

JUST FOLLOW YOUR HEART?

Michael Pickford

A young person is facing a decision and is counseled by an adult to “Just follow your heart.” This isn’t uncommon. A friend gives the same advice to another friend. Is it good advice? Well, it depends.

If it’s a matter of morally neutral situations, this advice is fine, but when it comes to spiritual matters, be careful. The wise man wrote long ago, “*Walk in the ways of your heart, and in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment*” (Ecclesiastes 11:9).

Too often men and women act on their emotional impulses, later claiming that they were just following their heart.

Somehow this magically justifies one’s actions. But the Bible is clear that we should trust in God’s wisdom over the impulses of our heart. Especially when it comes to spiritual matters.

Some chose the wrong church because they were following their heart. Some accept religious error by following their heart. Some enter into immoral situations with the opposite sex because they were following their heart. Remember, “*There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death*” (Proverbs 14:12). Trust in the Lord and follow His heart rather than leaning on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6). 🔍

Welcome to our services and thank you for visiting. If you have any questions about our beliefs or practices, please don’t hesitate to ask.

God has not only commanded us to worship Him, but has also told us how, in His word. **The elements of our services, 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

- www.defendthegospel.com
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 3rd Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Radio program on wgns. 15 minute sermon every Sunday morning from 10:45 - 11:00.
- 5th Sunday Men’s Training Class, 4:30 pm. Prayer Service, 6 pm
- 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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IN THE ASSEMBLIES

Michael Pickford

Paul was insistent that Timothy be instructed on how to conduct himself in the house of God (1 Timothy 3:15). Although more is included, let’s focus on how we should act during worship and Bible study times.

Be Regular. “*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching*” (Hebrews 10:25). Some have a hit and miss record when it comes to the assemblies. Maybe they’ll be there, maybe not. I wonder if their earthly boss would put up with such. What if their attendance on the job was erratic? What if they never even called when they missed, leaving the boss wondering where they are? Do you think they would be promoted, get a raise, or win employee of the month? No. It’s more likely they would be fired. If we’re faithful to our job, how much more faithful ought we to be to the assemblies of the saints! “*Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...*” (Matthew 6:33).

Be Reverent. Some don’t seem to know the difference between the assemblies and a movie, or football game, seeing how they dress when

they “Come to church.” Yes, God looks on the heart, but let’s not force a meaning on that truth that God didn’t intend. He’s expressed concern as to how we dress as well (1 Timothy 2:8-9). During services, some seem more interested in what others are doing, or in entertaining the children. Others pass notes, snore, sleep, do homework, text, or even play games. Where’s the reverence? Remember, “*God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all those around Him*” (Psalm 89:7).

Be Respectful. We need to be respectful and decent with other worshippers. Be friendly and courteous. Some offer the “Evil eye” if someone sits in their pew. Others feel irritated because “Hot-natured so-and-so had to have the fans on.” Cold shoulders can lead to hot heads and a foul look can breed resentment. Offer a smile rather than a smirk. We should esteem others better than ourselves, looking out for their interests (Philippians 2:3-4). Leave selfishness to the ungodly; let us have the mind of Christ. We should be respectful to the preacher and teacher during worship and Bible study, respectful to our fellow worshiper, and hospitable to our visitors. 🔍

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

www.defendthegospel.com

SEEKING THE RIGHT WAY

Larry R Ping II

As Ezra led God's people through dangerous territory, he proclaimed they should "seek of him (God) a right way for us, and for our little ones" (**Ezra 8:21**). This is what true leaders do — seek only the input of God as they plot safe pathways for themselves and those who follow.

There is a special and important message for parents embedded in the words of Ezra. Since God has entrusted our precious children to us (**Psalm 127**), we are behooved to petition God through prayer and His Word how to properly and carefully guide our families and children.

There is no question — just like Ezra, we are navigating hazardous terrain. Families have enemies that are obvious, and foes that lurk in the shadows. There are dangers that are apparent, and dangers that are disguised. Real leaders — real parents are completely and acutely aware of this.

In 2015, let's start seeking the right way, the safe way, the way of God. This means making the tough choices concerning movies that contain even very limited language and vulgarity. This means paying closer attention to the music we listen to and the books we read. This means more closely monitoring the company we keep and the companions we permit our children to keep. This means ensuring more emphasis is placed upon spiritual work than physical work.

Our "little ones" are depending on us — don't let them down in 2015. Seek the right way! -

"Fear God and keep
His commandments,
for this is man's all."

Ecclesiastes 12:13

SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11

Resolution Success

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Ben Reagh
Reading: Ecclesiastes 12:9-14
- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- Opening Prayer.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Kenny Johnson
Serve.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....Frank Anderson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Johnson

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Invitation.....Kenny Todd

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!

Thank You For Serving!

*Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!*