

GOOD HABITS

Michael Pickford

Habits are often referred to as “Customs” in the Bible. We hear a lot about bad habits, and we should certainly strive to avoid those, but we should be just as zealous in pursuing good habits as we are in avoiding bad ones. Habits take time to develop, the more we do them, the more we treasure them in our lives. Here are some good spiritual habits we must all seek to adopt.

1) Praying. Daniel 6:10, “Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.” 1

Thessalonians 5:17.

2) Attending. Luke 4:16, “So He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.” Hebrews 4:24-25; Acts 20:7; Ephesians 5:18-19


3) Evangelizing. Acts 17:2, “Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures.” Acts 8:4; Matthew 28:17-20; Mark 16:15; 2 Timothy 2:2 🔍

The elements of our worship, 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

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- www.defendthegospel.com
 - 1st Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
 - 5th Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
 - Men’s Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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“They...searched the scriptures daily...” –Acts 17:11

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WHAT IS LENT?

Michael Pickford

This is the time of year that we hear a lot about “Lent.” What is it? Beginning on “Ash Wednesday,” Lent is a 40 day period of fasting (Sundays not included) preceding “Easter.” It is common for an “officiate” in the “church” to place a cross-shaped mixture of ashes and oil (sometimes “Holy Water” is used) on the forehead of “church” members where it often remains throughout the entirety of Ash Wednesday.

The Lenten season began around 1000 AD in the Catholic Church, but many protestant denominations have also taken up the practice (Consider Matthew 15:8-9). The Bible says nothing about “Ash Wednesday” or the “Lenten season.” “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God...” (2 John 9). We are only to practice those things which are authorized in Christ’s doctrine (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 4:11, etc). Churches practicing Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season are in violation of the doctrine of Christ.

It is common for those who observe the Lenten season to “give up” something for the 40 days (40 days taken from Jesus’ 40 day fast in the wilderness). I ran across a popular list of things many folks give up during this time, it included cigarettes, drinking, foul language, gambling, fornication, and dance clubbing. Remember, this is a commitment to give these things up only during the forty days of Lent. But the Bible calls upon Christians to give up sinful things forever! Many of these things are works of the flesh which will bar one from the kingdom of heaven (Galatians 5:19-21). Do they really think God is pleased if they only commit to giving them up for 40 days in a year?

Lent is associated with “Fat Tuesday” and the Mardi Gras celebration; which is essentially a drunken lascivious festival in which people freely “Let themselves go” to practice any immoral activity they can think of. The idea is basically to get it out of one’s system in order to prepare for Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the 40 days of spiritual discipline (Lent). But they do so only to repeat the process the next year. Shameful! The command to “Abhor what is evil” (Romans 12:9) is to be observed every minute of every day in the life of a true saint. The grace of God teaches us that we should deny ungodliness and worldly lust (Titus 2:12) at all times, not just 40 days a year. The entirety of our lives should be devoted to living “soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age” (Titus 2:12). 🔍

Daily Bible Study

by Michael Pickford

This Week's Theme: What Is Love?

Weekly Memory Verse: John 15:13

Introduction: "Love is A Many Splendored Thing." So wrote Paul Francis Webster in his famous song in 1955. But what is love, really? Our culture has come to use the word "Love" very casually. In The New Testament Greek, there are four words for love that we would do well to explore in order to truly understand what it is.

Monday: There Is Romantic love - eros. It is from this Greek word that we get words like erotic and eroticism. While the Greek word for this is absent in the New Testament, its counterpart is found in the Hebrew Old Testament book of the Song of Solomon. Man has perverted this word and its concept, but kept in its proper place erotic love is a great gift from God.

1. Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5; Revelation 21:8: Where is the only proper place for erotic love to exist? What dangers are associated with a husband or wife withholding erotic love from their spouse? What will ultimately happen to the sexually immoral?

Tuesday: There is a Family Type Love - Storge. This word is actually found only once in the New Testament, and that in its negative format – astorgos, translated as "Unloving," or "Without Natural Affection." This word speaks of the kind of love we feel for our parents, siblings, and children, etc. With a special emphasis on the natural type of love a parent feels for his child. Those in Romans 1:31 were rejected by God for being without natural affection

1. Luke 1:41; Proverbs 6:16-17: Are babies in the womb living children? How does God feel about hands that shed innocent blood? Is there anyone more innocent than babies in the womb? How do you think God feels about abortion?
2. 1 Timothy 5:8: Is it loving to neglect to provide and care for your family? One who does neglect to do this is worse than who?

Wednesday: There is Friendship/Fondness Love – Phileo. This word would be used to express fondness of a person, place, or thing.

1. Matthew 10:37; Matthew 6:5: What's the consequence of being more fond of our family members than we are of Jesus? What did the Pharisees love more than true devotion to God? What do you think Jesus meant in John 12:25?

Thursday: There is Godly Love - Agape. This word is not merely an emotion, but action. It can be defined as active good will towards God and man.

1. John 3:16; Romans 5:6-9: Was it man's goodness that prompted God to send His Son to die for us? If not, what then?
2. 1 John 5:3: Even God's most difficult commandments can be kept without a sense of burden when we possess what?
3. From the following passages, make a list of those we are to love. Not just feel a nice emotion towards, but actually do good for. Agape - Active good will!
 - a. Matthew 22:37:
 - b. Matthew 22:39:
 - c. 1 John 3:17-18; 1 John 4:21:
 - d. Ephesians 5:25; Titus 2:4:
 - e. Matthew 5:43-44:

Friday: God outlines for us the proper Behavior of Love. God has actually given us a very description definition of agape love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. This has been called the great love chapter of the Bible. Note that each thing said about love is in the verb form. Action! Read the list, try to understand each thing mentioned, and then try to think of practical applications in your life.

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Kenny Todd
Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....John Nelson
Serve.....Kenny Johnson
Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table.....Michael Pickford

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

Thank You For Serving!

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!

*Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!*