

THE VALUE OF POSITIVE "PEER PRESSURE"

Greg Gwin

I wasn't ready to do it yet. I really didn't want to get started at it. But, my neighbor had already mowed his grass two times, and my yard was looking pretty shabby. I figured if he mowed a third time before I mowed the first time, it would really make me look bad. So, even though I wasn't really in the mood, I got the mower out of the garage and went to work.

How often have you been motivated in a similar fashion? Maybe it was at work or school. Perhaps it was a project or chore that you really dreaded. But someone else did something that made you realize that you needed to get to work.

We often talk about "peer pressure." Most often we mention it with a negative connotation. In this regard we are talking about how others can influence us to do evil. We are "pressured" to talk, act and dress like worldly people do. There is great danger in this, and we have rightfully warned about these negative influences. "Evil companions corrupt good morals" (1 Cor. 15:33).

But, there is a positive side to "peer pressure" that we may be tempted to overlook. When we are around good people who are doing good things, we are motivated to follow their example. We are urged to get busy in the work of the Lord. We are encouraged to live right. We are moved to imitate them and be like them. This is good and helpful.

We are to "exhort one another daily" (Hebrews 3:13), and to "consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works" (Hebrews 10:24). Christian, are you setting a good example for others? Are you motivating them in positive ways? Are you helping your brothers and sisters to be more like God wants them to be? Think! -

The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

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- www.defendthegospel.com
 - 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
 - 5th Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
 - Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

Southside church of Christ, 1167 South Lowry
Smyrna, TN 37167, Phone (615) 459-7854

"They...searched the scriptures daily..." -Acts 17:11

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EXCUSE OUR MESS

Michael Pickford

We've recently had quite a mess at the church building with construction and remodeling. This made me think of a sign businesses sometimes post during such renovations – "Excuse Our Mess." Spiritually speaking, God doesn't want the church in a mess, He wants things to be decent and orderly, not confused and messy (1 Cor. 14:33:40. Unfortunately, Men have messed up the church in many ways ...

Messed Up The Name. The Bible refers to local churches as "churches of Christ" (Rom. 16:16), but men prefer man-made names, while declaring that the name doesn't matter. But God tells us that the name does matter (Acts 4:11-12).

Messed Up The Work. Men have changed the work of the church, turning it into a social club with social interests and entertainment being the main focus. They build kitchens, gymnasiums, playgrounds, etc. God said the work of the church is spiritual in nature, to sound forth the Gospel (1 Ths 1:8). The kingdom of God is not to be eating and drinking (Rom 15:17; 1 Cor 11:34).

Messed Up The Worship. Worship has gone from simple singing, praying, preaching/teaching, giving, and communion to big bands, and party time. God commanded singing, not playing (Eph 5:18-19). If you attend the "services" of many denominations, you might wonder if you've stumbled into a rock concert. **Messed Up The Doctrine.** The teaching found within man-made churches is far from scriptural. They declare that doctrine doesn't really matter. As long as you believe that Jesus is God's Son, that's enough. God said doctrine does matter and those who violate Christ's doctrine will lose their souls (2 Jn 9).

Messed Up The Drawing Power. The Gospel is to be God's drawing power (Rom 1:16; Jn 6:44-45). Man-made churches have resorted to fun, games, raffles, give-away prizes, food, and a host of other things to draw people into their "churches." You convert people to what you convert them with. Take away the food and games, and see how many stick around.

Messed Up The Entrance. One enters the body, the church (Eph 1:22-23), by baptism (1 Cor 12:13). Men have messed this up by teaching "Faith only" salvation (see Jms 2:16), but God still demands obedience (Heb 5:8-9; 2 Ths 1:7-9).

Messed Up The Pulpit. God commanded that men (not women) serve as preachers and teachers (Titus 2:15; 1 Tim 2:11-12; 1 Cor 14:34-35). Men have messed this up by hiring women preachers. Is the church you're a member of in a mess? 🔍

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, mpickford3@comcast.net

www.defendthegospel.com

THIS MAY SHOCK YOU

Donnie V. Rader

This may shock you, but there are a number of things that the Bible does not teach that a multitude of people are not aware of.

1. The Bible does not teach that one church is as good as another. Rather, the Bible says, "There is one body" (Ephesians 4:4). Christ only built one church. Are the ones He didn't build just as good as the one He did build? That would make man's works as good as God's. Jesus said, "Every plant, which My heavenly Father has not planted, shall be rooted up" (Matthew 15:13). You see, Jesus didn't seem to think that one church is as good as another.
2. The Bible does not teach that Christ will return to earth to reign on a literal throne for 1,000 years. That would be a shocking fact for more than 80% of religious people. However, the verse that so teaches is yet to be found. I read, that when Christ comes again, that will be the end (1 Corinthians 15:23-24).
3. The Bible doesn't teach that Christ was born on December 25th. Neither does the Bible teach that there were three wise men.
4. The Bible doesn't teach that terms such as "Reverend," "Pastor," and "Father" should be applied to a preacher. The term "Reverend" is only used one time in the Bible, and that time it applies to God (Psalm 111:9, KJV). "Pastor" simply means one that is a shepherd over a flock. It is descriptive of an elder in the church that meets certain qualifications (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). Jesus condemned the use of such terms as "Father" in Matthew 23:1-12.
5. The Bible teaches that only those who are the members of the body of Christ will be saved. I read that Christ is "the Savior of the body" (Ephesians 5:23). Thus, He only promises to save those in the body. His body and church are one and the same (Colossians 1:18). Thus, only those in His church, the church of Christ, will be saved (Romans 16:16).
6. If number five is a shocker, this will shock you more. The Bible teaches that not all of those in the body of Christ will be eternally saved. I read how the faithful will receive a crown of life (Revelations 2:10). Some of those that were once sanctified by the blood of Christ will turn aside and be lost (Hebrews 10:26-29).
7. The Bible teaches us that "rejoice" and "forgive one another," are commands of God (Philippians 4:4; Ephesians 4:32). These are not just suggestions that will make us better people. Neither is there an option to choose or not to choose. These are commands! Violating them is sin (1 John 3:4). To sin is to separate oneself from God (Isaiah 59:1-2).
8. The Bible teaches that "faith" is a work (John 6:29). If we are saved by faith only, we are saved by a work. If works do not save us at all, then we are not saved by faith. -



While It Is Called Today
Lest any of you be hardened
through the deceitfulness of sin

-Hebrews 3:13

SERMON NOTES

Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.

Title: _____

**STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11**

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Michael Pickford
Reading: Luke 4:16-21
- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Opening Prayer.....Sam Miller
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Kenny Todd
Serve.....John Nelson
Serve.....Frank Anderson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table.....Michael Pickford

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

Thank You For Serving!

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

Obey Today!

*Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!*