

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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