

**Crossville Church
of Christ**

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COMPASS

Using God's Word to Chart The Course
Of A Congregation

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December 26, 2010

Elders:

Frank Bohannon

Eddie Brown

Bill Foland

Al Griffin

Jonathan Loveday

Larry McDuffee

Clyde Randolph

Deacons:

Jim Bell

Jimmy Harris

Doug Loveday

Greg Maxwell

Brian McLaughlin

Mark Roberts

Roger Smith

Minister:

Barry Kennedy

Missionaries:

Don Iverson

Jim Waldron

(India)

Service Times

Sunday Bible Study 9 AM

Sunday Worship 10 AM

6 PM

Wednesday 6 PM

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Ladies Bible Class

Tuesdays 11AM

Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays 10 AM

Joyful Generation

(Youth Devotional & fellowship)

1st Sunday 7:00 PM



*He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who
can stand before his cold? He sendeth out
his word, and melteth them: he causeth his
wind to blow, and the waters flow”
(Psalm 147:18).*

HOLIDAYS AND FAMILY: DO YOU ANTICIPATE HOLIDAY CHEER OR HOLIDAY TEARS?

David Shannon

For Cheer: Live I Corinthians 13!

Joke: The Pentagon once did a study on why so many American Servicemen marry women in the countries where they're stationed. Contrary to popular belief, loneliness had nothing to do with it. Once the men rotated back to the US, all their in-laws were thousands of miles away.

More Serious: A great blessing about the holidays is that families usually come from far and near to spend time together. For some, one of the greatest challenges of the holidays is that families usually come together from far and near to spend time together!

Very Serious: What can each Christian do to make their family time this holiday as peaceful and memorable as possible?

Apply the I Corinthians 13 Holiday Time Rules!

1. **The Motive Must be Love (Agape):** You might clean, cook, trim the tree, shop, wrap, send, spend, sacrifice and even collapse from exhaustion, but if it isn't from the motive of love - it's worth nothing! (verses 1-3)

2. **Suffer Long:** Before the first family arrives accept the fact that many things will not go as you have planned or as you would desire. If you do always "get your way" - it is probably because you are impatient and everyone "babies" you. Peaceful family time results when folks give and take! (vr 4)

3. **Be Kind:** Peaceful gatherings cannot exist without kindness! Remember that kindness is to be offered unconditionally. Be kind no matter what! (vr 4)

4. **Don't Be Jealous:** Jealousy is a cancer to relationships. Rejoice in other's success, then they are happy and you are too!

5. **Don't be Proud:** You're not better than the rest of your family! As a Christian you have chosen to live a life for the Lord, but pride must not be harbored in our hearts as a result. Our greatness is in God, not in ourselves! Pride fuels feuds! Humility considers how one can serve their family. (vr 4)

6. **Behave:** That sounds too simple, but it's not! Most, if not all family turmoil is because folks have not behaved themselves! Do right, act right and talk right. Mother is not the only one that demands righteous behavior! (vr 5)

7. **Don't be Easily Provoked:** Don't wear your feelings on your sleeves. This holiday season someone will say something that hurts your feelings, someone else will do something and another will probably forget you instead of remembering you! Decide now to forgive quickly and not cause a feud or even offer a blunt comment in return. (vr 5)

8. **Don't Think Evil:** Not wronging another is not enough, but God commands to not even think it! Think about the good ways you can serve your family. (vr5)

9. **Bear, Believe and Hope:** We need to believe and hope the best for our families. Don't give up on a peaceful family. It may take time, but work toward it!

10. **Pure Love - Never Fails:** We can't live each other's life, but we can do our part to have wonderful and meaningful family times. Our part is love (agape). Family gatherings won't always be perfect, but knowing we have done our best pleases God - and it should please us! Create special memories, not grudges!

HOW TO BE A GREAT SERVANT OF GOD

Charles Box

How can I be a great servant of God? How can I be God's kind of elder in the church of the Lord? How can I be an evangelist that will bring honor to the Master? How can I be a godly deacon in the church of our Lord? How can I be the Christian God wants me to be? How can I be a strong Bible class teacher? These questions are all answered by three simple but amazing statements found in James chapter four.

Submit to God: "Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:7) The idea is that of unconditional surrender to the Almighty. We must get ourselves "in rank" with God and with the faithful people of God. It is impossible to submit both to God and Satan! None can serve two masters. (Matthew 6:24) Joy, peace, usefulness and real hope are found only through our submitting to God. Those that wish to be great servants of God must, "Submit to God."

Draw near to God: "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded." (James 4:8) The idea of nearness to God involves "likeness" to God. When we sing of being "More like the Master" or being "Nearer my God to thee" we are in fact singing the same sentiments. To be more like the Master is to be nearer the Master. Those that wish to be great servants of God must, "Draw near to God."

Humble yourself before God: "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." (James 4:10) When we empty our-selves of pride and haughtiness of heart then we can become useful in God's kingdom. Psalm 34:18 says, "The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." If you wish to be a great servant of God you must, "Humble yourself before God."

Follow God's instructions to greatness in His kingdom -- (1) Submit yourselves to God; (2) Draw near to God; and (3) Humble yourself before God.

If you are not a Christian obey the gospel of Christ now. Hear God's message (Romans 10:17), believe in Christ (John 8:24), repent of sins (Luke 13:3), confess Christ as Lord (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized for remission of sins. (Acts 2:38) When you follow these instructions the Lord will save you. As a saved person serve Christ with all of your being. In Christ life can be rich, full and meaningful.

