

Consider your mate. Instead of finding everything under the sun wrong with them, give them praise for their great value to us. Yes, our mate may have flaws. None are perfect. But we ought to want to please more than be a thorn in their side. When was the last time we said to our mate, “Thank you! I love you!”? Oh, we’ll let them know if they’ve failed us. We’ll shine a light on their mistakes. But let’s shine the light even brighter on how great they are for us. Let them know we’re blessed to have them.

What’s the short of all of this? Very simple, it’s the Golden Rule applied where it’s most often overlooked. It’s needed greatly in our homes today. If we practiced this, there’d be no divorces and no abused children. Siblings would also get along better.

Find an opportunity to praise. Next time we’re prone to be negative, stop and think about the Golden Rule. “Whatever we wish that others do unto us, do unto them.”

Rickie Jenkins

Campbell Road church of Christ (Facebook Page)



### Jesus is The Way

“Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep” (John 10.7 NKJV)

During His earthly ministry Jesus used parables to explain to his listeners about the kingdom of heaven. Parables use nature or human circumstances to create a vivid picture to make the message of Jesus easier to understand for the common man. In John 10.7-18, Jesus uses imagery of a shepherd and sheep to show God’s desire to welcome as many who are willing to come into His fold.

Jesus starts in verse 7 by calling Himself “the door of the sheep.” As the door, Jesus is the only way to salvation, He is the only way to heaven. Jesus will go on to say in John 14.6, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” Many seem to think they can make into heaven without Christ. Others think they only need to acknowledge who Christ is. They have been told all they need to do to obtain salvation is to accept Christ as their personal savior. They fail to acknowledge the sin in their lives and make changes to correct it. Neither of these will lead to salvation. Many look to the world for answers instead of looking to Christ. Jesus can provide what false teachers and their teaching can only claim to provide, a place of rest (Matthew 11.28-30). Christ’s sacrifice provides us with hope, but we still must walk through the door. After we put on Christ through baptism, we must walk in newness of life. We must make the necessary changes that bring our lives into conformity to His will. His sacrifice, while great, alone won’t save a person.

## Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.  
Jacksonville, FL 32220

### Times of Worship

Sunday:

9 am - Bible Study / 10 am - Worship / 5 pm - Worship

Wednesday:

7 pm - Bible Study/Worship

Evangelist: Devin Barber

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

In verse 11, Jesus calls Himself “the good Shepherd.” One of the jobs of a shepherd is to protect the flock from any dangers, mostly wild animals that seek to harm the sheep. Jesus as the “good Shepherd” offers the same protection to His flock. The world and false teachers offer no such protection. It is through Jesus we can find help in our times of need. Jesus came to the world and for a time lived as a man. He felt and went through the emotions and troubles that goes along with living in this world. But He is different from man in that He lived a perfect life while here on the earth. That is why the Hebrews writer says “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4.15-16). Jesus doesn’t promise to keep us from the storms of life, only that we don’t have to face the storms alone.

The great thing is all mankind can come to Jesus. In the immediate context of the passage (vv. 16-17) Jesus is referring to the Gentile people. While the gospel was delivered to the Jews first, it was always God’s desire for all mankind to have the opportunity to have their souls washed clean by the blood of Jesus (Acts 17.30-31; 2 Peter 3.9). This invitation is open regardless of race, gender, national origin, background, or religion. What is important is a person’s willingness to submit themselves to the will of the Lord (Matthew 16.24).

Jesus truly embodies all it means to be a shepherd, and His desires is for each person to find refuge in Him. He alone is the door to eternal life, and He alone is the source for comfort when the trials of life come. Apart from Jesus, there is no rest for the soul who is longing for more than what the world has to offer. Only one question remains, are you willing to walk through the door?

Written by; Derek Steen

### **Praise Or Criticism?**

It’s not unusual to hear about trials, disappointments, failures, and setbacks. It’s not unusual for us to hear lessons on how to overcome or how to survive. All of those bring their own set of challenges. None are exempt. And yet, we are often quick to point out the mistakes of others.

However, how often do we hear about the success of others? How often do we hear lessons on those who were successful in the game of faith? How quick are we to compliment those who succeed?

I can hear, “Yes, but if we do that, it will go to their head.” But isn’t it true that all of those negative things will go to a person’s head too? So, if both affect a person’s thinking, then let’s just say nothing. No, that isn’t right either.

We don’t need any help beating ourselves up over our failures. We do a good enough job ourselves. The last thing we need is someone piling on while they think they’re helping. When we fail, we need someone to help us up. We need someone to tell us we’ll be okay. We need encouragement to persevere.

However, equally important is praise when we succeed. Most of the time we are never short on criticism for failure, but we take success for granted. We absolutely need praise when we accomplish our purpose.

As parents, are we so quick to criticize the failures and bad grades of our children but slow to praise them when they have good grades? Are we slow to praise them when they fight through some difficult challenge and overcome? Our sins are ever before us, but praise is not as prevalent. Let’s look for opportunities to praise more than point out their mistakes. It won’t hurt them. It will most likely help them more than we may think.

Continued on back...