

The Bible teaches we should put God first. But there are some circumstances in which we should put ourselves first.

**PASSING JUDGMENT**. When passing judgment on the errors of people, put yourself first. When Jesus was teaching us how to judge, he delivered what is probably the most quoted scripture: *"Judge not, that ye be not judged."* Most can quote it but don't know where it's found nor its context, unfortunately. This leads to a perversion of scripture. Jesus wasn't condemning all judging when he said this. He was commanding us not to judge a CERTAIN WAY. Don't judge hypocritically. If you want to get the mote (speck) out of your brother's eye, put yourself FIRST. "First, get the beam (huge timber) out of your own eye SO YOU CAN SEE how to get the mote out of your brother's eye." It's found in Matthew 7:1-5. Jesus is not telling us not to judge between right and wrong actions. In a lesser known verse Jesus COMMANDS us to *"Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment"* (John 7:24). Of course, Jesus is the only one who can pass final judgment (Acts 17:30,31).

**THE LORD'S SUPPER**. The way Jesus taught us to remember Him is by partaking the Lord's Supper. But there is something we should do FIRST. *"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup"* (1 Cor 11:28). Examining himself first before partaking, enables him to partake in a worthy manner.

**GIVING**. The churches of Macedonia were suffering deep poverty. But because of a famine that affected saints in Jerusalem, they went above and beyond their **>** 

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ability because of their abundant joy. They exceeded all expectations and gave out of their "deep poverty." How did they do it? "And this, not as we had hoped, but they FIRST gave themselves to the Lord…" Read that thrilling account in 2 Cor 8:1-5.

So, here are three areas in which we should put ourselves FIRST. In so doing, we are putting God first. *-db* 

## What Children Get Out of Church

**Sometimes parents may wonder,** after a particularly difficult time with kinds at a church service, "Is it all worth it? I don't get anything out of it and I disturb others!" Well, Eunice probably took Timothy to regular synagogue service for he is said to have known the Scriptures from a child (2 Tim 1:5; 3:14,15) and in those days it was not likely they had scrolls of the text at home. Our children can learn from an early age "in church", too.

**They learn faith is important**...faithful attendance...faith in God. Kids are never too small to begin learning the importance of faith. They don't have to understand sermons, or even be awake, they must need to be brought faithfully.

**They learn that fellowship is valuable**...that we are to be partners, participating in spiritual work with others. Christianity was never meant to be a "solo" endeavor. Kids must learn that spiritual work TOGETHER is important. They need to know that fellowship with God's people matters.

**They learn how to respect authority**...for we assemble in obedience to God's will and to submit to the other members, especially the leaders of the church who are guiding the flock. Children see that authority isn't just for kids, but Mom and Dad too...that obedience is for EVERYBODY.

They learn what a family of saints is based on, namely love for each other. Kids are great mimics and imitators. A lot of what

# News/Notes/Quotes.

THE SICK. David Ledgerwood was to have a procedure to drain fluid from his pleural cavity.. Leon Morgan is being treated for prostate issues...Freddie Horton was scheduled to see a rheumatologist...Pat Spencer is receiving new treatment for cancer ... ... Remember to pray for Chloe Humblet who is away from home for extended treatment ....Several times we have mentioned friends and relatives of the members here as needing our prayers. Let's remember all those who continue to undergo health challenges...Shut-ins: Rhea Vines (at Roger's house)...Gail Brooks 423 Lawrence Hall, Walnut Ridge... Rita Kieffer, St. Bernard Village, ....Shirley Coots, Lawrence County Nursing (hospice care)... Karen Livesay at home...Joyce Riley at St. Elizabeth's Place... Jean Evans at home...Betty Shrable at Ridgecrest, room 304...Pray for these!

<u>PODCAST!</u> Hear a lesson from God's word each morning from John Mundy on Facebook & YouTube, 8 am., or you can catch it throughout the day.

### **GOSPEL MEETINGS**

April 7-12 – StoneRidge! – Tack Chumley April 21-26 – Paragould (Village Creek) – David mcPherson

GROUP MEETING. Group 2 will meet March 30 at the Stubblefield's.

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they will grow up to do is what they grew up seeing in others. They need to observe brother love in action.

At the assembly's end, when your nerves are at end because the preacher went longer than your kids and you wonder, "Is this all worth it?"...YES, IT IS. Let it be the biggest part of your life so...Someday it will be the biggest part of your child's life. - *Molleigh Gray Arrowood* 

If you don't fill your mind with the word of God, the enemy will fill it with fear, anxiety, stre3ss, worry, and temptation.

Home improvement is when men take their families to church.