

Melbourne Church of Christ

"A family of believers seeking to grow spiritually while sharing Jesus and serving others."

Dealing with Difficult People

by Bucky Kennedy

"Let your gentle spirit be known to all men" Philippians 4:5. More people are becoming hostile and confrontational these days. Consequently, psychologists have filled bookstores and the internet with advice. We need to make sure that doesn't create a conflict with Scripture. For instance, the Bible reiterates the importance of having a gentle spirit, even *when* dealing with difficult people.

Jesus said, "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart." (Matt. 11:29) We get a clear view of what gentleness is and isn't by looking at His life. Jesus was gentle but *not* weak, the cross proved that. Jesus was gentle but *not* passive or avoidant of conflict. He defended the truth of Scripture, not Himself. And Jesus never compromised truth for peace.

The nature of Christ is put in us at salvation, we have the capacity to grow in gentleness at all times. It's listed in The Beatitudes (Matt. 5:5) and in the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). Jesus gives a whole new mindset for life in (Phil. 2:5) and empowers us to live it.

So why don't we automatically respond with gentleness? Because we have to choose to "take His yoke." You see, the Christian life isn't complicated, it's costly. Following Jesus demands surrendering our pride, prestige, reputation, personality, and any rights we perceive are ours. This is a life that can only be lived by dying to self, living by faith in Christ, and extending the grace of God (Gal. 2:20-21).

Dealing with difficult people is just part of life. Responding to them with gentleness is not being a doormat; nor is it just keeping your mouth shut. As gentleness matures within you, harsh thoughts will come to mind less frequently. Does that sound impossible right now? Then fix your mind on Jesus today, and do it again tomorrow. In time, you won't focus on the rights you're surrendering because you'll care more about what God thinks than what others think.

The Encouragement Group meets on Thursday's at 9 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Come serve with us as we reach into our community!

**Sunday Classes 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:10 a.m.
Wed. Services 6:00 p.m.**

Visitors, please take a card from the back of the pew, fill it out, and put it in the offering tray. We are glad you're here and want you to know that you're welcome in the family of Christ that meets here!

Elders

Danny Brightwell Alan Love
291-3439 243-4608

Shelby Qualls David Brightwell
291-7424 307-5714

Deacons

Joe Cooper 291-4653

Dalton Grigg 421-6240

Rusty Treat 373-1884

Minister

Ryan Lloyd
217-1109
Melbourne CoC
Box 267
Melbourne, AR

Family News

- If you have questions about online giving, please see David Brightwell.
- Brad Teague is scheduled for a heart ablation on October 2. Please keep Brad and Julie in prayer.
- Bill Roland had surgery on Wednesday for a broken foot. Please keep Bill and Lavonia in your prayers as he continues to recover.
- Paisley Wortham is healing from a broken leg. Please keep her and the Seth Wortham family in prayer.
- A note of appreciation from Chuck Crow,

"The Crow family deeply appreciates the kindness and generosity extended to us by the Melbourne Church family during Debbie's struggle with cancer. We continue to enjoy every day we have her with us and credit your prayers for helping to make those days possible. You are all greatly appreciated."

Opening Prayer.....Anthony Weston
Communion Reading.....Dalton Grigg
Closing Prayer.....Shelby Qualls



SEPTEMBER

DAVID BRIGHTWELL **DAYLEE BRIGHTWELL**
DANNY RUNION **DANNY BRIGHTWELL**

OCTOBER

JOE COOPER **RUSTY TREAT**
BRITAN TREAT **BRAD SIPE**

Sunset Singing at the Cross
 Sunday, October 6, 2024



5:30 ~ Cookout & meal
 6:15 ~ Singing
 6:45 ~ Closing prayer

Bring your own chair!
 Baggo available!

Meet at the building by 5pm and we will all drive out to the cross sight together!



Please bring Little Debbie individual snacks, bottled water, and canned soda. You can store these items in the foyer. Deadline is Sunday, September 29. Everything else for the meal is provided.

Prayer List

Military: Derek & Allison Love **Officers:** Steve & Sherry Davidson, Jamie Irvin, Tyler Webb, Caeden Wolfe, Blake Johnson

Nursing Home: Al Gillihan, Debbie Hoskinds, Imodean Webb, Troy Gaston, Sue Campbell, Barbara Watson, Bill Wiseman, Shirley Hill

Boyde Martin	Wilma Cooper	Phyllis Gilbreath	Dorothy Teague
Bill Roland	Joe Guiltner	Debbie Crow	Cornelia Summers
Christie Haney	Joanna Smith	Wayne Crosby	Brooke Partin
Toby Weatherford	Sanyia Austin	Charlotte Cooper	John Young
Regenia Gillihan	Regina Master	Shawna Teegarden	John Ward
Joe Anne Hendrix	Gage Barns	Ruby Patillo	Vance & Kaicey Little

September Birthdays

Alan Love 1 st	Sandra Taylor 6 th	Marilyn Smith 6 th
Brad Sipe 8 th	Aaron Hoskinds 8 th	Harlan Branscum 8 th
Audrey Everett 9 th	Frank Bruyette 10 th	Randy Haney 13 th
Sally Adkisson 19 th	Landon Taylor 25 th	Halle Jo Cooper 26 th
Christie Haney 26 th	Robert Langston 27 th	Stephanie Gillihan 28 th

September Anniversaries

Trey & Melissa Lamb 2 nd	Brad & Julie Teague 20 th
Brad & Laura Sipe 22 nd	Wayne & Melanie Crosby 23 rd
Brent & Lis Qualls 24 th	Rusty & Brandy Treat 29 th
Dalton & Jamie Grigg 29 th	

Dates to Remember

Ladies Night Out 4th Monday of every month @ 6 p.m. bring a finger food.
 Ladies Bible Study 1st, 2nd, 3rd Monday @ 6 p.m.
 Men meet 3rd Sunday of every month for breakfast @ 8 a.m.
 *Family game night will resume at a later time.
 Potluck every 5th Sunday after services, please bring a dish.

Luke 6:31-37, "Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what credit is *that* to you? Even sinners love those who love them. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil *men*. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."