

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)

Another Opportunity To Study God's Word!

For several months a few men have been gathering to study Scripture here at the building on Tuesday morning's. We have decided to open that study up for anyone who is able to attend. We are currently studying in Isaiah and will be picking up in chapter 15 this Tuesday. The morning study is at 11 just as the Monday study. If you're able why not take advantage of this opportunity?

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Robert Brundige, Susie Burton, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Burnice Richardson, Ruth Poynter, Larry Sells, Christian Shadburne, Evelyn Damron, Tony Tyree, Andrew Westphal, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, Alleen Terrell

University Heights Messenger

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Let The Redeemed Of The Lord Say...Boycott!

Adam Litmer

Target retail store has become the object of much scorn and ire from many spiritually minded people recently. I am not happy with ownership's decision to allow confused men or women to use the restroom of the gender they "identify" with for both safety and moral concerns. Facebook has been filled with outraged demands to boycott in an effort to hit that store where it hurts--in the bottom line. Last I heard one boycott petition contained more than 200,000 signatures.

I've been asked to offer my opinion on the subject. Though my personal feelings will certainly shine through in the words that follow, I'm really not too interested in offering an opinion. Opinions, while interesting and occasionally enlightening, do not determine truth on any matter. Also, we can turn to talk radio, television, social networking, and front porch sitting to get our fill of opinions. This forum has been dedicated to God's Word and must continue to be. Thus, I will attempt to offer a few biblical principles that can help to guide our decisions and behavior in times like these. My prayer is that you find them helpful.

The first thought that came to my mind when I first began to hear the calls to boycott Target were the words of Paul from 1 Corinthians 5:9-13. *I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world...For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church who you are to judge? God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you."* Why would we expect ungodly people to make godly decisions? We *know* we live in a wicked world that generally rejects God's standard. From whence comes the surprise when the wicked go from bad to worse (2 Timothy 3:12-13)? If God expected us to boycott every company that fails to base its code of conduct upon His revealed will than we would most certainly need to go out of this world. We'd have no food, no vehicles, no gas, no power, no water, no clothes, and no houses. Understand the difference between purchasing goods and donating to a cause. Also, remember Paul's statements that *though we walk in the flesh, we are not*

waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh...(2 Corinthians 10:3-4a).

Having said that, if someone's conscience demands they boycott Target for the decision its ownership has made than by all means do so (Romans 14:23). Just be careful not to demand of your brethren what God does not. The apostle who wrote Romans 14 also wrote 1 Corinthians 10:29, which asks the question, *why should my liberty be determined by someone else's conscience?* Borrowing the words of Paul from Romans 14:3, Let not the one who boycott's despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgement on the one who boycott's, for God has welcomed him...The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God (Romans 14:3, 22a).

Finally, there certainly is something that every Christian should be boycotting in their lives—sin. In truth, my family very rarely shops at Target. I could post a few strongly worded Facebook posts and shake my head around brethren as we discuss Target's decisions, yet doing so has next to no impact on my life. Even those who shop Target often would not *really* be impacted were that store to close tomorrow. With some adjustment they could simply switch over to Meijer, Walmart, or any number of similar stores selling essentially the same products. Something that has a very serious impact on my life is overcoming the personal temptations that I face. Though your temptations may not be exactly the same you certainly have them. Are we as quick to boycott those hidden pleasures, those secret sins, as we are to publicly decry a company whose removal from existence tomorrow would not affect our lives one bit? Please read over Galatians 5:16-26 and be reminded where our greatest effort and energy should lie.

Blasphemy: The Trivializing of Disobedience

John Thompson

“Family Feud is an American game show in which two families compete against each other in a contest to name the most popular responses to a survey question posed to 100 people” (Wikipedia). Steve Harvey is the most recent host of this game show which has been around for many years. A television advertisement currently airing to promote the show has Mr. Harvey asking the feuding families a question that is the quintessence of disrespect for God and His will.

Mr. Harvey asks, “How many of the ten commandments have you broken this month?” The family member who responds first shouts out, “seven,” and the studio audience breaks out in laughter. Mr. Harvey then, as if the answer seven is the most outrageously funny answer in all the world, asks the family member, “Seven! What in the world have you been doing?” Of course, the audience is continuing to laugh; members of both families are laughing; and, since the advertisement is a clip from an actual show,

home audiences are presumed to also be laughing. The advertisement ends with Mr. Harvey asking, “Which three of the commandments did you not break?”

The ten commandments are found in Exodus 20. They are: 1) You shall have no other gods before me. 2) You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 3) You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. 4) Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 5) Honor your father and your mother. 6) You shall not murder. 7) You shall not commit adultery. 8) You shall not steal. 9) You shall not bear false witness. 10) You shall not covet. Now we understand that those commandments are not in effect today because they are of the Law of Moses, but each one, or its equivalent, is to be obeyed because it is repeated in the law of Christ.

Suppose Mr. Harvey had pursued his line of questioning, not in order to generate spontaneous laughter, but as an effort to teach his audience about the seriousness of sin. Of course, had he done that he would have soon joined the ranks of the unemployed. Suppose he had asked additional questions, such as: “You must not think much of God, do you? What other gods have you placed before the very one who created you? Have you fashioned for yourself some graven image, or is it something like money or status or power that you worship in place of God? Have you stolen, coveted, born false witness, murdered? Maybe adultery is one of the seven; that has a high probability, don't you agree? One thing is for sure: if you have not done only three out of the ten, then there is not much you haven't done in breaking God's laws.” Now, it is important to remember that seven was the contestant's response, not to how many commandments she had broken, but what she thought the most frequent response given by 100 people.

Blasphemy is not hard to recognize. It is, very simply, blatant disrespect for God and His authority. Blasphemy is evident in the Family Feud promotional clip by the context in which the question is asked, and the hilarious antics it generated.

How much worse (sterner and heavier) punishment do you suppose he will be judged to deserve who has spurned and [thus] trampled underfoot the Son of God, and who has considered the covenant blood by which he was consecrated common and unhallowed, thus profaning it and insulting and outraging the [Holy] Spirit [Who imparts] grace (the unmerited favor and blessing of God)? (Hebrews 10:29 Amplified Version)

