

Do You Act -- Or React?

I walked with my friend, a Quaker, to the newsstand the other night, and he bought a paper, thanking the newsie politely. The newsie didn't even acknowledge it.

"A sullen fellow, isn't he?" I commented.
 "Oh, he's that way every night," shrugged my friend.
 "Then why do you continue to be so polite to him?" I asked.
 "Why not?" inquired my friend. "Why should I let him decide how I'm going to act?"

As I thought about this incident later, it occurred to me that the important word was "act." My friend acts toward people; most of us react toward them.

He has a sense of inner balance which is lacking in most of us; he knows who he is, what he stands for, how he should behave. He refuses to return incivility for incivility, because then he would no longer be in command of his own conduct. When we are enjoined in the Bible to return good for evil, we look upon this as a moral injunction - which it is. But it is also a psychological prescription for our emotional health.

by Sydney J. Harris

Nobody is unhappier than the perpetual reactor. His center of emotional gravity is not rooted within himself, where it belongs, but in the world outside him. His spiritual temperature is always being raised or lowered by the social climate around him, and he is a mere creature at the mercy of these elements.

Praise gives him a feeling of euphoria, which is false, because it does not last and it does not come from self-approval. Criticism depresses him more than it should, because it confirms his own secret shaky opinion of himself. Snubs hurt him, and the merest suspicion of unpopularity in any quarter rouses him to bitterness.

A serenity of spirit cannot be achieved until we become the masters of our own actions and attitudes. To let another determine whether we shall be rude or gracious, elated or depressed, is to relinquish control over our own personalities, which is ultimately all we possess....The only true possession is self-possession.



Sunday kids' class will be in auditorium at 5:15 Truth Seekers begins on Thurs, September 7 at 8 PM Meetings will be in Room 2107 of the Student Center Ladies Classes will begin in September on Monday Nights and Tuesday Mornings

Lisa Carter (Luke's mother)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father)	Nell Holcomb (Ben's grandmother, Joannetta's aunt)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Ruth Addison (gmom of April and Julie)
Madeline Morton (Greg Lanier's g'daughter)	Anna Price	Betty Bradford	Reba Patterson (Heath Fowler's mom)
Jean Buchanan (Abbie Harrison's grandmother)	Tina Atnip (Orie's cousin)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Abbie Harrison
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Arabelle Rich (Joannetta's aunt)	Jane Hunt (Chuck's mother)	Charles Hunt, (Chuck Hunt's dad)
Gay Ulrich (Emma's mom)	Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	John Duke (Jared Johnson's cousin)

August Birthdays

- 1-Trinity Jerkins
- 2-Emma Miller
- 6-Allyson Houlton
- 6-Sandra Chason
- 8-Alli Luther
- 9-Elliot Weldon
- 9-Troy Swenson
- 10-David Hartsell
- 11-Walker Davis
- 12-Jon Coleman
- 13-Ariel Ramsey
- 15-Kalee Reid
- 15-Everleigh Crawford
- 16-Sharon Edwards
- 18-Heidi Abell
- 18-Chris Britnell
- 21-Matt Cavender
- 22-Case O'Dell
- 23-Jordan Holliday
- 23-Colton Miller
- 24-Sophie Hall
- 26-Payton Davis
- 27-Chip Freeman
- 28-Larry Rouse
- 28-Cole Johnson
- 28-Alex Dobbins

News and Notes

- We are thankful that James Malloy's mom, Becky, had successful corrective heart surgery and went home on Thursday!
- Please pray for the mom of Nakia's friend Charnté, Linda Thorne, who is in hospice in Baltimore, MD.
- We are thankful that James Malloy's mom, Becky, had successful corrective heart surgery and went home on Thursday!
- Our meeting with Wilson Adams is Sunday-Thursday, Aug 27-31. Cards are available to invite others!
- Sandra Chason's mom, Mary Edwards, continues to be weak and suffering with a virus. Please pray for her and for Sharon as she cares for her.
- Phil Bufford, grandfather of Alex and Austin Hutto got an encouraging report and will receive treatments for prostate cancer.
- Please pray for William Herd's mom, Emma Hettinger, who is in the hospital battling cancer.
- Please pray for Matt Cavender as he is due to be deployed in October.
- Please pray for our expectant mothers: Paula Davis, Xiang Li, Mallory Randolph and Suzanne Stagner.
- We welcome our new members: Andrew Tominack, Rachel Bobo and Jesse Gibson
- Shawn Lauderdale was able to come home this week! He is receiving outpatient rehab. His address is 10835 Black Wolf Bay in San Antonio, TX 78245.
- Please have your picture made or update your picture after the Sunday morning service in the foyer!

The Auburn Beacon

A weekly publication of the University church of Christ in Auburn, Alabama

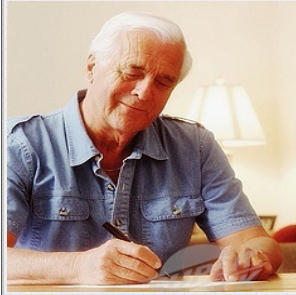


Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

Volume 8, Issue 49 August 20, 2017

A Letter To A Son Going To College

by Rusty Miller



My Son,

As you prepare to go away to college, I thought I should warn you about some things the devil will use to attack you. Please do not think this is all he will do (remember **1 Peter 5:8**), but I believe there are three areas in which he will attack with the most effort, and I wanted to offer advice on how to deal with each one.

Thoughts to Ponder

My son, keep your father's command, And do not forsake the law of your mother. (Proverbs 6:20)

As I said, these will not be the only ways Satan tries to entice you, but these are prominent ways. Do not give in. Remember that you may be all that many of your friends ever see of Christianity. Be a shining example to them (Matt. 5:16).

The Temptation to Sin Sexually

At college, there will be more young women your age than you have ever known. A great many of them will dress provocatively, and indeed, many of them will have already been sexually active. Some of them, confused by such cultural phenomena as "Sex in The City," will promote the myth of "casual sex," the idea that sex is not a big deal, and can be engaged in without thought to

consequences, particularly to the soul.

As I said, the idea is a myth. Besides the dangerous and troubling physical consequences of such action, there are eternal consequences that make this a matter of grave importance. From the beginning, sex was given by God to married couples, both for procreation (**Gen. 1:28**) and for pleasure (Song of Solomon). It is a significant part of the "one flesh" relationship designed for marriage. Outside

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Elders
 Walker Davis (334) 703-0050
 Larry Rouse (334) 734-2133

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday
 Bible Class9:30 AM
 Worship10:20 AM
 Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday
 Bible Classes.....7:00 PM
E-Mail:
larryrouse@aubeacon.com

Larry Rouse
 Evangelist and Editor

Find us on the Internet: www.auchurch.com and www.aubeacon.com

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of marriage, Paul says it is the only sin that one commits "against his own body" (1 Cor. 6:18).

In addition, there is great joy to be found in remaining pure until marriage. Being able to present yourself to your bride in a pure way is one of the greatest wedding gifts you can give her, and I hope you will make it your goal.

The Temptation to Sin with Alcohol

Among the biggest temptations facing college students away from home is the temptation to use alcohol. Many will tell you that alcohol is harmless, or that "one little drink is not going to hurt you." There are several things I would have you consider.

First, for most of your days in college, the state says it is illegal for you even to possess an alcoholic beverage. As Christians, are we not to obey the laws of the land? Second, the rehab centers and hospitals are filled with those who thought alcohol was harmless, only to find themselves hopelessly addicted to it. In addition to that, the morgues are filled with those whose deaths were caused by the poor decisions that so often accompany the consumption of alcohol, and there are thousands of families torn apart by the sin of alcoholism. The impact on your decision-making processes also often leads to sexual sin. Finally, there is the cost to your soul to consider. Hell will also be filled by those who thought "one little drink won't hurt me." Consider **Proverbs 23:29-35**, as Solomon relates the degradation of the drinker.

The Temptation to "Skip Church"

Satan makes this one very easy. You don't have to make a decision to do wrong. You don't have to do something vile. In fact, you don't have to "do" anything. All you have to do is sleep late on Sunday morning. It will be easy, because most of your dorm mates will be doing the same thing. No one's going to wake you up and "make" you go. It will be easy.

Do not be so easily convinced. While the temptations of sex and alcohol are very dangerous, I believe in many ways, this is even more so. When you decided to "sleep in," you give in to Satan just a little bit. But no one goes from Christian one day to reprobate the next. It is a gradual process. When you give in just a little, the next time it will be easier, and before long, you will find that you are "giving in" on bigger and bigger matters, sacrificing your Christianity and values for what is "easy."

Hebrews 10:25 teaches us that we are not to forsake "our own assembling together," but the erosion on your values and indeed, on your soul, is what really matters here. There will be many times you may think you are too tired to get up and go. Get up, get dressed, and go anyway. You will think that you can simply go to the evening service. Get up, get dressed, and go anyway. You may be the only one in your dorm who gets up and goes. Get up, get dressed, and go anyway.

As I said, these will not be the only ways Satan tries to entice you, but these are prominent ways. Do not give in. Remember that you may be all that many of your friends ever see of Christianity. Be a shining example to them (**Matt. 5:16**).

With Love — Your Dad



Are You Hungry?

By Jason Longstreth

How often have you heard that question? How often have you answered, "Yes!" If you are like me, you may think that "Yes!" is the only possible answer to that question. In fact, you may be hungry right now. And, you may grow hungrier as the morning passes by. However, I want to use your physical hunger this morning to talk about something more important.

One of the most basic of all human needs is the need for food. We all need food. We need it every day. Without it, we would get sick and eventually die. I'm sure I'm not telling you anything new. Because our need for food is so important, our desire for food is very strong. Hunger motivates. It makes you do something to resolve the problem. In fact, the hungrier you become, the more that hunger dominates your thoughts and eventually your actions. If a person gets hungry enough, he may be motivated to steal. He may even become motivated to kill - just so that he can eat. Hunger is a powerful desire.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus made a comment about hunger. However, He was not talking about physical hunger. Here is what He said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." (**Matt. 5:6**) This is a simple statement, but it carries a very deep meaning. Jesus spoke about those individuals who hunger and thirst for righteousness. However, I don't think He was talking about those people who are just a little hungry, but those who are starving. Like the prodigal son who wished he could eat what the pigs were eating. Like the Lord Himself who had just spent 40 days in the wilderness fasting. That's real hunger - and it's something that probably very few of us have ever felt.

But Jesus was not talking about physical hunger. Instead, He was talking about a spiritual need - a need for righteousness. We should all feel this need. We should all feel a need for God. One of my

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favorite passages comes from **Psalms 42**. It reads, "As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God?" (**Psalms 42:1-2**) This describes how we should feel about God. It describes real hunger and thirst. Here is another passage that describes it. "O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water." (**Psalms 63:1**) Do we have this kind of hunger and thirst for God? For righteousness? I hope so. If we don't, we need to work on it.

Having said this, I now want to focus our attention on something I said earlier. Hunger motivates. If you are physically hungry for food, you do something about it - you eat. If there is no food around you, you find some. And nothing stands in your way! But, if we hunger and thirst for righteousness, what should we do? The principle remains the same - do something! You need to begin by making your life right with God. Spend time studying His Word. Spend time with Him in prayer. Do what He commands you. Grow closer to God. If you really hunger for Him, this will not be difficult. It will not be boring or something you do because you feel like you should. Instead, it will become something you look forward to. Something you long for.

Jesus said something else in **Matthew 5:6**. He said that if we do hunger and thirst for righteousness, we will be satisfied. Some of the other translations say we will "be filled". In other words, our spiritual hunger will be taken care of. This is the promise of God. Ask and you will receive. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened. Hunger and you will be filled.

