

MARKET STREET



"And this is the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you..." (1 John 1:5)

MESSENGER

**Market Street
church of Christ**
514 West Market Street
P.O. Box 388
Athens, Alabama 35612
Phone (256) 232-1525

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes..... 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship..... 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes..... 7:00 p.m.

Elders

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 503-8843
Tommy Coblenz..... (256) 232-3312
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737

Deacons

Joel Hamm (256) 278-1977
Danny Holt (256) 206-2746
Larry Mitchell..... (256) 230-0185
Marcus Morris..... (256) 232-8871
Russ Wulfekuhl (256) 683-9396

Evangelist

David A. Cox..... (256) 233-8910
Cell: (256) 614-3757

Visit Us On The Web
MarketStreet-church.com

MARKET STREET MESSENGER
*is published in the interest of New Testament
Christianity and to enhance the work of the
Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

Volume XIII

January 10, 2021

No. 2

Compartmentalization

J. R. Bronger

Compartmentalization is the concept that we can separate and isolate our lives into categories. This compartmentalizing might be like this: secular, spiritual, domestic, political, leisure, business and social. This kind of rationalization allows for inconsistency and even hypocritical lives to be lived.

Those who say, "I believe homosexuality is wrong, but I think committed gay couples should enjoy the same benefits that married couples do" are able to have such contradictory beliefs because of compartmentalization. That is, they have their religious convictions tucked safely into the compartment labeled spiritual, but their dedication to "fairness" comes from the compartment marked social. Those who say, "I personally believe abortion is wrong, but I'm voting for a pro-abortion candidate" are also living compartmentalized lives. Again, these pull from the spiritual box their belief about abortion but they refuse to let that belief influence anything in the political compartment.

This is why you hear politicians say they will never allow their personal faith to influence how they would vote in congress. Judges say they have personal faith, but they will not let that faith influence how they might rule on a particular case; again we are witnessing compartmentalization.

Some Christians also are guilty of such compartmentalizing. A man who refuses to let the Bible determine how he treats his wife and children (Ephesians 5 & 6) is trying to keep his domestic life in one box and his "church life" in another. The real estate saleswoman who fibs to sell a house (Ephesians 4:25) but teaches Bible class is also dividing her life into compartments. The Christian who loses his temper and flails into another man during a pick-up basketball game is keeping his religion in one box and his recreation in another. The believer who retaliates against a neighbor because the neighbor's child picked his roses without asking is keeping his religious life in one box and his secular in another. "Business is business and church is church" is said by the "Poster-boy" of the compartmentalizing party. "I wouldn't wear this low cut dress to church,

but I think it's just fine for the wedding" is said by the "Madonna" for the compartmentalizing crowd.

Christianity is not a compartment; it is a life to be lived. When Jesus said, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33), He was telling us ALL our lives are to be lived consistent with the will of God. In every walk of one's life, he or she is to be seeking the kingdom of God, seeking to submit to the rule of God regardless of where he is or what he might be doing. In every relationship a believer has, he or she is to reflect the righteousness which must accompany one's conversion to Christ. Anything less is not Christianity. Paul makes this truth evident in Colossians 3.

He starts by asserting that if you are a Christian, then "set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:1-2). Such commitment then invades the believer's entire life; social (Colossians 3:5-13), domestic (Colossians 3:18-21), business (Colossians 3:22-4:1), and in reality every corner of one's existence.

Christianity is not a compartment in which we place Jesus, His word, righteousness, etc. Instead it is a vocation to be lived. "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called" (Ephesians 4:1). This has tremendous implications. It means I bring my Christianity with me into the voting booth, into the work place, the neighborhood, to the baseball diamond and behind the closed doors of my home.

In reality, I am either a Christian all the time and in every place or I am not a Christian at all.

~via *West Mason Church of Christ*; Mason, Ohio.



The Badge of the Believer

Bubba Garner

"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you..." (John 13:35). Have you ever thought about how Jesus could have finished that sentence? How would His followers be identified? What would be their defining characteristic?

"If you wear a cross?" A lot of athletes wear crosses around their necks, but you better not read their lips

when the umpire makes a bad call. "If you put a fish magnet on the back of your car." I've seen some of those cars cut me off on the freeway just like those that had something vulgar on them. The thing Jesus said would cause all men to know His disciples was their love for one another.

If the FBI came to your house, you would demand to see their credentials. If the police said to open up in the name of the law, you would look for their badge. What is it about love that makes it the badge of the believer?

Love obeys. "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another" (John 13:34). It was not a new suggestion. It was not a new feeling or emotion. Love is a commandment. It is what Jesus reduced all of the Law and the Prophets to when He was asked, "What commandment is the foremost of all" (Mark 12:28)? The Savior answered, "You shall love" (Mark 12:30-31). Love is not freedom of expression or the ability to do whatever makes you happy. It is obedience to the command of the Lord.

Love is a decision to obey. "Husbands, love you wives" (Ephesians 5:25). There is no qualifying statement at the end of that verse. You choose to love and fulfill what you promised on your wedding day. "Teach (encourage) the younger women to love their husbands" (Titus 2:4). How do you teach or encourage something that is not a decision? Love one another. That's a command from Jesus, just as surely as "Repent and be baptized." If you love Him, obey this commandment.

Love imitates. "Even as I have loved you, that you love one another" (John 13:34). That's what made this a "new commandment." The love your neighbor was a precept of the Law of Moses (Leviticus 19:18). But to love as Christ loved elevated this to a new level. Jesus had already demonstrated His love to them. He washed the feet of Peter, someone who would deny Him three times later that same night. He washed the feet of Judas, someone He knew would betray Him. Why would He do that? Because He loved them.

Love does not discriminate. We don't get to choose who we love and who we don't. "God so loved the world..." (John 3:16). "God demonstrates His love toward us in that while we were sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Yet, some say, "I just can't love him." Then you don't love God. Others say, "I don't love her anymore." Then you are not imitating the love that Jesus has shown for you. Love is the badge of the believer because it is what makes us look like our Master.

Love convicts. "By this all men will know that

you are My disciples” (John 13:35). Men would see their love for another and be convinced. The apostles had shown themselves to be selfish and independent. To love one another would demonstrate to the world that their transformation into selfless servants was complete. Because they loved Jesus, they learned to love one another.

What makes love so convincing and convicting? It is a love that “believes all things” (1 Corinthians 13:7). You think the best about your brother or sister instead of assuming the worst. It is a love that “speaks the truth” (Ephesians 4:15). It is not saying what is true to be hurtful but saying what needs to be said out of love for their soul. Would the way you speak about your brethren convict others? Would they conclude that you are a disciple of Jesus? We can convict the world through our love for one another.

Can you think of a better compliment that someone could give this church? “They teach the truth.” We can do that and not have love. “They worship according to the pattern.” We can do that and not have love. “They love one another.” It’s the badge of the believer. “For now abide faith, hope and love, these three; but the greatest of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13:13). Wear yours proudly.

~via *Southside Sunday*; Pasadena, Texas.



What Has Happened?

Steve Niemeier

This question has been asked many times pertaining to many different issues. This question needs to be asked pertaining to the Lord’s church and more importantly needs to be answered.

What has happened to our worship services? When did we decide the Lord was not worthy of our best clothes, our best singing, our best attitudes, our best purpose of our hearts, etc?

What has happened to our Bible studies? When did we decide that an in depth study of God’s word should not be done in our public Bible studies? Many of the new materials written are written to touch the surface of the scriptures as we travel through the Bible in a year or three.

What has happened to our hospitality? When did we decide that the house was the most important thing and not the association? When did we determine that going out to eat would suffice instead of opening our homes to others? We know that hospitality means more than opening our homes and certainly going out to eat is fine but it can never replace the honor of being invited to one’s home.

What has happened to our work ethics of planting and watering the seed of the gospel? When did we decide passing out handbills or tracts was useless? When did we decide that spending money to let people know where we are located and what we teach were not funds well spent?

What has happened to our gospel meetings? When did we decide that reducing the days or the amount of sermons was the best thing to do? When did it become apparent to us that Satan didn’t like for us to be in services for three weeks or two weeks or even a week at a time? As a result we decided to accommodate him and reduce the time spent to a weekend or maybe three days at the most.

What has happened to the Lord’s people? Is it the influence of the world that John tells us not to love in I John 2:15-17? I believe it is!

~via *The Seeker*; Rosenberg, Texas.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Shirley Miller

Don Bates

JoAnn Gilbert

Doris Lovell

Bobby Ogles

Malcom Gordon

Bill Faulkner

Leigh Ann McGlocklin

Bobbie Adcock

Jimmy Johnson

Glynda Walker

Ann Bush

Marsha Young

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Donna Wright

Vicki Stringer

Nikki Ogles

Lona Jackson

Loretta Warner

Freddie Mae Elmore

Anita Wheeler

Judy Vaughn

