

# Character

By Kyle Campbell

John said, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (3 John 1:4). Holy conduct will bring genuine joy. John rejoiced that many of his converts were walking a holy life and his rejoicing gives us two good lessons.

**First, the source of joy.** Every parent who has sent a child to school knows what a delight it is to hear that his or her child is honest and well-behaved. In some ways, honesty, promptness, courtesy, and respect for authority are just as important as grades. Happiness comes from holiness (Matthew 5:8). Sin says happiness comes from sinning not saintliness. But as every sinner soon learns, that is a Devil's lie.

## Second, the stigma of truth.

If you want to be happy you walk in the truth. None of us likes to be demoted and forsaken, but walking in the truth is not popular. Hardly anyone will help or encourage you. Sometimes even Christians are no help with walking in the truth because too many try to live a double life. Walking in the truth can be very dividing. If you want to be upright, many of your friends will part company with you (2 Timothy 4:10).

In short, holiness costs! It will cost you friends, positions, and possessions — but not real joy.

### Classes This Week

<b>Sunday Evening</b> College Devo and Singing at the Norman's. Jimmy Roberts will be teaching.	<b>Tuesday 10 AM</b> Ladies' class at Laura Humphrey's on "Giving God Control"	<b>Thursday 7 PM</b> Ladies' class at Abbie Harrison's on "Giving God Control"
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Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father and Mac's grandfather)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	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)	Wanda Price (Ada Owen's sister)
Betty Mcareavey (Mary Ann Roberts' mom)	Audrey Barnett (Joanetta's sister-in-law)	Betty Bradford	Hazel Gilliland and Sherry Carroll (Toni's relatives)
Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)	Joy Powell (Tori Luther's grandmother)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	William Smith (Ken Sullivan's brother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	<b>William Herd</b>	Rebecca Davis (Chuck Hahn's Niece)	Ray Humphrey (Seth's dad)
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	<b>Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin's Dad)</b>	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	<b>Esther Biddle</b>

### December Birthdays

- 2-Katelyn Sullivanne
- 5-Rusty Weldon
- 5-Charlie Johnson
- 5-Allie Hosey
- 8-Macy Johnson
- 9-Anna Acuff
- 13-Dave Hosey
- 13-Will Bruce Harris
- 14-Beth Lingerfelt
- 17-Joseph Miller
- 18-Tin-Yau Tam
- 19-Matt Loggins
- 20-Chris Zeanah
- 20-Brandon Walker
- 20-Meredith Reid
- 20-Micah Waters
- 21-Holly Johnson
- 21-Andrew Dunaway
- 22-William Herd
- 22-Carter Burns
- 24-Jessica Yates
- 27-Jacob Neeley
- 28-Turner Stephens
- 28-Gabby Borden
- 29-Christian McGee

### News and Notes

- ☒ - Ada Owen will have surgery this Wed to repair a rotator cuff.
- ☒ - Peyton Vines' grandmother, Charlotte Vines died on Saturday. Please remember this family in your prayers.
- ☒ - There will be group meetings tonight!
- ☒ - Please pray for William Herd's dad, Charles, who is serious condition in California.
- ☒ - Please remember Betty Bradford in your prayers as she struggles with her health.
- ☒ - Those interested in hosting or teaching a kids' monthly class can sign up on the board in the foyer.
- ☒ - The flower fund low. See Mary Ann Roberts to make a contribution.
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Gerald "Brub" Coleman, Jon's dad, as he recovers at home.
- ☒ - Gerald White continues to make progress at home!
- ☒ - The new River City church in Columbus, GA will have a singing on Friday, December 4. See flyer in foyer.

# The Auburn Beacon



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

## The Problem of Moral Insensitivity

By Dee Bowman



### Thoughts to Ponder

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. (Romans 12:9)

Even as small children we are taught to respond to what has been determined to be right. As a result, we develop a certain sensitivity concerning whatever has been determined to be wrong. This discipline in regard to what is right and what is wrong trains us and gives us our moral inclination and our mental sensitivity or conscience. As we learn and develop toward maturity we formulate our own route of moral pursuit and begin to mold our own moral character. The ideal character is one which has been trained to be affected—pained, actually, even annoyed—by sin. The Christian is taught to "avoid all forms of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:22), and the person who has developed the moral sensitivity he ought to have will not only respond to that enjoiner, but will actually come to "abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good" (Romans 12:9).

We best be careful that we don't allow our sensitivities to be dulled. .... Let us maintain a sense of vigilance, a careful alertness so that our sense of right and our moral suasion is not lost.

I greatly fear that far too many Christians are becoming desensitized to sin. The devil, realizing that when the Christian has his sensitiveness to sin lessened he is more apt to ignore it, has used several very effective methods to do away with the sentient conscience so needful for a strong moral character. I cite three for your consideration. Take careful note, if you please.

**Pornography.** By a process of slowly exposing us to more and more lascivious and lewd scenes

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

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**  
**Sunday**  
Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
**Wednesday**  
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM  
**E-Mail:**  
larryrouse@aubeacon.com

**Larry Rouse**  
Evangelist and Editor

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in pictures, movies, writing, and the social media outlets, the devil has taken away what ought to be a sensitized repugnancy to such things. Even the billboards today are covered with what would have been considered base and vulgar even in the generation just past. There was a story on the news just this week about a group of well-knowns female stars who were lamenting the fact that their computers had been hacked so that scenes of their nude bodies were being ferried around the various social media. (Did anyone dare to wonder why they were taking nude pictures in the first place?) Reading materials, the contents of which have degenerated to the lowest possible depth of late, and which could only be seen in the most horrible places, is now not only available, but to some minds, routine. Where is our moral acuteness, our sense of moral acuity? Pornography comes gradually, but ends up clogging our minds and even making us think that sexual fantasies—with us as the star of the show—is nobody's business. Sin is sin, folks, no matter if we choose to excuse it! **(Read Matthew 5:28; I Corinthians 6:18; James 1:13-16)**

**Filthy language.** I am afraid that our continual exposure to the gutter language spoken in the world today has served to desensitize us so that we are no longer repulsed by it. Some of our young people excuse their attendance at the baser and more gross movies by saying, "we just ignore the bad language." That's what bothers me. If we continue to ignore it, it will soon make no impression at all. And our toleration of it is only a step away from our outright acceptance of it. And, furthermore, our outright acceptance of it is just a step away from our use of it. There is no

way a Christian can escape from the use of bad language in today's world—it's everywhere—but he doesn't have to like it, and he doesn't have to ignore it. We could help considerably by making it known—both by example and speaking out—that we don't like it. **(Read James 3:2-10)**

**Lying.** Lying has become commonplace in our society. It has even gained a certain degree of respectability in some business enterprises. Advertising is filled with obvious false claims; careers are often advanced by false claims. And "tell him I'm not here" when he is, is accepted as common in some business quarters. And what is the saddest of all is the way we are taught to lie to ourselves. We are taught to excuse ourselves. We are taught to think highly of our selves (I am certainly not against an ordinate amount of self-esteem, nor is such unscriptural); we are told to fill up and satisfy our own impulses so as to "feel good inside." Even religious leaders are de-sensitizing our sense of devotion to God in preference for a feel-good devotion to self. There was even a statement made by the wife of Joel Osteen recently to the effect that we don't worship God to please Him, we worship to please ourselves, for God wants us to be happy. How sad to lie to ourselves that way! And one of the most subtle and oft-used lies is the common excuse. Excuses, given ostensibly to explain the facts in fact disguise the facts. If you have a reason, it's a reason—an excuse, given as a reason, is just a lie, folks. **(Read Romans 1:25; Colossians 3:9)**

We best be careful that we don't allow our sensitivities to be dulled. The devil's subtleties don't ever stop. Let us maintain a sense of vigilance, a careful alertness so that our sense of right and our moral suasion is not lost.



## Love Finds a Way

By Sewell Hall

Perhaps all of us would be more zealous and more diligent if we could only realize how short is the time each of us has to accomplish whatever is to be accomplished in this life.

All Christians want to bring the lost to Christ. But each of us has some handicap which causes us to feel limited in our ability to do so. It may be a weakness of knowledge or difficulty in expressing ourselves. Perhaps it is a personality deficiency or even a lack of transportation. Whatever it may be, we tend to feel that it excuses us from responsibility. Actually, our most debilitating handicap is a lack of zeal. Once zeal is stirred, love will find a way to overcome all obstacles.

Take June McNeese as an example. Just 4 years ago, June held a responsible position with a Tennessee-based company which manufactured automobile hoses. She was, however, experiencing considerable throat trouble and the problem grew steadily worse, slurring her speech, until she could no longer function in the office. Doctors discovered that she had dreaded Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, more popularly known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease. Rapidly it began affecting the other parts of her body until all of her limbs were paralyzed.

Her speech continued to deteriorate until now only a constant companion can understand anything she says, and then only when she uses the simplest of words. Often she must spell out very slowly what she is trying to say. Meanwhile, her sparkling eyes and the few words she is able to get across reveal a mind that is still keen and active.

If ever anyone would be excused from "personal evangelism" it would be June. Without use of her lower limbs she cannot go on her own. Without her arms and hands she cannot write. And with her damaged speech mechanism she cannot talk. But June does not look for an excuse. She looks for a way.

When a nurse was employed, one stipulation was that she would take June to worship just as long as possible. Patti, the nurse who was chosen, found the services strange and the sermons very different from what she was accustomed to in her own religious experience. Soon she was asking questions which

June found very difficult to answer with the communication problem. To add to the frustration, Patti could never seem to remember her questions when Joe Olson, a gospel preacher, came to visit.

Somehow June had to find a way to get those questions answered, either by herself or by Joe. But all she had to work with were her neck muscles. Then an idea! An electric typewriter! One was borrowed to see if she could use it. Her father cut a

wooden dowel rod and placed a rubber tip on one end. Placing the other end of the rod between her teeth, June happily began typing some answers for Patti and typing questions for Joe when he came.

Patti was not easily converted. She had already changed religion once and she wanted to be sure this time. But little by little the truth, adorned by the life of her cheerful patient, did its work. Patti was baptized into Christ.

Patti is not her only convert. A Christian couple who were in error visited her on occasions. She loved them and longed to see them come closer to the truth. She successfully used her limited opportunities to teach them "the way of the Lord more perfectly." There are many others whom she hopes to reach before her time runs out. The limited life-expectancy characteristic of those with her disease makes her constantly aware, as Jesus was, that she is approaching a night "when no man can work." This lends urgency to her efforts.

Perhaps all of us would be more zealous and more diligent if we could only realize how short is the time each of us has to accomplish whatever is to be accomplished in this life. I visited June recently in her Tennessee home. I did not understand a single word she said. But, at her usual speed of 5 words a minute, she typed a message for me, perfectly capitalized and indented. "Dear brother Hall, I am very glad you could come to see me this afternoon."

