

October 9, 2022

Isolation: A Hidden Spiritual Danger

by Warren Berkley

We lived in the Houston area for about six years and often watched a local media celebrity, Marvin Zindler* (1921-2007). He was a forceful voice in his work of exposing dangers not otherwise covered through news outlets. After working in retail and law enforcement, he went into broadcasting and eventually landed at KTRK-TV to become a well-known investigative reporter. He was famous for bold reports to warn the public of hidden dangers in food outlets, like rats and roaches. Eventually he became known as the singular reporter who uncovered the danger of "slime in the ice machine." He once said, "I know you can't see it, but we've investigated and it is there. And you don't want to drink it."

For Christians, there are obvious and notable dangers. Lying, murder, adultery, drunkenness and strife. There are sins which seem to be easy to detect, overt and immediately evident. Other dangers that can beset us may be more like slime in the ice machine. Not nearly as perceptible. Yet dangerous.

Consider isolation. When we withdraw from family, shun our friends or resist good spiritual community among God's people, there is a dangerous void that needs treatment. What lured us away? Was it hurt, an issue we didn't address, self-righteousness or a refusal to connect and serve?

God wants His people to connect with one another (Eph. 4:16), love one another (1 Pet. 4:8), serve one another (Gal. 5:13) and encourage one another (1 Thess. 5:11). Isolation is counter to these divine desires. In our assemblies we come together to "stir one another to love and good works" (Heb. 10:25). Upon our obedience to the gospel, we enter into fellowship and family with others who have made that good choice. We nurture one another as we become acquainted and share in good things and support each other in bad times.

Isolation removes us from these benefits. Perhaps we re-discovered the value of community and spiritual family during the pandemic. But it was clear in God's Word long before the virus and the extraordinary measures that created isolation.

I'm writing this on a Lord's Day in September, when my wife was enduring a rather tough case of Covid. Because of exposure and needing to care for her, we were home during the assembly. We had the now legendary live-streams, but still there was a sense of isolation from our spiritual family; it just wasn't the same.

One of the most effective and fruitful provisions of God for His people is this fellowship that isn't just printed in a directory or "virtual." It is actual and real and meaningful. Isolation is a hidden

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

Gospel Meeting - San Marcos, October 14-16

Gospel Meeting - Benchley, October 16-19

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

danger. It may not be directly perceptible (like slime in the ice machine), but it is there and a threat.

“Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment,” (Prov. 18:1).

** One of Marvin Zindler’s sons, Mark, is a faithful member of the Southside church of Christ in Pasadena, Texas.*

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system. He is having some tests run for his lungs.

Karen Hallmark has improved but continues to struggle and could use our prayers.

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 and is recovering.

Leta Ebeling had surgery for her gall bladder and is recuperating at home.

Elaine Kersch is having tests run to diagnose problems with her lungs.

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.

Evangelist

Darrell Trammel
512-756-4493 Office
Darrell@
oakswestchurchofChrist.com

Elders

George Gresham
Jim Johnson
Darrell Trammel

Contact Us

Address:
P.O. Box 675
Burnet, TX 78611

Call:
(512) 756-4493

E-Mail:
oakswestchurch@gmail.com

Website:
oakswestchurchofchrist.com