

September 18, 2022

How We Treat One Another

by Rickie Jenkins

I can't stand it when people are cruel. Whether that be to one another or to animals. Cruelty is senseless to me!

You know those commercials about how dogs are being mistreated? I can't stand them! It tears me up! Sometimes the local news will promote adopt a pet. I want to go adopt all of them. When war comes to humanity, the images displayed of women and children who have been treated with cruelty, we see the ugliness of humanity on steroids. I am amazed that weak minded leaders of nations think they can solve their problems by brutalizing people of a neighboring nation. I said weak minded because anybody can be a bully. Anybody can use their nation's military to attack another nation. Often, nothing is solved except for innocent lives traumatized. Listen, it is not just Russia or China who have a corner on cruelty. As much as I love America, our history is blotted with national cruelty as well. Just ask the American Indians to whom our government lied to years ago.

But this is not about how nations treat nations. That was just to lead to the real point. Lest we think people in the world have a corner on mistreatment, we need to look in the mirror. One of my mentors said, "There is no more cruel people than those who 'call' themselves Christians." The way we treat each other at times is appalling. I cannot stand it any better than I can stand to see animals mistreated or women and children abused. What is even more appalling is when I look

in the mirror and I have been guilty of mistreating a brother or sister. So, I am not throwing stones at anyone. I am very aware that I need to remove the plank out of my own eye first.

What do we possibly hope to gain? Is it about power? Is it about having my own way? Is it my way or the highway? What do we hope to gain when we bite and devour one another? Christ never mistreated anyone. He never talked down to anyone. He never belittled anyone. Yes, He was firm with the money changers, scribes, Pharisees, and hypocrites. He did not use the whip to cleanse the temple of the money changers just to play "patty-cake-patty-cake-bakers-man." He meant to clean His Father's house of the abuser of men and violators of God's will. Even then, in His judgment, He was exercising mercy. He could have wiped them out completely. He had the power to do so.

So, when we do not treat each other with kindness, living mercy, considering the other before ourselves, in honor give preference to another, we fail to be like Christ. If we have first given ourselves to the Lord, giving ourselves for the good of each other is no sacrifice. If we would put as much effort into being tenderhearted and forgiving of one another as we do to make sure someone knows we are upset with them, how much better would we be?

When we pout, kick the dirt, snarl, roll our eyes and purposefully ignore one

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Our fall meeting with Zeke Flores is scheduled for September 18-21

Gospel Meeting - Cedar Park, October 2-5

Gospel Meeting - San Marcos, October 14-16

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

another, rest assured, that spirit is not of Christ.

What can we do to grow closer together and get along even with our idiosyncrasies? "Love suffers long, is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things and love never fails." Let's give God's love a try!

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system.

Karen Hallmark has improved but continues to struggle and could use our prayers. She had an infection this past week.

Dinah Williams is at home and continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is home and still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

John Miller (Dyanne Turner's brother) is under treatment for cancer.

Sylvia Stinnett's brother, Jerome, had surgery this past week.

Leta Ebeling had surgery for her gall bladder this past week.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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