

"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye" - Colossians 3:13.

"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also" - 1 John 4:20-21

If these and a host of other similar passages were observed, the harboring of grudges and its antecedent evils would not exist.

All sins have a deteriorating effect upon those who commit them. But none seems to effect such a rapid corruption of character and personality as that of harboring grudges. Unfortunately, the guilty party is usually the last one to realize that any change has taken place.

So, brother or sister, turn loose of that grudge you have carried all these years. Repent of your lack of love. Forgive and be free from that horrible weight of both the grudge and the guilt of sin.

WHO IS A CHRISTIAN?

There is considerable confusion in the minds of many as to what constitutes a Christian. Most people seem to think that anyone who professes any degree of belief in Christ, or who makes any claim of being so, is in fact a Christian. But is that true? Is there not more involved than that?

The Bible teaches that the gospel of Christ is God's power to save (Romans 1:16). In order for a person to become a Christian, he must not only hear and believe the gospel, but he must obey it! Notice what Christ Himself said: "He that believeth (the gospel) and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). Notice the 6th chapter of the book of Romans: believers were freed from sin **WHEN** they obeyed from the heart the teaching they had received (verses 16-18). That teaching was the gospel, and they obeyed it by being baptized into the death of Christ, and raised from the watery grave even as He was raised by God's power (read verses 6-11). While a lot of people go to Romans 5:1 to prove that salvation is by faith only, they ignore chapter 1, verse 5, and chapter 16, verse 26, both of which speak of "**obedience of faith.**" When one's personal faith leads him to obey the commands of Christ, i.e., the commands inherent in "**the faith** once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3), he **THEN** becomes a Christian. Thus, baptism of a sincere believer is "into Christ" (Galatians 3:26-27). The "pattern" is clearly revealed in Acts 2. Please note the gospel was preached (verses 22-36), and those who believed it asked what they should do (verse 37). They were told to "repent and be baptized" by the authority of Christ, in order to receive the remission of their sins (verse 38). Those that did so (verse 41) were

added to the Lord's church (verse 47), **which is the body of the saved** (Ephesians 5:23), **and the reconciled** (Ephesians 2:16).

Some object to the concept of obedience by focusing all their attention on the grace of God. Certainly a great deal of attention needs to be focused on His grace because **the Bible teaches that it is "by His grace" that salvation is made possible** (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:7, etc.). **We would NOT minimize that for a moment, and indeed we rejoice in His grace!** But it is fallacious to make the "umbrella" of God's grace so inclusive as NOT to exclude anyone! The Bible excludes those who refuse to hear and see the truth (Matthew 13:15), who refuse to believe the truth (see John 3:18, 36; and Mark 16:16), and who do NOT obey the gospel (II Thessalonians 1:8-9). And Jesus Himself taught that those who worship according to the doctrines of men do so in vain (Matthew 15:7-9).

One of the biggest problems I have with some of us today who have been embracing a liberal posture in recent years is their tendency to ignore such plain Bible teaching as given above in fraternizing with denominational error. These have emphasized God's grace so much that they seem to have convinced themselves God accepts everyone, regardless of false teaching. Best they re-read such passages as Romans 2:5-11; 16:17; Galatians 1:8-9; I Timothy 4:1; II Timothy 4:3-4; I John 4:1; II John 9-11; Revelation 2:2; 14-16; 20-25, etc.

Truth is of paramount importance! Through careful study we can know the truth (consider II Timothy 2:15; John 8:32, etc.) Let us believe the truth with all our hearts, live it daily in our lives, and preach it in love (Ephesians 4:15), working while it is day (John 9:4) in reaching out to the lost with it.

We have posted a new sermon.
So please check it out and tell others about our website.
How do you like the new look of the website?

www.churchofchristbermuda.bm

We would also appreciate any comments you have for our Website or our newsletter. E-Mail us at,
info@churchofchristbermuda.bm

Have a Bermuadful Day