

MARC'S REMARKS

Last Saturday, I was checking out my son's PlayStation 3 console. There was an adventure game that came bundled with it that was Rated "T" for teen. This common rating was, in my very limited experience with other PS games, the typical rating of an action game.

I'm not much of a gamer (as they call themselves), but I knew that my son hadn't really played this one much. In an effort to encourage him, I decided to give it a try.

To my utter shock, within the first few minutes of play, the main character of the game used a foul word. Because I was hoping that I had misheard, I continued to play the game. Sure enough, it happened a couple more times. (Now I know why my son wasn't playing the game.)

Paul lived in a very corrupt society, too. The first century world had its share of "modern" sins, including putrid language. The apostle admonished Christians to "let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up" (Eph 4:29).

Don't let the world influence you through "entertainment"—whether it's games, books or movies. Do you already think "it's not a big deal"? Think again. Christians are called to a higher standard.

Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed.

—Romans 12:2

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert
Rodney Ellis
Sam McJunkins II

Deacons

Mike Davis
Dave Massey
Phillip Moore
John Rinehart

Evangelist

Marc Hinds
(870) 772-0746
marc@txkChurch.com

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:15 A.M.
Worship 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

www.txkChurch.com

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13–17

Believe the truth Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

Repent from all sins. Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Confess the name of Christ
. Matthew 10:32–33; Acts 8:35–39

Be baptized in His name
. Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Walk in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death
. Romans 6:1–4; Revelation 2:10

Think on These Things

Franklin Drive Church of Christ

2301 Franklin Drive • Texarkana, AR 71854 • (870) 772-0746

Volume xvii

January 24, 2010

Issue 4

Building Spirit

Don Truex

Congregations, like the people who compose them, tend to take on a personality all their own. When a particular congregation is mentioned in the course of the conversation, we immediately envision an image of that group. Words such as "growing," "friendly," "strong" or "sound" may come to mind, or, sadly, words like "cold," "dead" or "weak." Obviously the former is our goal; the latter we want to avoid like the plague. That will demand, of course, a certain spirit among us. What type?

A Spirit of Loyalty. Our first loyalty belongs to God, His Son and His word. Yes, I have loyalty to a variety of individuals and organizations, but my first priority must always be devotion and dedication to my God. We love Him fully only when He is the center and circumference of our lives, that is, when we are seeking "as of first importance" His kingdom rule in our individual and congregational lives (Matt 6:33).

A Spirit of Joy. Recognizing our blessings as God's children, it should be natural for us to "rejoice in the Lord always!" (Phil 4:4). It simply is not becoming for children of the King to adopt a cynical, pessimistic, despairing spirit. No, I am not naïve about, nor ignorant of, the difficulties of living in a fallen world. But I do take a measure of comfort in the fact that Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). A spirit of joy is easier to maintain when we remember who we are, what has been done on our behalf and what we have to look forward to with confidence.

A Spirit of Enthusiasm. Emerson said, "Nothing worthwhile is accomplished without enthusiasm." The work given us to do and the life given us to live is an important one. God has always blessed those who, in whatever they do, "do it heartily as to the Lord" (Col 3:23). Thus we are

Thanks for worshipping with our church family!

FAMILY TALK

About Our Sick

Marge Cowman received great news from her doctor. A malignant spot on her back was completely removed, leaving behind no cancer whatsoever.

Maxine Burnham hopes to make it back out with us soon. Continue to remember **Bessie McJunkins**, who has been dealing with back pain for some time now. Also, **Sam** and **Sue McJunkins** have been out with the flu for the past three weeks.

Many members of our church family have been sick, including **Jon Barry**, **Debbie Davis**, **Jackie Harmon**, and **Wendell Mobley**, to name a few. Keep an eye out for others who are still under the weather.

A New Grandchild!

Congratulations to **Jack** and **Karen Calvert** on the birth of their grandson, **Joshua Travis Parsons**. He was born Thursday morning. He weighed 8 lb., 5 oz., and measured 20½ inches long.



SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements
Rodney Ellis

Song Leading
Phillip Moore

Lord's Supper
Reese Lunsford
Alex Spillers
Preston Ellis
Zack McJunkins

Prayers
Bill Brittenham
Jon Barry

Scripture Reading
Josh Moore

Bulletins
John Marc Hinds
Nathan Scott

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements
Mike Davis

Song Leading
Josh Moore

Lord's Supper
John Haley
Dee Minter

Prayers
Sam McJunkins III
Mark Davis

WEDNESDAY

Announcements
Randy Ellis

Song Leading
Marc Hinds

Prayers
Gerald Eaton
Phillip Moore

Invitation
John Rinehart

Building Spirit concluded from previous page

encouraged to make sure that we are “never lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope” (Rom 12:11–12). If God is truly in us (as the word “enthusiasm” implies), with us, and for us, then we have

every reason to approach His work and our life with a sense of energy.

A Spirit of Friendliness.

If we would walk in the “Jesus style,” that natural warmth that exists among and for members of our spiritual family must be

extended to those who as yet are not a part of our family. The congregation that is not outwardly and openly receptive to visitors and new members will soon find itself without any. We need to continue to make sure they are made to feel “at home.” 📖

What It Means to Be a Member

Berry Kercheville

It means communicating. It means working out hard feelings and working through differences. It means laying things on the “table” and using love to make the changes necessary to be of one mind and one soul (Eph 4:3).

It means being involved. Paul said the local church is like a body with eyes, ears, arms, and legs (1 Cor 12:12–26). It is a body so tight knit that when one member suffers, they all suffer. It is so connected that to lose one part would cause the whole body to go into shock.

It means appreciating the different roles. No part

would say another part is not needed. No part thinks that he or she is most important. It is an appreciation that this is a body, not one member.

It means being uncomfortable at times. Certainly, we should be uncomfortable with unscriptural practices and expose them, but just because something is uncomfortable does not make it sinful. Nor does it become a reason to leave, divide, or speak disparagingly about that church.

It means knowing that Satan always tries to destroy a good church. We must resist him and not let

him win. He wants bad feelings, false teaching, people who won’t work things out, pettiness, and a lack of knowledge.

Finally, **it means understanding why we exist as a church.** We are here to be a haven for lost souls. We are here to evangelize our community. We are here to save people. We are not here to cater to every member’s whims, opinions, and comfort zones. Saving souls glorifies God because that is what God is all about. This is not about us. It is about glorifying our God and the work he has sent us to do. 📖

Respecting the Authority of God

AUDITORIUM CLASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 24th

LESSON 5
Session 2

Rodney Ellis

Wednesday, January 27th

LESSON 5
Session 3

Rodney Ellis

Sunday, January 31st

LESSON 5
Session 4

Rodney Ellis

YOUNG ADULT CLASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 24th

LESSON 3
Session 3

Bill Brittenham

Wednesday, January 27th

LESSON 3
Session 4

Bill Brittenham

Sunday, January 31st

LESSON 3
Session 5

Bill Brittenham