



# OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

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

*JULY 1, 2007*

## "Head and Heart"

We usually find time to do the things we want to do. We often have difficulty finding time to do the things we need to do.

Why is that way?

When the heart (feelings and desires) is in agreement with the head (what is known), opportunities are sought and found. When one's heart is not in it, excuses are sought and found.

The saying, "Where there is a will, there is a way" illustrates this point.

No wonder the Scriptures teach that the heart plays an important role. Knowing is not enough. *Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.*

*James 4:17*

In becoming a Christian, the head and heart are both involved.

*But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the*

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

Oak Grove

Church of Christ

(502) 749-9209

Sunday

Bible Class:

9:30 AM

Morning Worship:

10:30 AM

Evening Worship:

5:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class:

7:30 PM

Evangelist:

Bruce J. Dehnt

Home Bible Studies Available  
Upon Request

[oakgrove.churchofchristonline.org](http://oakgrove.churchofchristonline.org)

*heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed. Romans 6:17*

The Gospel of Christ is intended to make an impact on the head and on the heart.  
*But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*  
*1 Timothy 1:5*

Wisdom From the Book  
*My son, do not forget my teaching,  
but let your heart keep my commandments.*  
*Proverbs 3:1*

## MY-ITIS

(egocentric syndrome)

A very infectious disease that affects a number of people. Symptoms include the constant use of the words, "I, my, mine." No matter what subject is being discussed, the infected person's comment will be laced with these words. The cause is a lack of love and concern for others.

### THE CURE

The prescription to treat this disease:

1. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourself.
2. Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.
3. Have this attitude in yourself which was also in Christ Jesus.

### Philippians 2:3-5

*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*  
*Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,*

### FOLLOW-UP TESTING

If one has been cured of this dreadful disease, his or her comments will be laced with "you, your, yours." (Periodical testing is recommended as the condition may reoccur.)

## "The Loser's Limp"

Today we have a generation of men who suffer from "loser's limp." Anyone who has competed in sports knows what is meant by "loser's limp." It's what happens when an outfielder misjudges a fly ball and misses the catch, or when a wide receiver drops an easy pass. They fall to the ground and get up limping. The purpose of the limp is to camouflage their failure.\*

We know when we fail in our efforts. We know when we fail in job performance, family obligations, or in our actions towards others. We feel the sting of our conscience pricking us. Feelings of guilt rush into our consciousness. Such feelings are troubling and must be dealt with. If we are honest, we will admit to ourselves (and others) that we have fallen short, and with a change of heart determine to correct the problem and determine not to do it again. If we seek to justify our failures, we develop the "loser's limp" -- blaming some person, influence, force or circumstance.

"I couldn't because . . ." is offered as justification for inaction. "I would have, but . . ." is submitted as the cause for shirking responsibilities. "If it weren't for . . ." is submitted as a defense for failure.

Similarly, people develop the "loser's limp" when attempting to defend their transgressions, or their insensitivity to the needs of others. They deceive themselves, thinking they are excused or justified. Most of the time such limping is convincing only to the one doing it. Whether others buy into such excuses is unimportant; what is important is that the Lord's scoffs at such nonsense.

*"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."  
Galatians 6:7-10*

The next time you find yourself falling short in your performance, don't feign the loser's limp, but stand upright and accept full responsibility for your actions or inaction. Then, and only then, are you in position to make the needed changes, to receive forgiveness from the Lord, and to have the support and understanding of others.

- Author unknown

A Bible class at Avon Heights in Indiana recently assigned the students the task of writing their own psalm. Following is one of those compositions.

## Looking

Our tender Father, we love you!  
O Shepherd of Israel, we follow you!  
Our powerful Creator, we live for you!  
Our loving Redeemer, we submit to you!

As we look ahead we cannot see,  
All is in shadow, obscuring sight.  
Not knowing the outcome, we tremble in dread,  
Fearing the worst we grow anxious at heart.

We cry out to you, our Father and King  
And you bid us to look carefully back.  
As the sun radiantly illuminates the way,  
So your glorious presence enlightens our past.

Your plans never failed,  
Your hand never weakened,  
Your care never wavered,  
Your sight never waned.

You reminded us of your presence when others deserted us,  
You prepared us without our knowledge for our tests.  
You showered blessings on us, more than our deserving,  
You made peace with a cross for our way home.

Looking ahead once more we still cannot see,  
All is in shadow obscured from sight.  
But you, my LORD, wait there calmly,  
We trust you in faith, and hoping the best are at peace in our hearts.

Father, we are your children; continue to love us!  
Shepherd, we are your sheep; guide us on!  
Creator, we are your creation; instruct us in your will!  
Redeemer, we are your redeemed; bring us home!

Jeremy and Anna Dehut

## Three Worthless Things

### A Kind Thought Not Expressed

Others are not mind-readers. The only way they will know that you have a kind thought is for you to say it. How sad it is that we let kind thoughts go unspoken.

*For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him?*

*1 Corinthians 2:11a*

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### A Kind Touch Not Given

A hug, a pat on the back, a firm handshake-- what wonders they produce. Our actions speak volumes. Such expressions of friendship, praise, and acceptance should never be withheld.

*And they began to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him, grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they should see his face no more. And they were accompanying him to the ship.*

*Acts 20:37-38*

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### A Kind Deed Not Done

Passing up an opportunity to do a kind deed is detrimental to the one who would benefit from it and the one who could have done it. Never let an opportunity to do good pass by.

Chances are there will not be a second opportunity.

*Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.*

*1 Timothy 6:18-19*

## THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

### Sunday Morning Service

Announcements: **David Shepherd**

Song Leader: **Brian Shepherd**

Opening Prayer: **Larry Runner**

Lord's Table: **Doug Smith**  
**Randall Hood**  
**Randall Alford**  
**Chris Runner**

Scripture Reading: **Mark Smith**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Closing Prayer: **Chuck Sharp**

### Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: **David Shepherd**

Song Leader: **Brian Shepherd**

Opening Prayer: **Jr. Stout**

Song Service:

Lord's Table: **Doug Smith**

Closing Prayer: **Greg Walker**