

University Heights Church  
of Christ  
445 Columbia Ave.,  
Lexington, KY 40508  
(859) 255-6257  
www.uheightschurch.com

#### WORSHIP SERVICES

##### **Sunday**

Bible Study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM

##### **Wednesday**

Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is immediately followed by a short worship period)

##### **First Friday of Each Month**

Singing: 7:30 PM

#### LEADERSHIP

##### **Elders**

Garry Banks, David Collins,  
John Thompson

##### **Evangelist**

Adam Litmer

##### **Deacons**

Troy Antle, Richard Brundige,  
Matt Thompson, Adam  
Litmer, Bill Morelan, Jim  
Parsons, Pat Seabolt, Adam  
Daniels, Jamie Powell

#### Adam's Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday (8:30-4:00)

#### Update

Shirlie Harrod is scheduled to have surgery tomorrow at Baptist Health.

#### Note

There will be a meeting for the members of this congregation today at 5.

### **Grey Hair And Old Age** (continued)

*O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come. (Psalm 71:16-17)*

*Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. (Titus 2:2-5)*

### **IN NEED OF PRAYERS**

Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Paul Atkisson, Barbara Matheny, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, John Bennett, Robert Brundige, Donald Dawson, Gail Stein, Sandy Childress, Susie Burton, Jacob Profit, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Jannett's mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Doris Baker, Bernard Larch, Burnice Richardson, Ruth Poynter, Janice Parsons, The Spivey family, the Dillard family, Cassie Neel, Larry Sells, The Morgan family

# University Heights Messenger

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## **“If I’m Wrong I Don’t Want To Be Right!”**

Adam Litmer

The title of this article is heard regularly in songs and is generally connected with some sort of “love” considered scandalous or taboo. The idea is that a thing just feels so good to an individual that if what they are engaging in is wrong they would rather stay wrong than correct their behavior. The expression is common enough that most of us have likely heard it. Of course, even if the expression did not exist the sentiment behind it confronts us on a daily basis. I would suggest that the sentiment is most commonly evidenced in the spiritual realm and is a prime reason why we cannot drive five miles in any direction without passing several “church buildings” belonging to different groups, teaching different/conflicting gospels, practicing different/conflicting practices, yet all claiming to follow the same Christ.

Of course, our denominational friends are not the only one's who express the above sentiment from time to time. Some years ago I was part of a Bible study designed to remedy some very serious issues. As the study progressed and the revealing light of Scripture began to illuminate the root of the problems, a brother closed his Bible, leaned back in his chair, crossed his arms, stuck out his chin, and commenced a speech that contained the phrase, “I know what it says, but...” at least half a dozen times. Each “but” was followed by a statement for why he was not going to do what God said. He became quite belligerent the more Scripture was cited. Finally, he simply stood up and walked out. To this day I cannot think of that event without Galatians 4:16 coming to mind. In that passage Paul asked the Galatians, *Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?*

The above is a rather extreme case, though the practice of saints making excuses for why they will not do what God says is not. In fact, such excuses need not be verbalized at all. If I have a hidden sin or two that I cherish within my heart, sins none of my brethren know anything about, and refuse to relinquish them through genuine repentance, than I am telling God every time that I choose to do them, “If doing this is wrong than I don’t want to be right!” It is for this reason that whenever sin enters into our lives it must do so as invader and not an invited guest. By this I mean that it must be evicted immediately rather than being allowed to get comfortable

in our lives. Of course, every sin we commit is a failure on our part. James reminds us of why we sin in James 1:14-15. *But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.* Yet our merciful and gracious God had made it so that these failures can be corrected and forgiven immediately (Acts 8:22; 1 John 2:1).

*Immediately* is the key word here. The longer transgressions are permitted to stain the Christians soul the less their presence chaffs. The longer sins are permitted to enjoy the hearts hospitality the harder that heart becomes (Hebrews 3:13). This hard heartedness is precisely what Satan is aiming for among Christians. The hard heart can attend the assembly, bow in prayers, partake of the Lord's Supper, sing songs, and listen to sermons while harboring within it that which has no right to be there. The hard heart will not repent of cherished sins while it remains hard. Instead it stubbornly exclaims, "If I'm wrong I don't want to be right!"

Can such a heart be made soft again? Certainly. But only in the way it grew soft to begin with. Return to the Book. Meditate upon the Lord. Marvel at the love required of God to do what He did. Be fervent and constant in prayer. Become a servant to the brethren. Examine the condition of the heart daily. If a hardhearted Christian will do these, *really* do them; they will see their hearts soften with each passing day. With the heart again being kept and guarded with all vigilance (Proverbs 4:23a), the thinking transforms completely. No longer will such a heart stubbornly exclaim, "If I'm wrong I don't want to be right!" Instead it will humbly declare, "If I'm wrong, Lord, forgive your servant for his error and help me understand what's right. Upon understanding it, please help me to have the courage and love for You to do it with all my heart."

### **Grey Hair and Old Age**

John Thompson

I noticed a few grey hairs in my moustache long before I began noticing them in the hair on my head. Doing some mental gymnastics, I concluded that those few grey hairs on my upper lip never got the genetic message of what color they were supposed to be. Consequently, I postponed looking for any grey in my hair. Now it is impossible to ignore. I do have to admit, however, that I did notice some grey in my wife's hair before I ever became conscious of my own graying, but I discreetly failed to bring my observation to her attention and we remain happily married to this day.

Probably nothing heralds the approach of old age quite so well as some grey showing up where it is not only visible to oneself but to others also. Since old age has become little respected and often much disrespected in our society, grey hair is something to be covered up and hidden as if "out of sight, out of mind" means it no longer exists. Beauty product companies make fortunes on people's vain attempt to eliminate grey hair

and thus deny the fact of growing older. It is interesting to note where such products are found in the supermarket: on the shelf with all of the other "beauty" products. The message is quite clear: Beauty is enhanced when grey hair is covered up, but the Bible presents a very different picture of old age and grey hair, a picture that takes on added importance as our society increasingly emphasizes and empowers youth to the detriment of old age.

God's idea of beauty is different from man's, for God says, *The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair.* (Proverbs 20:29) Some versions use the word beauty instead of splendor. Splendor is defined as a great and impressive beauty and is synonymous with brilliance. In contrast to the cultural proclamation that beauty is enhanced when grey hair is hidden, the Bible proclaims grey hair to be the beautifying mark of old age. Proverbs 16:31 adds the qualification that grey hair is the splendor of the aged who have lived righteously. *Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.* Surely one sees no beauty in grey hair associated with profligate living where dissipation has taken its toll.

Without a doubt, there is an increased emphasis upon youth in our society. The term "millennials" (usually referring to those born between 1982 and 2002) keeps popping up. Their mantra seems to be, "Now it is our turn." The more youth is emphasized and valued, the more old age is devalued and shunted aside. Yet the Bible clearly indicates that such an attitude towards old age causes one to miss out on the very thing that makes it so valuable. *Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days.* (Job 12:12) If there are those around you who are older, do yourself a huge favor and benefit from their wisdom. When they approach you with advice, listen and learn. Above all, give them the honor and respect they are due. *You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.* (Leviticus 19:32)

There is a message in the Bible for the aged also. They are to realize that they have a purpose unique to their stage of life and pursue it rather than become disengaged. Consider the following scriptures:

*The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God. They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green, to declare that the Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.* (Psalm 92:12-15)

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