

Insisting on invoking this pattern to be applied to sin already public knowledge reduces the first two steps to mere formalities to say nothing of being unnecessary. When sin is publically committed it is already past the first two steps of our text. It is being publicly made known as it is being committed. It is known by the church.

Just one other observation about this passage... There is an idea that renders this passage totally unnecessary. If the offending party in a sin is to be unconditionally granted forgiveness by the offended party even before he repents then it makes this whole instruction unnecessary. If this be the case, then the instruction of these verses could be greatly reduced. It would read, "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and put your arm around him and tell him that you love him and FORGIVE him." Then one could go on his way feeling great that he has a forgiving spirit – while leaving the offender still guilty of his fault.

Ed Bragwell

Elders: Jay McCrary and Jerry Paschall  
Deacons: Clyde Hollis, Ed Williams, Don Zant  
Preacher: Kevin Kay

Contact Information:

East Columbus church of Christ  
811 Alabama Street  
Columbus, MS 39702  
Telephone: (662) 328-6227  
Website: [eastcolumbuschurch.org](http://eastcolumbuschurch.org)

Comments are welcome for improving this bulletin which is published on the first Sunday of each month. Feel free to send articles you have found helpful and instructive as well. Be sure to give credit to the source so it can be properly cited. See or call Ed Williams at 662.323.9502 or

[glenedwilliams@yahoo.com](mailto:glenedwilliams@yahoo.com).

(EW)

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## EAST COLUMBUS BULLETIN

***Mt 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,***

### **Kindness in Marriage**

"...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 is kind to the ungrateful and the evil." Luke 6:35

"Why should I do anything for him? He won't notice!"

"Why should I do that for her? All she does is complain!"

Sometimes we justify indifference toward our husband or wife on the basis of justice. Marriage is 50/50. As soon as we feel we're doing more than our "fair share" we are justified in withholding our love. Why should we care for our mates when they are doing nothing for us? It's not right. It's not fair. We should teach them a lesson.

Marriage is not the only relationship poisoned by this kind of thinking. We do this in spiritual relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ, with other family relationships, at work, etc. God's love does not speak this way. It doesn't think this way. God is kind to the ungrateful. He loves us even though we don't notice half of what he does for us. God is kind to the evil. He loves us though we do nothing to deserve it.

Father, thank you for your kindness. Teach us to be kind toward others as you are to us.

David Maxson

## Times of Services

### Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship  
10:00 a.m. Bible Study  
11:00 p. m. Worship

### Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

### Other Study and Worship Opportunities

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 2:00 p.m. Trinity Care Home Worship Service
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study –Ranch House Restaurant
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Neighborhood Bible Study 6:00 p.m. (TBA)
- Young Bible Scholars monthly meeting (TBA)
- The Pines Bible Study Sunday 8:00 p.m.; Mon. 5:00 p.m.
- Cady Hill Bible Study Sunday 8:00 p.m.; Thurs. 6:00 p.m.
- Recorded sermons and Gospel Meetings can be obtained by signing up in the foyer or going to the church website at <http://eastcolumbuschurch.com/> or contacting Steve Coburn.

### News and Notes

- **Home Bound Members:** Mike Butler, Jack Burkes
- **Limited Health:** Joyce Monasco, Joyce Ratcliff, Willena Woods, Eula Mae Harliss, Wade and Doris McCrary
- **Sick:** Wade Steinback will undergo back surgery Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>. Lee Gallop will undergo knee surgery on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. David Alan Williams is undergoing evaluation for joint surgery. Elizabeth Fry suffered a fractured elbow after a fall and requires physical therapy.
- **Others to remember** – David Cote, April Green, Steve Coburn, Marilynn Lavender, Marion Butler
- **New Address:** Cote, David R., Unit 6060 Box 0004, DPO AE 09870-004

**Bible Question? How many times did Jesus speak while nailed to the cross?**

**Your Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Last month's answer: Able was born before his father, died before his mother and buried in the bosom of his grandmother (earth).**

### **Public Rebuke**

A close look at Matthew 18:15-17.

"Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. "But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' "And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. (Matthew 18:15-17 NKJV)

This passage is second only to Matthew 7:1 ("Judge not") in popularity among the replies given by those who have been called out for their sins and their sympathizers. It is especially invoked when one publicly sins in word or deed and is immediately or shortly publicly rebuked for his transgression. The one rebuked and his sympathizers often throw this passage back at the one doing the public rebuking. "You are also guilty because you did not first come to me, or go to him privately, like the Bible says."

This passage is not the pattern for dealing with sin publicly committed. It is the pattern for dealing with private sin known only to the offender and offended. It has two objectives: to gain a brother and to keep private sins as private as possible. Notice the progression from being known by two individuals (the offender and the offended alone). If it is resolved at this level it need not be known by anyone else. If not resolved by the two alone, then it is made known to two or three more called upon to help resolve it. If this fails, then it is made public by telling it to the church. Then if the church cannot persuade the offender to correct it, then he is to be treated as a "heathen and tax collector" (the same as withdrawing and having no company with as in 2 Thess. 3). In this scenario, the sin began privately between only two people and then progresses to public knowledge only if private efforts to gain the offender's repentance is not accomplished.

(Continued on back)