

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**

David Collins  
John Thompson  
Troy Antle

**Evangelist**

Adam Litmer

**Deacons**

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)

wanted to be a mother. Consider Jacob and the grief he experienced for many years because he was convinced by his sons that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal. Consider the parents of Moses and what they had to do to save him from the slaughter of Pharaoh. Over and over again we find in God's Word examples of parents who made extraordinary sacrifices for their children. Truly our children are a heritage from the Lord. There are wonderful and amazing lessons in God's Word!

**IN NEED OF PRAYERS**

Jim Parsons, Julie Patton, Declan Weatherholt, Jaclyn Litmer, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Nicholas Thompson, Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Vicky Litmer, Sheila Lawson, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige, Susie Burton, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Burnice Richardson, Ruth Poynter, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Tony Tyree, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, Alleen Terrell, the McDonald family, William Roberts, Kip Pearce, Paul Lyda, Fae Thomas

# University Heights Messenger

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**"I'm Not Hurting Anybody"**

Adam Litmer

"The heart wants what the heart wants." "I am convinced that God just wants me to be happy." "I don't want to come across as self-righteous." "I can't imagine that the Creator of the universe is that concerned with my personal behavior." "Nobody's perfect, right?" I have heard variations of each of these statements used to justify sinful behavior from both Christians and non-Christians alike. It is easy for Bible students to see the flaws in each one of them.

There is another statement gaining great popularity these days and I don't just mean among unbelievers. The statement goes something like this. "Look. My behavior is not hurting anybody. Why don't you go talk to someone who is actually hurting other people?" This excuse suggests that no sin is worth mentioning unless it is actively injuring someone. What this excuse fails to realize is that there is no such thing as benign sin. Unless one has their sins washed clean in baptism (Acts 22:16) or repents of sin after having become a Christian (Acts 8:22) it will sit on their soul stinking, festering, and wounding. Again, there is no such thing as benign sin.

"Fine. Explain to me who I'm hurting." We can start with the individual sinner himself. In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 we read, *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.*" Some of these sins do not involve a second party. One can be sexually immoral without having to bring another person into the equation. An idolater worships something above God and can engage in it on his own. Greed is an individual sin that does not require another participant. A drunkard may drink himself senseless behind closed doors

without ever endangering another person. Even so, “who am I hurting?” is answered resoundingly in this passage. Self is being destroyed because *the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God*. Should a further statement be necessary we find it in verse 11. *And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God*. If such activity were not hurting at least the individual engaged in them there would be no need for washing, sanctifying, and justifying. Thus, whenever one living in sin asks whom they are hurting in their activity let us begin by reminding them of the value of their own soul and what their actions are doing to it.

Beyond this, I do not accept that the only one being injured by sin is the sinner. While there *may* be instances where such is the case, I suspect they are very few and far between. If one is not living cloistered within the walls of their own home but socialize in “normal” ways (school, work, church, family, friends, etc.) they will wield some influence among those around them. What is their influence and example saying to those people? I now know that I did not really understand what it meant to be imitated until I had children. They say what we say, try to do what we do, and even strive to think as we think. Paul speaks to father’s in Ephesians 6:4. *Father’s, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord*. I wield extraordinary influence over my children and they see me far more often than you do. If church Daddy and home Daddy are two different people than they are going to see it and be influenced by it. Should I choose to live in sin with my children observing me it will not be just me hurt by my decision. Not all spheres of influence are as encompassing and intimate as that of parent to child; yet they are there. I hurt myself if I choose to live in sin and I hurt those over whom I wield any sort of influence.

My prayer is that none of us would ever seek to excuse sinful behavior but would be unable to rest until it has been removed from our souls. The results of sin are devastating even if I only hurt myself in the decision to engage in it. Besides this, there are likely others being influence by my sinful choices. What’s the answer? Strive to be like Jesus and not sin at all! (1 Peter 2:21-24)

## Thinking About Children

John Thomson

What a confused and ambivalent world we live in these days! Many approach current issues with a Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde mentality. For example, folks will rise up in righteous indignation when a child dies in an enclosed vehicle having been left on a hot day by an irresponsible parent. Yet the very same people will condone abortion, not even considering the unborn child to be a person. David clearly understood that, while he was still a fetus, he was an individual person. He wrote in Psalm 139:13-16: *For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.*” Did you notice all of the personal pronouns uses in those magnificent verses? David had an identity; he was a person even when, as he says regarding his coming days of life, “as yet there was none of them.”

God decreed from the very beginning of creation that man and woman would become one flesh and bear children. God decreed that children be cherished; He intended for children to be blessings to the parents. God planned for parents to protect, provide, and sacrifice for their children. He planned for parents to nurture and to train them. Being a parent is a full time job in a secular sense. And it is a full time job in a spiritual sense. Children should not be neglected for the sake of one’s career, profession, relationships, or a lifestyle that allows little consideration for the children.

There are lessons to be learned from the Scriptures. John 16:21 says, *When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for the joy that a human being has been born into the world*. Psalm 127:3-5 says, *Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them...!”*

How much do you value your children? Consider Hannah who suffered ridicule and humiliation for being barren. Just think about how much she



