

Woman's Viewpoint

Discord Among Church Members Is Not Good

By ANNE SEXTON

The discord among members of a lot of our churches is something to "talk" about. Temper, stubbornness and selfishness has taken the place of friendly, Christian fellowship.

When there is choir practice a member will suggest a song. Perhaps that doesn't agree with another and before long one can feel the tension rising in the air. Eyes flash and hard looks are cast at one another.

The director suggests softer, more melodious singing. She or he will say, "It's not how loud one sings, but how well." The chord is struck and only one or two sing. . . the others are sulking and one can barely hear the words coming out of their mouths. Everyone seems to think the words were directed to them alone. And, instead of listening to the friendly, helpful suggestions of the director and trying them, they feel hurt and humiliated. . . ready to give up the whole idea.

What started out to be a pleasant meeting and practice of Christian fellowship ends up with discord and hard feelings. It happens time and again in a lot of our churches.

Perhaps some remodeling needs to be done to the church. A committee is appointed to get the estimate of the cost and the easiest and most economical way it can be done.

In a short while a "special" meeting is called and the members of the committee give their reports. The discussion starts out friendly with the people using soft spoken voices. For awhile it looks as if things will go along smoothly. Then someone comes up with another idea. An idea that doesn't fit in with the economic status of the church. However, it would look better, but the cost would be more and the extra money would have to be raised. . . and the church is already in debt.

Postmaster Helps Others

Sunbury.—Frank Nixon, Sunbury's postmaster, says he often has to do a little extra to keep everyone happy, and not all of his duties are concerned directly with Uncle Sam's mail.

Recently he helped a brother and sister to get together again after they had been separated for 26 years.

The brother and sister had lost sight of each other and were actually living about 60 miles apart when the sister wrote to Postmaster Nixon seeking the whereabouts of her brother. He was able to locate him for her.

Her letter of appreciation follows:

Bethel, N. C.  
August 21, 1955  
P. O. Box 451

Dear Postmaster,  
Sunbury, N. C.:

Words cannot express how grateful I am to you for sending me my brother's address, Charles E. Brown, Eure, N. C.

I dropped him a short letter and he located me yesterday. We were happily reunited after losing sight of each other for the past 26 years.

I feel so good about it I just had to drop you a line and try in a small way to thank you for a wonderful deed of kindness.

Yours truly,  
Mrs. Martha B. Norman

In just a few minutes the soft voices become louder, the words spoken are clipped and short. Everyone tries to speak at one time and everyone thinks his or her idea is best. The meeting adjourns with unfriendly thoughts towards one another and the project remains just as it was in the beginning. Temper and stubbornness has again taken the place of understanding, Christian fellowship.

What could have been done in just a short while with help and cooperation from all the church members now requires weeks, maybe months before an agreement can be reached and the work begun. Once it is started everyone is ready to pitch in and give their all, but for awhile Christian fellowship is forgotten.

I once heard a minister say that it wasn't the size of a church, nor the furnishings, nor wealth that made a GREAT church. It was, he said, our cooperation, help, and our love for one another, our fellowship and our church.

Have you ever heard someone say, I would go to church, but I can't stand Mr. or Mrs. So and So? I have. And I have often wondered what that person thought he would gain by feeling that way. He isn't hurting the other fellow, but he is hurting himself, his family and his church.

I have known people to become angry with a minister or some other member of the church and move their membership. They don't stop and think over the situation, or discuss their problems, but act on the spur of the moment just to gain their way. Such people have a lot to learn in my estimation.

The above situations have been going on in our churches and other social gatherings and meetings for a long, long time. It just seems that the more prosperous our people become the more belligerent, selfish, stubborn and temperamental we act and live. What do you think?

From my viewpoint it looks as if stubbornness, selfishness and temper has taken the place of the harmony and Christian fellowship that should be the basis of all church, and social gatherings as well as everyday living.

Roanoke-Chowan Hospital Census

As of 11 a. m. Monday, November 7, 1955.

White  
Daniel Sherman Bazemore, Eure  
Joseph Pritchard Brown, George  
William Henry Burden, Aulander  
Ruby Joyce Benton, Corapeake  
Robert Earl Barnes, Severn  
Bertha Nelms Bowen, Ahoskie  
Thomas Anderson Cale, Harrellsville

Ruby Hill Dilday, Ahoskie  
Rev. Lewis Ellsworth Dailey, Ahoskie

Sudie Boykin Daniel, Winton  
John Thomas Dunning, Ahoskie  
Herman Bryan Ellis, Murfreesboro  
Elizabeth Ruffin Earley, Ahoskie  
Ninia Lee Myers Felton and Baby Girl, Eure

Alfred Thomas Francis, Ahoskie  
Terese Nell Brooks, Colerain  
Mary Sue Jernigan Garris, Margarettsville

Mary Beth Hughes, Jackson  
Talmadge J. Hoggard, Aulander  
Solon Lee Joyner, Murfreesboro  
Ella Earley Morris and Baby Boy, Ahoskie

Cleo Britton Nowell, Colerain  
L. L. Parker, Murfreesboro  
Grady Winborne Saunders, Harrellsville

Evelyn Smith, Norfolk, Va.  
Robert Carroll Taylor, Williamston  
Henry Lee Travis, Ahoskie  
Elizabeth Deanes Wade, Colerain

Negro  
William Askew, Murfreesboro  
Hattie Weaver Askew, Ahoskie  
Walter Cleveland Benthall, Ahoskie

Charles Lindsey Clark, Ahoskie  
Baby Girl Cherry, Colerain  
Charlie Dickens, Woodland  
Sarah Lee Holley Eley, Murfreesboro

Lillie Johnson Edwards, Potocasi  
Nannie Belle Emory, Ahoskie  
James P. Fleetwood, Woodland  
Ernestine Martin Gregg, Boykins  
Etta Parker Griffin, Corapeake

Lillie Spruill Holloman, Aulander  
Alfreda Holloman, Cofield  
Robert Lee Hinton, Gates  
Fruzzie Reynolds Jones, Ahoskie  
Vertley Nickens Jones, Ahoskie  
Maggie Taylor Lucas, Ahoskie

Rosa Lewis, Harrellsville  
Annie Lee Mitchell, Ahoskie  
Worth Mitchell, Ahoskie  
Lucy Outlaw Perry, Ahoskie  
Annie Doughtie Pierce and baby girl, Ahoskie

Mary Edline Perry and baby girl, Colerain  
Baby Boy Porter, Ahoskie  
Baby Boy Powell, Colerain  
Besson L. Roberts, Roduco  
Lula White Swain, Colerain

Arthur Stephenson, Murfreesboro  
Thomas Vaughan, Ahoskie  
Mamie Walker, Roduco  
Willie Lee Whitaker, Colerain

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Sunbury, N. C.



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