

“Clap Your Hands -- Stomp Your Feet”

The late and beloved Grover Stevens once wrote an article in a now defunct gospel journal and expressed his opposition to hand clapping in worship. His opposition to this growing practice of clapping hands in worship is based on his attitude toward the silence of the Bible. He wrote, “I read in the New Testament that when brother leads us in prayer that it is appropriate to say ‘amen’ (1 Corinthians 14:16), but I have never read where anyone did or was encouraged to clap their hands.” As a matter of fact, I cannot remember where such a passage is either.

It seems that this practice is growing. When a preacher preaches one of his best, the audience gives him a solid round of applause. When an announcement is made of some great success or achievement, give another round of applause. One wonders where such a thing would end. A person who obeys the gospel would deserve a hand. Maybe a very liberal and cheerful giver should also get one. When the song leader really does a bang-up good job, he should be acclaimed with a lively round of hand clapping. Applause should go to elders to rule well, to parents to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, to those who actually get out and do personal work among the lost, and on and on.

But should the clapping be the only way to praise someone? How about foot stomping? We might even organize a cheering section in the auditorium, with cheer leaders who can flip, jump, and cavort to get the audience whipped up into a genuine cheering mood. The ushers might even pass out whistles, or air operated horns. We might even hear the now popular “hoo, hoo, hoo’s:” But, seriously, let’s hope not.

Grover Stevens was one hundred percent right. He said that if we do things “decently and in order,” and with the intent of edifying each other, we need to keep the right decorum. It is proper in secular and worldly affairs to applaud, cheer, and shout but in worship that is devoted to God it just does not fit. A silent prayer or even a vocal “Amen” may be in order, but clapping your hands and stomping your feet do not fall into the category of doing all things “decently and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:40).

I agree with Grover.

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

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February 21, 2016



Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."

Sunday Worship:

Will Vann, Preacher

9:30 am Bible Study

863-899-0987

10:20 am Worship

Email: wvann@yahoo.com

12:30 pm Afternoon

www.evantchurchofchrist.org

Wednesday Night

7:pm

Those Who Are Outside (Part Two)

Last week we saw that Paul used the phrase, “*those who are outside*” four times in his epistles (1 Cor. 5:12,13; Col. 4:5; 1 Thess. 4:12; 1 Tim. 3:7). We see from the context of these passages that Paul, through inspiration, is speaking of those outside the Lord’s church, that is, people in the world as opposed to those in Christ (Gal. 3:26). Most every day members of the Lord’s church interact with people in the world and this interaction leaves an impression, for better or worse, on them. This week we will consider First Thessalonians 4:10b-12 as it instructs us how those inside Christ are to behave towards those who are outside.

“But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.”

The oft quoted saying, “do as I say and not as I do” should be a reminder to us that it is easier to speak righteously, than to live righteously. As important as our speech is, actions always speak louder than words! When I was a freshman in high school, a girl in our youth group, who was a senior, brought up how she would drink beer when she was with her friends who were outside the Lord’s church. I was told my whole life that drinking was sinful, but all it took was for one influential figure to act otherwise to plant the seed of doubt in my mind, “maybe it’s not **all bad**.” Not only does this bring to mind First Corinthians 15:33, “*Evil company corrupts good habits,*” but it also shows how devastatingly effective one contradictory action is in turning people from the truth, especially for those who are weakest. God forbid that we ever cause an unbeliever to think, “if this is what a Christian is, I’m fine just like I am.” Mahatma Gandhi is quoted with saying, “I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.” As we consider evangelistic efforts, let us remember that our words are as a whisper compared to the shout of our actions!

Those to Serve

(B) Calvin Burks FV) Jack Wall

(O) Vernon Houts (A) Kyle Stifflemire

1st prayer Jeffrey Burks 2nd prayer Doug Pruett

Announcements: Keith Stifflemire Singing: Mike Mallett

Prayer list: Mildred Lovell, Darrell Debo, Naomi Wall, Gene Payne, , Lloyd Crownover, Ruby Jones. Pray for our nation, our Troops and Law Enforcement

Our doctrine of equality and liberty and humanity comes from our belief in the brotherhood of man, through the fatherhood of God.
-In this Book will be found the solution of all the problems of the world.
CALVIN COOLIDGE

This occasion is not alone the administration of the most sacred oath which can be assumed by an American citizen. It is a dedication and consecration under God to the highest office in service of our people. I assume this trust in the humility of knowledge that only through the guidance of Almighty Providence can I hope to discharge its ever-increasing burdens. . . . I ask the help of Almighty God in this service to my country to which you have called me. HERBERT HOOVER

Happy Birthday

To

Koh Staff March 12th

Dennis Sheldon March 30th

Dates to Remember

Feb 28th

Noon Fellowship Meal

March 6th

Mission Sunday

March 5th –13th

Spring Break

March 13th

Daylight Savings Begins