

# Hypocrites In The Church

Author Unknown

The man who says he is kept away from church by hypocrites is not influenced by them anywhere else.

Business is full of them; but if he by chance sees where he can make some money, he does not hesitate because there are hypocrites making money.

Society is crowded with them, and yet he never thinks of becoming a hermit.

Married life is full of them, but that does not make him remain a bachelor.

Hell will be full of them, and yet he is not doing anything to keep from going there.

He makes you think he is trying to avoid hypocrites; and yet, he takes not one single step toward the only place where no hypocrites can go--heaven.

**NAVARRE NEWS AND NOTES:** Please remember in your prayers: **Kenny Cauley** recuperating from back surgery, **Francis Mansfield** who had outpatient surgery on Thursday, **Starr Wilkins, Jim Wetzstein, Debbie Kingsmill, Carrie Hare, Sister Gerry Wiemert. Houston Perry** overseas on military duty in Iraq and. **Mary Serilli** overseas with the military until December.

We meet on James M Harvell Rd next to the public library in Navarre. Call us for directions and more information (850) 939-8109



Navarre church of Christ  
8490 James M Harvell Rd  
Navarre, FL 32566

Place  
Stamp  
Here

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**Sunday**  
Bible Class for all ages.....9:00 AM  
Morning Worship Service.....10:00 AM  
Evening Worship Service ..... 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**  
Bible Class for all ages.....7:00 PM

**VISITORS ARE WELCOME!**

If you know of someone who would like to receive this publication, please let us know.

For a free Bible correspondence course by mail, call us.

# Navarre Messenger



“Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.” Matthew 11:1

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### Thought To Ponder

**There is a difference between worry and concern. A worried person sees the problem; a concerned person solves it.**



Luke 12:22-34  
Matthew 6:25-34  
2 Corinthians 11:23-28  
Acts 10:38

### Inside This Issue:

- Page 2 - “Church Growth: From Decline to Growth”
- Page 3 - “Sex on TV Influences Teens”
- Page 4 ”Hypocrites in the Church”

Jim Bell  
Evangelist & Editor

## “We’ve Got The Spirit”

Cheerleaders point to the opposing stands and shout, "We've got spirit, how about you?" The opposing leaders reciprocate with an enthusiastic, positive reply. This scene continues with each side, in turn, raising the noise level by several decibels until the whole stadium reaches a deafening crescendo and interest finally turns back to the contest. "Spirit," as used in this context has to do with enthusiasm which raises the emotional intensity level of the athletes.

As Americans we have been so saturated with hype and fast-moving action that we have a tendency to find things that are designed to be intellectually stimulating and thought challenging boring – we have come to prefer hoopla to meditation. This has had an effect upon not only our intellectual structure but also our spiritual thought processes. Some view worship as boring and "lacking spirit," because there is no upbeat, outward display of emotionalism.

The solution some offer is an infusion of emotions through artificial stimuli – mood-setting music, hand clapping, dimming lights, holding hands, sound effects, etc. One group reportedly used the sounds of grinding bones and screams to create a hair-raising at-

mosphere for participation in the Lord’s Supper.

However, emotionalism is not equivalent to "spiritual," and it is not evidence of true spirituality. We may feel many things which are not based on truth. How we feel is a natural outgrowth of what we believe and what we believe must be based on what God says (Rom. 10:17). For instance, based upon what God has revealed about our sinful condition (Rom. 3:23) and offered salvation by His grace (Eph. 2:8-9), when we meet the gospel’s conditions for salvation (Mk. 16:15-16), we know that we are saved. That knowledge produces a natural flood of elation (Acts 8:39). How expressive a person is depends on his emotional structure, but one is not more spiritual than another, because he is more expressive of how he feels.

Artificially stimulated emotion is temporary. To maintain an emotionally charged atmosphere different stimuli must be sought, lest the routine lose its effectiveness and become boring. One cannot serve God without feeling but emotions are the product of the relationship and not the evidence of it. - - Jim Everett

Check us out on the internet: [www.navarrechurchofchrist.net](http://www.navarrechurchofchrist.net)

## “CHURCH GROWTH: From Decline To Growth”

### A Committed Core

During a period of decline many people will often lose their commitment to a congregation and seek the benefits of another thriving church. However, if a congregation is to survive a decline, there must be a core group who have the heart to overcome discouragement and the hurt of loss and work hard to save the congregation they love!

### The Need for a Committed Core

Rebuilding a congregation is not a task for spiritual superstars. Though turn-around depends upon visionary leadership, it cannot be achieved solely by the effort of leaders who have a vision. There must be a committed core of members if the church is to grow (1 Cor. 12:12ff; Eph. 4:16). The committed core will give their support to the leadership and become the team that spearheads the movement in a new direction. They will not be satisfied to continue “business as usual”. They will be ready to support loving leaders who demonstrate a willingness to sacrifice for others and provide training to others (Cf. Neh. 2:18).

### How a Committed Core Will Help

The truth is, the rebuilding of a congregation is accomplished by the efforts of the core group. There are many ways in which they can make a rebuilding attempt successful.

- When the leadership suggests a plan of action, they will be ready with their time and resources to put the plan into action.
- The core group will accept training, being ready to move to the next level in their own spiritual growth so as to become more useful to the cause (2 Pet. 3:18).

Once the core is ignited by the vision of a better church, they will affect others with their zeal and the church will gain needed momentum.

- The core group will generate hope as they talk optimistically of the future and look for ways to be encouraging to their fellow team members.

### What Can God Do with a Few People?

Sometimes people may say, when the church is small, do we have enough people to do great things for God? We only have to look at the history of the church to answer that question. Jesus chose twelve men to serve as the core from which to build the great cause that carries His name (Jn. 20:21)!

In many ways the accomplishment of great things from a small beginning is God’s trademark (Mt.13:31-32). God asked the Jews during a particularly discouraging time, “Who has despised the day of small things?” (Zech. 4:10) He chose to use Gideon and 300 warriors rather than the 32,000 available for the battle! (Jud. 7:2-7) By so doing, He makes manifest that success is to be attributed to His power rather than our efforts (2 Cor. 4:7). In fact, the small band of disciples who work for God will come to appreciate how much they have depended upon Him for success rather than themselves and will, because of it, give Him all the glory for the good accomplished. And isn’t that really what it’s all about? (Eph. 3:20-21) Are you willing to let God use you to make a difference?

By Johnny Felker

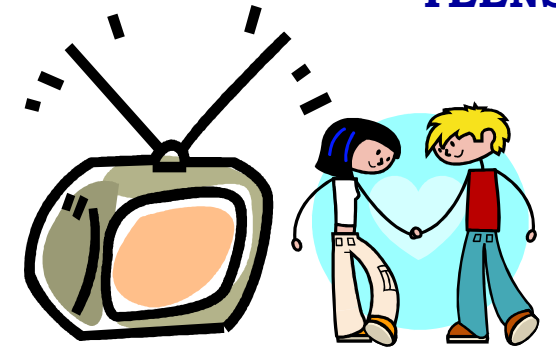


*“Teenagers who watch a lot of television with sexual content are twice as likely to engage in intercourse as those who watch few such programs, according to a study today in the September issue of Pediatrics. The study covered 1,792 adolescents ages 12 to 17 who were quizzed on viewing habits and sexual activity. Both regular and cable television were included. ‘This is the strongest evidence yet that the sexual content of television programs encourages adolescents to initiate sexual intercourse,’ said Rebecca Collins, a Rand Corp. psychologist who headed the study” (Houston Chronicle, 9/7/04).*

Well, imagine that! What we watch on television influences our behavior! Frankly, I am not amazed. When smoking fell into disfavor, it was banned from advertizing. Smoking used to be the “in,” the “cool thing.” Thus, in movies and on TV, real action heroes and beautiful women, debutantes, were portrayed as smokers. However, characters today are rarely shown smoking. Why? Because “the...content of television programs” affects the behavior of both adolescents and adults!

Have you ever wondered why the entertainment crowd goes out of its way to paint homosexuals as normal and their behavior as being upright and moral? Do you know why homosexuals are never seen as deviant perverts on television? Because they know “the content...of television programs” affects the attitudes, actions, and moral standards of the viewer, they present the homosexual as upstanding citizens and as being misunderstood by evil, hate-filled bigots, or “homophobes.” So, why should they be surprised that what people watch on TV has an affect on them?

## SEX ON TV INFLUENCE TEENS



Why not apply the same wisdom to drinking alcoholic beverages? As watching sexual activity promotes fornication, so watching drinking as an acceptable behavior helps to produce death, divorces, and drunks. Why not admit that the same is true with respect to drinking as to sexual behavior? The liquor industry would never drink to that proposal. Neither the media nor the government is not about to attack the alcohol industry like they have the tobacco companies. Why? Money and hypocrisy, ungodliness and world lusts, that is why.

As devoutly and ardently as we may desire it, we cannot expect that society will repent and reform. Though we may not win the battle with the world, we can win it within ourselves. We can overcome the world (1 Jn. 5:4, 5). We can help our children to overcome temptation by living lives of light and by leading them in those well lit paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

By Larry Ray Hafley

