



# THE MESSENGER

## JANUARY 30, 2022

### NEWS AND NOTES

---

**Congregational Meeting**  
TBD

**Weekly Bible Studies**  
Tuesdays on Zoom

**Times of Service**  
**Sunday**

Bible study: 9:45 AM  
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

**Wednesday**

Bible study: 7:30 PM  
(Immediately followed by a  
short worship service)

**First Friday of Month**  
**Singing**

September 3, 7:30

**Address and Contact**

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

### BENIGN SIN?

---

There's a popular mindset that 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 suggests that no sin is worth mentioning unless it is actively injuring someone. Some seem to believe there is such a thing as benign sin.

When challenged, something like this follows: "Well, explain to me who I'm hurting." We can start with the individual sinner. 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 alone. An idolater need not involve another. Greed can easily be an individual sin. A drunkard may drink himself senseless behind closed doors without involving another soul. 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 there would be no need for washing, sanctifying, and justifying.

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 few and far between. If one socializes in "normal" ways (school, work, church, family, friends, neighbors, etc.) they will wield some influence among those around them. What is their influence and example saying to those

## **Members    Needing    Our Prayers**

Larry Billiter, Rick Small, Jill Harrison, Ralph Fox, Benny Poynter, Janet Brundige, Joyce Bolton and family, Karen Spivey, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

## **Others Needing Prayers**

Allison Walker, Vicky Litmer, Dwight Antle, Randy Cates, Larry McTeer, Charlene Michael, Ann Little, Mary Jean Snyder, Mark Nickles, Dale Lyons, Adam Fusco, Rachel and Sarah White, Duane Harrod, Grace Meyer, Meredith Nicholson, Alice and Lonnie Anderson, Glen Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Terry Daniels, Harvey Baker, Leroy Weatherholt, Robert Brundige, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon, Debbie Lanphear, Veronica Bowman

## **To Our Guests**

Interested in a Bible study? Either let one of us know or mark it on your visitor card.

Visit us on Facebook, YouTube, or our website to watch or listen to sermons.

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 fathers 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 Dad and home Dad are different people, they are certainly going to see it and be influenced by it. Not all spheres of influence are as encompassing and intimate 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)

Adam Litmer

<b>Elders</b>	<b>Deacons</b>	<b>Evangelist</b>
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

