

Oak Grove Church of Christ

(502) 749-9209

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 AM
Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Evening Worship: 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class: 7:30 PM

Evangelist: Bruce J. Dehut

*Home Bible Studies Available
Upon Request*

Oak Grove church of Christ
9203 Thixton Lane
Louisville, KY 40291



OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

**"And let us consider one another in order to
stir up love and good works" Hebrews 10:24**

MAY 14, 2006

REACTING TO THE CHARGE OF ANTIISM

By Al Diestelkamp

If one dares to ask for scriptural authority for some practice within the church he risks being called an "anti." That term has been applied through the ages, sometimes in a tone that sounds hostile. Some have hesitated to question innovations for fear they will receive that "branding."

For some reason I have never considered it an insult to be called "anti." Even though I know it was not meant as such, I after considering the source, I choose to view it as a compliment. Usually those who use that term do so simply because they don't have good scriptural arguments to offer. However, I

suspect that if we look hard enough, we will find something they oppose--if nothing else, they are against what they call "antiism," making them "anti-antiism."

Another reason not to recoil when so branded is the company we keep. When we look into the Bible we see a lot of "antis" who pleased God--and that should be our goal, not seeking to please men (see Gal. 1:10). There was Elijah who was "anti-idolatry; John the Baptist who was "anti-adultery" (Mk. 6:18); Jesus who was "anti-defiling of the temple" (Jn. 2:14-16); and the apostle Paul who was "anti-women preachers" (1 Cor. 14:34), just to name a few. That puts us in pretty good company!

I suppose, if I had a choice, I would prefer that brethren would discuss their differences instead of resorting to name-calling. There was a time when there was at least an attempt to justify by the Bible what is practiced in the churches. The motto, "We speak where the Bible speaks, and are silent where the Bible is silent" (a response to 1 Peter 4:11) has evolved into hollow words for many of our brethren.

The only real difference between the Lord's church and the churches of men is our dogmatic insistence on proving all that we teach and do by the revealed will of God. When we blur that distinction it is no wonder that others view us as just another denomination among many.

AL DIESTELKAMP
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Counting

by Bruce J. Dehut

Some time ago I had the distinct pleasure of listening to a preschooler "count" from 1 all the way to 100. Learning to count is one of many skills a person is taught in their process of maturing, and this young lady was well on her way in this area. It wouldn't do a person much good if they just knew their numbers without knowing the correct order they went in. What you end up with is nonsense in matters of mathematics and the results could be disastrous, especially in the realm of engineering or science.

The Bible also speaks of learning how to "count" properly. It is not enough just to have a smattering of spiritual knowledge without the ability to put things in their proper perspective. For example "*By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to share ill treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; accounting the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt: for he looked unto the recompense of reward*" (Hebrews 11:24-26 ASV). Do you see that Moses weighed the costs of a temporary life of luxury against the criticism of our Lord and found Egypt very lacking?

Likewise, as Paul was recounting his life as Saul of Tarsus he explained his background the in the following way, "*circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law,*

blameless” (Philippians 3:5-6). But as he compared his past life to his present condition as a Christian he concluded thus, “*But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him*” (Philippians 3:7-9a). The word rubbish brings to mind the table scraps thrown to the dogs. Vincent’s Word Studies well points out the fact that “the perfect tense implies that he still counts them as loss.” A person in their right mind would never desire the garbage that has already been discarded, that’s just wrong!

Another area that requires the Christian to count is their viewpoint of others in correlation to themselves. “*Doing nothing through faction or through vainglory, but in lowliness of mind each counting other better than himself*” (Philippians 2:3 ASV). If I am be well pleasing to God I must have the same mindset that others come before self (Romans 12:10 & Ephesians 4:2). Jesus demonstrated this quality vividly by humbling Himself by donning a robe of flesh and submitting to the will of the Father by His death on the cross.

Lastly, don’t grumble when life is unfair. Keep in mind that “*both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up*” (2 Peter 3:10). This physical existence is temporary, so when we compare it to eternity we can have the outlook prescribed by James “*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing*” (James 1:2-4).

Count your blessings; name them one by one.

HANDY LITTLE CHART -

God has a positive answer:

YOU SAY - GOD SAYS BIBLE VERSES

You say: “It’s impossible”	God says: All things are possible (Luke 18:27)
You say: “I’m too tired”	God says: I will give you rest (Matt. 11:28-30)
You say: “Nobody really loves me”	God says: I love you (John 3:16 & John 3:34)
You say: “I can’t go on”	God says: My grace is sufficient (2 Cor. 12:9 & Psa. 91:15)
You say: “I can’t figure things out”	God says: I will direct your steps (Prov. 3:5-6)
You say: “I can’t do it”	God says: You can do all things (Phil. 4:13)
You say: “I’m not able”	God says: I am able (2 Cor. 9:8)
You say: “It’s not worth it”	God says: It will be worth it (Rom. 8:28)
You say: “I can’t forgive myself”	God says: I Forgive you (1 John 1:9 & Rom. 8:1)
You say: “I can’t manage”	God says: I will supply all your needs (Phil. 4:19)
You say: “I’m afraid”	God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear (2 Tim. 1:7)
You say: “I’m always worried and frustrated”	God says: Cast all your cares on ME (1 Pet. 5:7)
You say: “I’m not smart enough”	God says: I give you wisdom (1 Cor. 1:30)
You say: “I feel all alone”	God says: I will never leave you or forsake you (Heb. 13:5)

THE LORD’S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

Sunday Morning Service

Announcements: **Mike Shepherd**

Song Leader: **Wayne Runner**

Opening Prayer: **Larry Runner**

Lord’s Table: **Kenny Case
Chuck Sharp
Andy Milliner
Jr. Alford**

Scripture Reading: **Brian Shepherd**

Sermon: **Rusty Smith**

Closing Prayer: **Steve Smith**

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: **Mike Shepherd**

Song Leader: **Wayne Runner**

Opening Prayer: **Mark Smith**

Sermon: **Rusty Smith**

Lord’s Table: **Kenny Case**

Closing Prayer: **Bill Milliner**