites and Priests, but does not make us pleasing to God.

If you judge people, you have no time to love them.

Consider the narrative of the Good Samaritan. He did not judge or label the man in need, so he proceeded with goodness mercy and grace. Where are we in this narrative? Who am I, who are you? Are we withholding mercy or even the good news of the Gospel from another because we have judged, pigeonholed, labeled, instead of being Mercy People, God’s People? We have studied, analyzed, preached,

on the Good Samaritan to the point that we’ve worn it out! But we’ve missed the point of why didn’t the Priest or Levite help him? You decide! Could it be because they mislabeled him? Mother Teresa is credited to have said: "if you judge people, you have no time to love them." Indeed!

You see, God takes a much different approach. He’s not about excluding others, but about inclusion. *“Not willing that any should perish.”* Think about it *“The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood” (John 1.14 MSG).* Jesus came into our world to show us how to live. Are we listening? *“He went about doing good.”* He went home with Zacchaeus, A rich man from Jericho; called a hated tax collector to be an Apostle; praised some floozy he met at Simon’s house. Let us be careful that we do not become exclusive but inclusive with our mercy and grace behavior.

Paul tells us that Jesus, who had equal status with God, dethroned, emptied, Himself walking in the mess of this world to become two things, human and a servant. To be a servant, one must serve, not find ways to excuse and exclude ourselves by judging, labeling, pigeonholing others wrongly. From the lips of Jesus: *“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven” (Luke 6.37).* Whoa! I wonder how many blessings we’re missing out on, what forgiveness we have been denied, because we’ve judged others unfairly? Plus, categorizing others, any others, creates

distance and affords us an exit strategy instead of our reaching out to minister, serve, or share Jesus with others. Shame on us!

Truth is, it’s all about motive. Why are we judging? What’s the purpose? Are we trying to help? Or trying to provide an excuse for not helping? You may judge me and Jeff righteous because we are preachers and are here three times a week. But the real question is why are we doing this? Is it for money? Would we still be preaching, teaching, visiting, if there were no paycheck? Perhaps our ministry is about some misplaced idea of power, prestige, popularity. I mean, over the years we’ve all have been fooled by preachers who’s motives were not correct. Gotta ask, why are we at church: Is it to impress someone; is it because this church will enhance our career networking opportunities; is it because there are available bachelors or available good looking ladies? Or am I here to praise God and grow in holiness. Come on folk... Motive is everything!! Our King James has Solomon saying: *“As a man thinks in his heart so is he.” (Proverbs 23.7) “As water reflects a face, so a man’s heart reflects the man” (Proverbs 27.19 NIV).* We are what we are to God out of proper motive, not out of behavior. Behavior can be faked. Motive is real. It’s all about motive, because with proper motive proper behavior will follow.

Indeed, the message from Jesus is *“Don’t call any person unclean or unfit for our love, mercy, and grace” (Acts 10.28 CEV).* So the question becomes: Are we thinking like Jesus or thinking like the world? What good deeds, proper behavior, has our judgmental labeling stopped us from doing this week? Sobering question, amen?

—RANDALL CASELMAN

Insisting on judging others does not define who they are as much as it tends to define who we are

Peace I give you

It was Jesus who said: *“Peace I leave you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” (John 14.27).* As we walk through the gates of a new year, Jesus is ready to give us peace. How is that?...

Decide to stop taking things personal. Let petty remarks slide. Some people don’t know what to say, so they often say it wrong. Try giving others the benefit of the doubt. Ignore the acid tongue. Be like Jesus. Take the high road.

Stay humble. Ego is an ugly thing and it serves to destroy peace when it’s hurt. Instead of wearing our feelings on our sleeve, try wearing compassion.

Be willing to serve. Jesus was a servant. We’ll never know His peace until we learn to serve the Jesus in others!

Peace through forgiveness. This year, why not allow past battles, arguments, disagreements, and hurt feelings be just that *PAST!* Let go of something someone said or didn’t say to you years ago.

Allow the Bible to be our guide. Stop trying to explain it away with personal ideas or worldly human reasoning, just submit and peace will be ours. Amen?

—RANDALL

FOR THE RECORD: 1/6/19

Sunday Class..... 167	Sunday AM Worship..... 254	Sunday PM..... 162
Wednesday..... 104	Offering..... \$12,78100	Budget..... 10,718

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 1/13/19

Announcements..... Kirk Franklin	AM Song Leader..... Anthony Christiano
Elder’s Prayer..... Don Butcher	PM Song Leader..... Lee McCain
Communion Scripture & Prayer..... Cecil Booth	PM Closing Prayer..... Bob Spaw
Greeters..... Perry Johnson & Charles Flanary	Server..... Andrew Albers, Mark Bagwell
Server..... Jim Branstetter, Don Cope	Server..... Billy Helms, Brennan Fulgham
Server..... Steve Kinder, Mike Lunsford	Server..... Chris McSweeney, Harold Phillips
Nursery..... Jennifer Busbee & Cindy Ellis	Van Driver..... Bryan Busbee
Ladies Encouragement & Prayer..... Cheryl Rosenbaum & Patsy Tarr
Worship Coordinator..... Woody Barker	Video Operator..... Marquis Elliott

WEDNESDAY SERVANTS: 1/16/18

Song Leader..... Lance Bowman	Speaker..... Aaron Sloan	Announcements/ Prayer..... Danny Cannon
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