

WHICH DAY MOST REMINDS YOU OF JESUS' RESURRECTION?

How do you answer this question? Is it a certain day of each week, a certain day of each month, or a certain day of each year? After you answer this question, open your Bible and ask "Which day most reminded the first Christians of Jesus' resurrection?" What will you find in the Bible?

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, identify *the first day of the week* as the day of His resurrection. Luke says that on this day the disciples met to break bread (the Lord's Supper, Acts 20:7). Being the only spiritually meaningful day for Christians, it is the Lord's Day (Revelation 1:10).

One problem with Easter is that many people view it as a holy day above or equal to the Lord's Day. God chose the Lord's Day and man chose Easter, yet somehow Easter is supposedly a more or equally special "holy day." Is God glorified when human ideas are made equal to God's ideas?

The church of Christ in Quail Valley will remember the death and resurrection of Jesus this first day of the week as Luke, Paul, and other Christians did—by assembling on His day and eating the Lord's Supper. You are invited to be our guest each week.

-- *Editor's Note:* Maybe you've heard these points all your life, but please remember that most people have not. Whether to a friend or stranger, find and clip this article from the *Arkansas Weekly* and let them know that we are glad to listen to questions or comments. Let's spread the word while we have life!

We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM

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The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

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"ONE WHO SOWS DISCORD"

John Gibson

"These six things **the LORD hates**, Yes, seven are **an abomination to Him**: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, And **one who sows discord among brethren.**" [Proverbs 6:16-19](#) (Emphasis mine, JRG)

We can be moved to a righteous indignation when we hear about the shedding of innocent blood and we are often repulsed by even the thought of that unnatural act called homosexuality ([Romans 1:26, 27](#)), but do we see causing division and strife among brethren as the abomination it is? Do we properly appreciate how often the New Testament exhorts the children of God to be united as brothers? Read carefully the following sampling of God's plan for His children.

"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](#)

"Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." [Ephesians 4:3](#)

"Fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." [Philippians 2:2](#)

How can Christians who otherwise appear so faithful sometimes be so unconcerned about the unity of the brethren? Why are they so willing to create dissension through their murmuring about the way things are done, the decisions the elders make, the way someone leads singing, etc.? There are likely many reasons, but in so many cases the first thing on the list of things hated by God, i.e. the proud look, is inseparably linked to the last thing, i.e. the sowing of discord among brethren.

Consider the Old Testament story of Absalom. This proud young man, the son of David, used his good looks and smooth ways to create division within Israel (2 Samuel 14-19). Absalom's pride and the ensuing division cost many their lives and led to great sorrow for many, including his own father. Today, while pride and the desire to create a following will rarely cost anyone their physical life, as happened to Absalom and many others, it will bring sorrow to a church and cost people their souls. If we are to avoid a worse punishment than that suffered by Absalom, we must make certain we are not guilty of allowing our pride to lead to the sowing of discord among our brothers and sisters, the children of God Almighty.

Do we appreciate unity as we should? Do we abhor division the way God does? If so, lets...

- Swallow our own personal pride, humble ourselves in God's sight, and do everything for the glory of God and not self. 1 Peter 5:5, 6; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1
- Recommit ourselves to stirring up love and good works. Hebrews 10:24, 25
- Have the spirit of submission to the elders that allows them to watch for our souls with joy. Hebrews 13:17
- Avoid the kind of whispering that separates brethren and friends. Proverbs 16:28
- Refrain from questioning the motives of people or assigning the worst possible motive to every action. 1 Corinthians 13:7

All division is not sin, for our Lord Himself said that He came to bring division with His teachings and demands for commitments to the Father's will (Matthew 10:34-37), but before we create any friction or faction among God's people we had better think long and hard about our motives. Love for truth and love for the souls of those deceived by lies may require division from those teaching and practicing things not found in God's word, but far too often claims of love for the truth are a thin disguise for a pride that seeks a greater sense of importance.

"These...things **the LORD hates**, Yes,...are **an abomination to Him: A proud look, ... And one who sows discord among brethren.**"

www.pepperroadchurch.org/resources/articles/2012/09/25/one-who-sows-discord

FORGIVING FROM THE HEART

Jerry Fite (Glad Tidings (XXII:31), July 29, 2012)

Jesus concluded his parable highlighting forgiveness by saying, "*So shall also my heavenly Father do unto you, if ye forgive not everyone his brother from your hearts*" (Matthew 18:35). Forgiving from the heart denotes a sincere and genuine forgiveness.

But here our heart is made aware of a sobering thought. What will my heavenly Father do unto me, if I do not forgive from the heart?

We are to forgive from a heart knowing God will not forgive us if we do not genuinely forgive others. This is the point of the parable (Matthew 18:23-35). A servant owes the king 10,000 talents and cannot immediately pay the debt. Pleading for patience, the servant receives compassion from the king who forgives him of the debt. When released of his debt, he finds a fellow servant who owes him 100 shillings. He rigorously demands payment. He does not forgive with compassion, even though he was forgiven by the king far more than what his fellow servant owed him. His king, when learning of his servant's unwillingness to forgive, demands what was owed him. This is where Jesus' summary statement is made. We must forgive others knowing God will not forgive us when we need forgiveness (Matthew 6:14-15).

Forgiving from the heart is a heart that is not calculating the wrongs done, but is a heart always ready to forgive. Peter asked, "*How oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him...*" No doubt thinking magnanimously, Peter immediately adds, "*until seven times?*" Jesus follows the line of thinking, but takes it to a different meaning. Jesus says not seven but the complete number 7 multiplied by 10 times 7. Jesus is not saying that one must forgive 490 times, but the limit is reached at this point and one does not have to forgive the 491st time. He is saying the heart is ready always to forgive.

What is the limit of your forgiveness? If one wrongs you once and you forgive; and then wrongs you a second time, and you forgive; you are probably at your limit. Does it not make you look foolish to keep on being wronged and you respond with forgiveness? After all, does not the world think in terms, "*fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me*". But forgiving from the heart involves being always ready to forgive, not having a certain limit to forgiveness.

Forgiving from the heart, is a heart knowledgeable of how God forgives. While always ready to forgive, God does not forgive until we repent (Acts 8:22). As God has forgiven us, we are to forgive others with a "*tender*" and "*kind*" heart (Ephesians 4:32). While we should always be ready to forgive, "*if he repent, forgive him*" is the godlike way we should forgive from the heart (Luke 17:3).

We must forgive as God forgives, being ready to forgive the penitent with compassion. We will forgive with a heart never to apply the wrong again. When your heart says "I just cannot forgive anymore," tell yourself, "Do I want God to quit forgiving me?" He will, if we quit forgiving from the heart those who sin against us!