

WALKING IN WISDOM (**Colossians 4:5**) Number #37

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All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version
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How to Solve the "Illegal Immigrant" Problem

By John T. Polk II

Within the churches of Christ, allowing outsiders to be accepted on their terms has caused a "mixed multitude" who are always murmuring about the way things are done in the church:

Then: when Israelites were to be separated from among Egyptians, some Egyptians came out among the Israelites and became the "mixed multitude" that caused problems for the Israelites' faithful:

Exodus 12:38 - they exited Egypt as if they were "in covenant" with the Israelites;

Numbers 11:4-15 - they disquieted Israelites because they missed the "meat" they had back in Egypt;

Nehemiah 13:1-3 - 70 years after God cast His Israelites out of the Promised Land because of their gross immorality in abandoning His Bible, when they returned to the Promised Land, a careful reading of the Law of Moses caused the Israelites to separate out the "mixed multitude," thus returning God's People back to their purity of faith and genealogy. ***The "mixed multitude" had influenced the***

Israelites for no good: "In those days I also saw Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people." (**Nehemiah 13:23-24**). It was difficult, but necessary, to accomplish!

Now: there are people who have "been accepted" into local churches who never have obeyed the Gospel as God intended it to be done. The resurrected Jesus described to all people: "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned'" (**Mark 16:15-16**). (Also read: **Matthew 7:21; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 3:1-25**);

This "mixed multitude" lead the discussions/criticisms about us compared with "other denominations," and "can't we just get along?" and "we remember how loving denominationalism was," and "how can we be so judgmental?" This has caused many in the church to speak "according to the language of one or the other people" (**Nehemiah 13:24** cf **verses 23-30**), and not the clear expressions of Bible-believers. God's appeal is "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (**1 Corinthians 1:10**).

Isn't it about time for Christians to remember/re-read the rules of church membership in the New Testament, and enforce the rules already in the Book? What further discussion(s) must there be to cease letting "outsiders" in (or outsiders' practices in!) without repentance and obedience? Christians are to "exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you" (**Titus 2:6-8**). (Also read: **1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 1 Peter 2:11-12; 1 John 2:15-19**)?

Just as there is a simple, but difficult, solution for the "illegal immigration" problem in the USA, there is a simple solution for the "unconverted aliens" problem within the churches of Christ. It may be hard to implement, but necessary for the salvation of the church (**1 Corinthians 10:14-22**). Christians must "contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (**Jude 3**). Since "the faith" is unchanged, we must unchain it from all outside interferences!
----jtp II

Free Publication: "Terrorism In The Streets"

<https://johnpolkll.com/files/documents/TerrorismInTheStreets.pdf>

~Some people are looking forward to a Christmas they'll never forget — and a New Year's Eve they'll never remember.

~Author unknown, quoted by Earl Wilson, 1968

~Youth is when you are allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you are forced to.

~Bill Vaughn (1915–1977), "Senator Soaper Says,"
1958 [quoteinvestigator.com]

~An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.

~Bill Vaughan (1915–1977), in *The Kansas City Star*,
as quoted by *The Reader's Digest*



Paul's Advice for the New Year

*Brethren, I do not
count myself to have
apprehended;*



**Realize that
there is much
you need to do.**

*but one thing I do,
forgetting those things
which are behind*



**Don't keep
shedding the
past year's tears.**

*and reaching forward
to those things which
are ahead,*



**Set goals and
look ahead with
great hope.**

*I press toward the goal
for the prize of the upward
call of God in Christ Jesus.*



**Work hard and
make sure that you
are following Jesus.**

(Philippians 3:13-14)

- Edd Sterchi

God's Rules:

"The beginning of strife *is like* releasing water;
Therefore stop contention
before a quarrel starts."

"He who justifies the wicked, and he who
condemns the just, Both of them alike *are* an
abomination to the LORD"

(Proverbs 17:14-15)