

# The REMINDER

The weekly newsletter of the church of Christ in Bellaire, TX

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## CHURCH SOCIALIZING

This article has little to do with fun or frolic, and nothing to do with church support of such. But it is impossible to completely separate public gatherings and the working together of people from their social aspects. Good friends rejoice to see one another. Efforts to divorce all personal and social feelings from an assembling of close friends would encourage artificiality and hypocrisy. Let us honestly acknowledge this and discuss problems it genders.

We are to love one another without respect of person; show no favoritism on account of race, rank or wealth (James 2:1 ff). Our common interest in serving God will draw us together and erase some differences, but close personal ties cannot be made by putting a name on the church roll. Nor is it sinful to have special buddies or friends among Christians. Jesus loved John (Jn. 13:23f) and this special feeling was recognized. I believe He did this without showing partiality; and I believe we may do the same.

Church "cliques" are to be avoided but one should be able to have a few brethren over for dinner without making other envious or "hurt." Some "social" events (such as welcoming a newcomer to the community, or a farewell party for one leaving) may lend themselves to large numbers - invite the whole membership of a church. But we should avoid a sort of unwritten law that says "if any members do something together, all must be invited." In fact, allowing wedding, graduation, or other like affairs to have forced church boundaries, is a sure way to confuse church and social functions. We have known some brethren to be "hurt" because one got a graduation announcement and another did not; and we have also known some to be financially burdened to give graduation gifts "Just because we are members of the same church." We should do all possible to avoid such feelings of obligation.

Christianity will take care of racial prejudices, quick tempers, feelings of superiority and other things that separate people. Concern for all others will cause one saint to help another "get acquainted" and feel at home. The more we work together for the Lord the more we will appreciate one another as saints - and that will have an inevitable social effect. But we should not view the church as a "lonely hearts club." Close ties cannot be forced; they are forged over a period of time; they depend much on the nature of the individuals. Surely, we have all heard, "To have friends one must be friendly." The externals of "church" ties should not be expected to do what one will not do for Christ.

Robert Turner

# Bulletin Board

Sermon  
Notes:

Steve has both the AM and PM Lessons today. Listen attentively

Please keep the following members in mind who have difficulty being with us due to prolonged illness: **Dee Boyd, Doris Norman, Billie Glitsch and Don Hurd.**

**Note:** Anita and I are in Charlotte this morning. The meeting in Lincolnton closed Friday night. If things went according to plans, we spent Saturday with the Acrees, and I'll preach for the church where they worship this morning before heading for home. Look forward to seeing you Wed. night.

*"The name of God may be written upon that soul you are treading on." (Samuel Taylor Coleridge)*

*"All real joy and power of progress in humanity depend on finding something to reverence, and all the baseness and misery of humanity begin in a habit of disdain." (John Ruskin)*

*"A man that studies revenge keeps his own wound green." (Francis Bacon)*

*"Revenge is barren. It feeds on its own dreadful self."*

*"If ever a man becomes proud, let him remember that a mosquito preceded him in the divine order of creation!"*

## Assignments for today

Sunday, May 26, 2013

### Morning Service

Announcements.....Rudy Black  
Hymn Director.....Lee Williams  
Scripture Reading.....I Peter 2:21-25  
Scripture Reader.....Bill Mann  
Opening Prayer.....Jim Carithers  
Closing Prayer.....Rudy Black

### Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Greg Williams  
Opening Prayer.....Alex Morolez  
Closing Prayer.....Rudy Black

## Try Harder

I'm convinced that many of us may not resist the temptation to sin as we should. It's not that we want to sin, for we don't. It's just that when temptation crosses our path, we don't fight it as though we were in a life or death struggle. We may resist, but the resistance is only token.

Not long ago, a friend of mine gave a lecture in which he raised the question: What if every time we sinned, an ugly scar appeared on our face? How much harder would we resist sin? Good question. None of us would like to have our faces scarred. Scars to our faces would be embarrassing, affecting our relationships and our behavior. I'm sure we would tenaciously fight the temptation of sin if succumbing meant a big scar to our faces.

You see where I'm going, right? Why would we fight harder to preserve our temporal flesh than we would to preserve our eternal soul? The fact that we can't see the scars sin leaves on us doesn't mean they're not there. We must resist the temptation to sin, not just with a token resistance, but with a resistance that reflects a life and death struggle.

Steve Higginbotham

*"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world" (1 Peter 5:8-9).*

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### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday:

9:30 AM Worship  
11:00 AM Bible study  
5:00 PM Worship

#### Wednesday:

7:30 PM Study and Devotional  
**Minister and editor**  
Jack Smith and Steve Garrett

*The Reminder* is published weekly by the church of Christ in Bellaire