

If God will not permit apostle, or angel, or the Holy Spirit, or even His own Son, to depart from the message He has authorized, it certainly should not be difficult for us to understand that we are not allowed the freedom of setting aside or of perverting the Gospel of Christ. God has commissioned us to preach the Gospel, and we are not at liberty to preach anything else. We cannot mutilate the Gospel, except at the peril of our own souls and of those who hear.

– B.C. Goodpasture
Deceased

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to...

Kourtney Tigner, whose membership at Northpoint was announced last Lord's day. She comes to us from Birmingham, AL, and she is working toward her Master's Degree in Music Therapy at TWU. We are very glad she has decided to join our work at Northpoint. Her contact information will be emailed to NP members.

Let us pray for...

Judy Reid – surgery for auto accident injuries (sister in NJ, planning to move here)
Mike Mallett – fighting leukemia (faithful brother in Evant, TX)
Ken Chumbley – fighting cancer and other physical problems (Gospel preacher)
Janice Ruffner – fighting various physical issues (Sherry Gleaton's mother)
Ann Henderson – fighting cancer (Sheri Woodall's aunt)
Brian Ritter – fighting rare autoimmune disease (son of Rick Ritter, Gospel preacher)
Tim Smith – fighting chronic physical problems from auto injuries (Gospel preacher)
Richie Aidoo – Joshua Aidoo's 8-year-old son (fighting seizures)
Samuel Bagsangi – Gospel preacher in Philippines we help support
Joshua Aidoo – Gospel preacher in Ghana we help support

Records you helped make last week...

Bible Classes	17
Sunday AM Worship	17
Sunday PM Worship	17
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	17
Contribution	\$781.00
Contribution average (2014)	\$843.20

Internet Sermon broadcasts...

Both sermons each Sunday are broadcast, beginning at approximately 10:45–10:50 a.m. and 1:12–1:15 p.m., via Internet through our Website, www.northpointcoc.com.

Assignments...

Bible class teacher for October
 Chairman of Men's Meetings (October–December)
 Preacher, *The Lighthouse* editor

Rick Beauchamp
 Phil Smith
 Dub McClish



The Northpoint Lighthouse

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Parental ABDICATION

Without a doubt parents can be too stern and severe with their children. Paul referred to this possibility when he warned, "Fathers, provoke not your children, that they be not discouraged" (Col. 3:21; cf. Eph. 6:4a). Some of the most pitiable people in the world are those whose personalities have been warped by ultra-strict, extra-harsh, unnecessarily restrictive parental despotism. Parents must be aware of the danger of harming their children in this way.

Perhaps the aforementioned danger is not the gravest one faced by parents and children currently, however. While parents may abuse the authority God has given them over their children by exercising it too severely, it is no less an abuse of that authority when parents refuse to discipline and guide their children. The more I hear and observe the attitudes of some Christian parents concerning the discipline and training of their children, the more concerned I become about this matter. It simply does not square with the teaching of God's Word that when children become 12–14 years old (sometimes much younger) they should be allowed to make all of their own decisions without any parental "interference."

The excuse I have heard Christian mothers offering for their 15–17 year old daughters going to the beach or the public swimming pool in their scanty swim suits is pitiful: "I don't want her to wear it, but I can't stop her." Why can't you? Because somewhere in that child's life, probably several years ago, it is likely that you (and her father) abdicated your God-ordained parental authority and that child started "calling the shots." Make no mistake – a child can **always** tell when it has gained control of a home, whether the child is 2 or 12 years old.

This lack of parental discipline in American homes in general has become the source of grave social and moral problems in the nation. School teachers are often

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Sunday
 Bible Class 9:30 AM
 Worship 10:30 AM
 Worship 1:00 PM

Wednesday
 B.C./Worship 7:00 PM

victims of verbal and/or physical attack and abuse. Concerning student discipline, school officials are paralyzed by the fear of suit-happy parents who have allowed little Mary and Johnny to have, do, and say anything they pleased all their lives. Liberal social planners have influenced legislation and public opinion that practically criminalizes the switching/paddling of children that previous uncounted generations somehow survived to become model citizens.

As an imperfect parent myself, I want to plead for a return to sanity in this concern. God's Word teaches expressly that parents, especially fathers, are responsible for the spiritual training of their children (Eph. 6:4b). Children are going to want to do things that they should not do, things that will harm them, either physically or spiritually (or both). Shall we restrain the three year old from playing in a busy street, but laugh at him when he hits or kicks Daddy or Mommy in a temper tantrum? Where did we learn such? Certainly, not from God's Word. As long as parents are still feeding, clothing, and otherwise providing for their children, it is only right that parents continue to exercise authority over them conducive to their own physical and spiritual well-being. Paul taught that children are to honor this authority, just as he taught that parents are to exercise it: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right" (Eph. 6:1).

—Dub McClish
Denton, TX

Rules for *Living*

- 1 I try never to say anything behind a man's back that would give me the least embarrassment to say to his face (Psa. 5:6-9; Pro. 11:3; 17:9; Jer. 9:8; Jam. 3:13; 1 Pet. 1:15).
2. I try never to speak back to my personal critics; they would not believe the truth anyway and my friends do not have to hear the defense because they would not believe a lie against a friend (Psa. 31:13-18; Luke 6:27-28).
3. Every day I greet every person I see with a smile and make a special effort to do so if the person is poor or in unfortunate circumstances (Pro. 15:15; Luke 14:13-14).
4. The first thing when I awake in the morning I plan what my duty for the day is and try to go beyond it (Ecc. 9:10; 12:13).
5. Every day I read from the Bible and other good books; feeding the mind and soul is more important than feeding the body (Pro. 15:28; 1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 2:15).
6. I try to pay every debt I owe on time and always save something from every paycheck, however small (Rom. 13:8; Eph. 4:28).
7. I like people and never harbor any malice or hatred toward any person in the world. I like various places and have yet to be anywhere that I do not like. I go there with the intention of liking the place (Mat. 7:12; Luke 6:31; Heb. 13:5).

8. I am a confirmed optimist, believing that even in this life evil men will be punished by their own unhappiness and good men will be rewarded. "It's better further on" (Luke 6:22-23; Gal 6:9-10).
9. I try to close each day as if it were the last day I'd be on earth, closing the books on all regrets, worries, and annoyances (Psa. 55:22; Mat. 6:25-31; Phi. 4:6; 1 Peter 5:7).
10. The last thing I do at night is to count one by one the blessings of the day. This makes me so thankful and happy that I soon drift into pleasant sleep. In this spirit I hope to close life's Journey and drift into eternity (Ecc. 5:12; Eph. 6:18; 1 Tim 2:1; 4:4-5; Rev 2:10).

—George DeHoff
Deceased

What to Preach?

God does not commission men to preach without telling them what to say. He does not leave them free to select anything which a passing whim might suggest. Men, in light of their own limited wisdom, are incapable of formulating a system of dependable teaching. "Oh Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). Men, apart from the leadership of Divine revelation, have ever gone farther and farther into the meshes of sin and paganism.

When the Lord sent Jonah, the son of Ammitai, to Nineveh, He commanded him to "preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee" (Jon. 3:2). The prophet was not left to his own will and resources to originate a message for the Ninevites. His instructions were specific. The Lord did not, in a general, indefinite way, tell him to "preach" to Nineveh. Rather, He said specifically, "preach ... the preaching that I bid thee." Jonah was limited to what God said. He could not add; he could not subtract; he could not devitalize his message by "toning it down." He must thunder into the ears of the Ninevites the severe and startling message, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown" (Jon. 3:4). This very thing he did on reaching "that great city." His preaching produced results.

The messengers of God, whether human or Divine, or both, have always been limited to the will of God. They have had, and have, freedom to speak only within the will of God. Of Jesus it was written, "Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me), to do thy will, O God" (Heb. 10:7). Jesus said, "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me" (John 5:30). Again, "My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent me" (7:16). "As my Father hath taught me, I speak these things" (8:28). "I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, He gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak" (12:49).