

Pastor's Pen

Pretender!

"They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works." Titus 1:16

We all have met people claiming to be Christians, yet their lives don't reflect that they belong to Christ. When I coached high school football at James River High school, we took our team to a football camp at the University of Richmond. Mike London, a Christian, was the head coach at the time. He shared with us how important it was for each student that their actions represented their words. He relayed how he once told his players that he couldn't hear what they were saying because their actions spoke louder than their words.

Some people claim to know God by their words, but their actions speak clearly that they are still slaves to sin. When a person is born again, everything changes. Their first love is now Jesus Christ, and they desire to love what He loves. The sin that they once enjoyed they now understand separated them from Christ. As new creations, believers are now free from the law of sin and death and are now slaves to righteousness. When we were slaves to sin and children of the devil, we thought we were free but were indeed slaves destined to hell. But, now that we are slaves of righteousness, we have truly been set free (Romans 6).

If you claim to be a Christian and don't love what Jesus loves, you might want to examine yourself to see if you are in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5). Jesus loves His bride, the church. If you don't like gathering with His bride, you might be a pretender (1 John 1:3). If worshiping with Christians on Sunday morning is what you do because you have run out of things to do instead, you might be a pretender (1 John 1:3). If you don't obey His commands, you might be a pretender (1 John 2:3-5). If you love the things of the world more than Jesus, you might be a pretender (1 John 2:15).

What say you? Do your works reflect that you are a child of God?

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

A bad tree (Octavius Winslow
"From Grace to Glory" 1864)

"By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people gather grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit." Matthew 7:16-18

An unconverted state will bear fruit corresponding with its own essence. It must, in the nature of things, be so. The enmity against God of the carnal mind, the rejection of the Lord Jesus, the governing principle of SELF, the supreme ascendancy of the world, the slavery of sin; indicate, unmistakably, the unrenewed, unregenerate nature from which they spring. We do not expect one to yield the fruits of holiness from an unholy nature.

The life an unbeliever lives is in keeping with the unrenewed heart he possesses. He is of the earth, earthly. It is consistent with his unregenerate nature . . . that he should be of the world, that he should love the world, that the world should love him and claim him as its own, that the things of the world its pursuits, its pleasures, its sins; should . . . harmonize with his nature, charm his tastes, delight his senses, and bind his affections in their spell.

Quote of the Week

"I have taken all my good deeds and all my bad deeds, and cast them . . . in a heap before the Lord, and fled from both, and be taken myself to the Lord Jesus Christ, and in him I have sweet peace!"
— David Dickson

A sin-expelling power over our lives!
(Charles Spurgeon, "Flowers from a Puritan's Garden" 1883)

"Old leaves, if they remain upon the trees through the autumn and the winter — fall off in the spring."

We have seen a hedge all thick with dry leaves throughout the winter, and neither frost nor wind has removed the withered foliage — but the spring has soon cleared them off. The new life dislodges the old, pushing it away as unsuitable to it.

In the same way, our old corruptions are best removed by the growth of new graces.

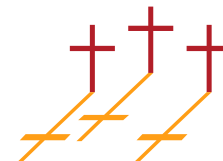
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

It is as the new life buds and opens, that the old worn-out things of our former state are compelled to give up their hold of us. Our wisdom lies in living near to God, that by the power of His Holy Spirit all our graces may be vigorous, and may exercise a sin-expelling power over our lives — the new leaves of grace pushing off our old worldly affections and habits of sin.

With new converts, it is often better not to lay down stringent rules as to worldly amusements — but leave the new life and its holier joys, to push off the old pleasures. Thus it will be done more naturally and more effectively.

We have all heard of the expulsive power of a new affection. This new affection of love to God coming into the soul, expels love to sin!

Lord, let Your life in me, push off the relics of my former sinful self — that I may put on the new man, and manifest Your transforming grace!



Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old Testament
New Testament
Young Parents
Young Adults
Sunday Morning @ 9AM

Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Bible Study
Every other Saturday:
Women of Grace | 9am

Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM @ Royall's
Every other Thursday @7PM
@ Patrick's & Cox's

Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team and forgot to sign up, please contact the team leader at the appropriate email address.

Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study
AWANA @6:30PM

Service Times

Sunday Service 10:30AM
Children's Church @10:30AM

Giving from service on 11/14/2021

General Offering	9,929.20
Building Fund	1,871.20
Uganda	180.00
Benevolence	10.00
Total	\$11,990.40

Attendance	219
Sunday School	116
Online	28

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
 AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
 Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
 Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
 Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
 Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
 Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
 Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
 Maintenance-maintenance @ghbcva.org
 Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
 Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
 Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
 Security-security@ghbcva.org



ghbcva.org | 804.561.3742
9821 South Redfield Drive, Amelia, VA 23002

Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Nov 21, 2021

