



# The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



## MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 74 No. 27 July 6, 2021

### ELDERS

David Anderson  
Kenny French  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

### DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Stacey Paulin  
Jimmy Sweeney

### MINISTER

Hiram Kemp

### ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

### SECRETARY

Dee Parramore

OFFICE PHONE  
(863) 682-4702

### SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.  
Worship.....10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00 a.m.  
Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

### EMAIL

[SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

### WEB PAGE

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

### YOUTUBE.com

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist)

### HOME OF

**Florida School of Preaching**  
since 1969

### MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia  
Don Iverson.....India  
Marc Veary....Malawi, Africa  
Graham McDonald...Scotland  
J. Paguaga....Honduras, C.A.  
Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands  
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

## How to Tell if Your Ultimate Goal Is to Please People

Hiram Kemp

We all care what other people think about us. We want to be liked, or at least appreciated. There is nothing wrong with wanting people to like us or caring about what others think if we keep it in proper perspective. We want people to like our statuses, our pictures, and our choices. Yet, we need to be careful that an over-obsession with the opinions of others does not cripple us from being who God wants us to be.

Sometimes when we do what God wants us to do, people will be pleased as well (Matt 22:37- 40). However, sometimes when we do God's will, people will dislike us because of it (John 6:32). Are you someone that compromises your commitment to God to be on everyone else's good side all the time? Would you be willing to shy away from your affiliation with the Lord if it meant that no one else would ever be upset with you or think of you differently?

No Christian would admit to denying the Lord or placing man's view above God's, but we might do so unknowingly. Here are three signs that our desire to please men may have come at too high a price.

### Everybody Likes You

*"Woe to you, when all people speak well of you,  
for so their fathers did to the false prophets"* Luke 6:26

Christians should not go out and purposely make enemies, but we should still expect to have a few. Jesus told His disciples that they should be concerned that they resembled the behavior of the false prophets when everyone spoke well of them. Society says that the man who never makes an enemy is a great peacemaker. Jesus says such a person is like a false prophet: a coward.

If we live the life God wants us to live, we will be persecuted (2 Tim 3:12). I know some Christians are being persecuted, and it has nothing to do with their relationship with God, but godly Christians will experience persecution. We may be toeing the line of being a pleaser of men if everyone is always in our corner.

Jesus was the most loving Man to ever live, and people did not like Him all the time. Should we expect different treatment? Winston Churchill is credited with saying, "If you don't have any enemies in life, you have never stood up for anything." Do not be obnoxious and make unnecessary enemies, but do not shy away from speaking a controversial truth, correcting errors lovingly, and opposing false ideologies.

In these areas, we must be able to handle someone being upset with us. If we feel like we must have the approval of everyone in the world, we will soon lose the approval of the only One that matters (Matt 10:28).

### You're Afraid to Say What You Believe

*"Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God"* John 12:42-43

A lot of people believed in Jesus. The evidence that He is the Christ could not be denied by honest onlookers in the first century. However, not everyone was willing to confess their belief in Jesus. Some Jewish authorities cared so much for the approval of the Pharisees that they would not confess Him.

Jesus said anyone who refuses to acknowledge Him before men will not be acknowledged before the Heavenly Father (Mt. 10:32-33). What a shame it would be when a closet disciple of Jesus is dismissed at the judgment. It would be better to be put out of the synagogue than to be put out of the presence of God. Much like the authorities in Jesus' day, some are more concerned with what others think than what God says.

Are you silent around your family about your faith because they believe false things and would rather not offend? When you're at work, do you refrain from mentioning Jesus and what His word says about certain things so that you are not treated as an outcast?

Every one of us must decide whether we will speak up for God or be ashamed of Him. What we say shows what we believe, and our silence is oftentimes evidence that we are not really convicted about our beliefs (2 Cor 4:13).

While we need to use tact and wisdom when engaging others (and sometimes silence is necessary), it should never be motivated by fear of others or trying to please them at the expense of our loyalty to God.

Even one of Jesus' closest disciples, Peter, was tripped up with denying Jesus not to be looked down upon by the crowd (Luke 22:54-62). We should examine ourselves and be on guard.

### You're Obsessed With What Others Think

"For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God?

Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ" Gal 1:10

The person who does not care what others think is usually a reckless and heartless individual filled with pride. Being concerned with the thoughts and feelings of others is not a bad thing. But, if we obsess over what men think, it will stop us from being the servants of Christ that we ought to be. Paul could have remained a persecutor of the church, enjoying the praise of men and the prestige of Judaism, but he would have to stop being a servant of Christ. Paul stopped caring what the Jewish leaders thought of his decision and followed the One who died for him (Gal 2:20). The more we grow as Christians, the less popular our decisions will be with the world around us, even among some Christians.

### Youth Group Scramble

1. mTihtyo
2. eetrP?
3. laeevRntoi
4. lspeog?
5. vSiaro
6. hCstirnsai
7. vaeenhh
8. iafht, eoph, evlo

We must not obsess over the approval of people who will be standing at the judgment with us. Instead, focus on pleasing the One who will be doing the judging (John 12:48).

If you find yourself constantly second-guessing your choices to do the right thing or say something godly because you think the world is watching, you have taken "people pleasing" to a dangerous extreme. We cannot control anyone's opinions of us. We simply must shine our light and be content with that.

### We Can't Please Everybody

In a world where the cameras are constantly on us and everyone is so easily offended, how do we resist the desire to be people pleasers? We should focus on pleasing God above all else. If we please God, we will treat men right (Mic 6:8). While doing things God's way, people will not always appreciate it, but our conscience will be clear (Gal 4:16).

We should strive to love people and not just to be liked. Love is stronger than like. Like is superficial, love is genuine and will last long after the like phase is over. If people know we love them, they will listen, whether they like us or not.

Lastly, accept that we cannot make everyone happy. Not everyone will like us all of the time and that has to be alright with us. Jesus was praised by the multitudes at times, and then, on other occasions, they wanted to stone Him and cried out for His execution (John 19:4-6).

If we are going to be like Jesus, we must accept that we cannot please everyone and stay in a right relationship with God. We must please God above all else. Be kind, treat people right, but don't make the opinions of others become the lord of your life.

### Senior Saints by John McShane

Oftentimes in our worship service, we sing a song entitled "We Have an Anchor." This song refers to our being grounded, firm, and deep in the Savior's love. That is a good anchor to have. Other anchors come into play that are not beneficial to us, holding us back and making life hard for us. Fear, disappointment, grief, failure, and sin are some. Let's look at failure. It has been said that the only person that has not failed at something is the one that has never tried anything. Failure, to me, is a learning opportunity. I now know that I need to go another route to accomplish my goal. Giving up after one attempt is setting an anchor that can hold you back from trying other things because of the fear of failure. So today, what anchor is holding you back? What needs to be done to cut the rope and get rid of that anchor and move on with life? It may not be easy, but it can be done. At times it may be beneficial to ask for help in pulling in that anchor. Your fellow Christians are there to help you get rid of that anchor that is bothering you. Galatians 6:2 "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." In Mark 9:23, we read, "All things are possible to him who believes!" Also, in Matt 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16

## Our Members:

## PRAYER LIST

Bob Pratt - health  
 Jim & Carol Edmonson - health  
 Nasheka Medley - pregnancy  
 Bernetta Green - health  
 Fred Strickland - health  
 Melody Baxter - bus accident  
 Debbie Bush - health  
 Margaret Coone  
 Sharon M. Washington - health  
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health

John & Linda McShane  
 Ron & Judy Ford - health  
 Darlene Thompson - family  
 Jim Turner - health  
 Bobby Simpson - bronchitis  
 Brian Smith - heart  
 Kathy Nester - health  
 Joyce Williams  
 Annette Phillip - health  
 George Davis - eye problems

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board

## PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Faith West	Joyce Burbage*
Carol Eason	Ellen Shearer

\*Sign up sheet to bring communion is on the bulletin board

## UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

**Fred Strickland** had a heart procedure on Tuesday morning. He is home resting.

**Vanessa Palmer** has been experiencing health problems.

**Pamela Share** will be traveling back to South Africa.

**Leah Lobban**, Ingrid's daughter, has covid and is very ill.

## OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES

to **Flo Duffy** on the death of her sister, Eleanor.

**Shirley Turner** (former member) has recently fallen and broken her shoulder. She is requesting prayers. Bill and their son, Ron, say hello to everyone. Their contact info is on the bulletin board.



**Church Cook-out**  
**Saturday, July 24, 2021**  
 Activities and games at 2:00 p.m.  
 Dinner served at 5:00 p.m.

Sign-up sheet for side dishes and desserts is on the bulletin board

- Mark your calendar, August 21 -  
**Teachers' Workshop for Bible Class Teachers with April Meacham and Teah McWhorter.**  
 If you are interested in attending, RSVP to the office.

## YOUTH GROUP TRIVIA ANSWERS:

1. Timothy
2. Peter
3. Revelation
4. gospel
5. Savior
6. Christians
7. heaven
8. faith hope love

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### July

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

#### Wednesday, July 7, 2021

Song Leader/Prayer ..... Ian Enamorado  
 Devo ..... Josh Cantrell  
 Closing Prayer ..... Allen Grimes

#### Sunday, July 11, 2021

##### 10:30 A.M.

Sermon ..... Brian Kenyon  
 "Don't Turn Back Now"  
 John 21:1-7

##### 6:00 P.M.

Sermon ..... Rick Kenyon  
 "From Gloom to Glory"  
 Ecc. 3:9-14

##### 10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both times) ..... Brian Kenyon  
 Greeter ..... Janis Waldon  
 Song/prayer before class ..... Tucker Sweeney  
 Announcements ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 A.M. Song Leader ..... Rick Kenyon  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Josh Estridge  
 Lord's Table ..... Wesley Brunson  
 Closing Prayer ..... Jeff Bingle

##### 6:00 P.M.

Greeters ..... Brunson  
 P.M. Song Leader ..... Rick Kenyon  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Mike Van Allen  
 Lord's Table ..... Wesley Brunson  
 Closing Prayer ..... Josh Potvin

#### Wednesday, July 14, 2021

Song Leader/prayer ..... Brian Kenyon  
 Devo ..... Josh Potvin  
 Closing Prayer ..... Charles Paulin

## Upcoming Events

### July

- 18 - Lads2Leaders
- 20 - Senior Saints mtg.
- 24 - church cook-out
- 26 - ladies' night out
- 30 - Youth group devo

### August

- 1 - Lads2Leaders
- 6 - 8 WWCC
- 17 - FSOP ladies' class
- 21 - Teachers' workshop

### September

- 5 - New Quarter

### October

- 2 - Door Knocking
- 2 - Ladies' Day
- Trunk or Treat
- (Date TBD)

### November

- 14-17 Fall gospel meeting
- 19 - Youth group thankful meal

### December

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~	
June 20	\$6,321.71
June 27	\$5,967.40
July 4	\$8,024.00
Contribution Average	\$7,144.80

If I am an eloquent speaker, encouraging everyone...

If I donate my money, clothes, and time, sharing all my own blessings...

If I memorize book, chapter, and verse of God's word, quoting and teaching...

If I can lead 100s or 1000s of Bible studies, sharing hope...

If I can move a mountain with all my faith, but have not love, I AM NOTHING!

1 Corinthians 13

"Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love." 1 John 4:8

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." Matthew 7:21

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." John 15:12

## Encounters with God

Adam and Eve in Eden

*Genesis 3:8-24*

Moses at the burning bush

*Exodus 3:1-14*

Joshua near Jericho

*Joshua 5:13-15*

Job through a whirlwind

*Job 38:1*

Isaiah at the temple

*Isaiah 6:1-8*

Those who saw Jesus

*John 14:8-10*

John saw Him on the throne

*Revelation 4 & 5*



Eleven "happy campers" from SFA attended Bible camp last week. We learned God's word and one another better. Thanks for your support!



[www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com](http://www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



"BUT AS WE HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY GOD TO BE ENTRUSTED WITH THE GOSPEL, EVEN SO WE SPEAK, NOT AS PLEASING MEN, BUT GOD WHO TESTS OUR HEARTS."

*1 Thessalonians 2:4*

**South Florida Avenue  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*1807 South Florida Avenue*

*Lakeland, FL 33803-2653*

Return Service Requested