

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember the health concerns of *Francine Davis, Gerald Eaton, Joey Avance, Jerry Schnelle, Bonnie Allgor, Pat Buls, Sonny & Cathy Monaghan, Beth Ellen, and Pete Rowland.*

Please remember Jennie and the baby!

Thankfully, Wendell is improving!

If you think you're not troubled by this particular malady, ask yourself this question: how willing am I to be corrected by someone with far less experience than I? The patronizing, "mature" smile with which you listen to criticism from your juniors is probably a sign of pride, and you may need to listen to Solomon: "Better a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who will be admonished no more." Hasn't pride closed many an older ear?

Whether we're young or old in the faith, it's a good idea to minimize the amount of time we spend making comparisons. It really doesn't matter whether we are ahead of or behind someone else in life's experience. We won't have been in heaven for five seconds before we realize how absolutely silly such

comparisons are. The only gap that matters is the gap between us and God!

Being Late Greg Gwin

There is a continual problem with some church members who are late to the services. If you are in that number, it is possible that you have never considered how serious this situation is. Think about what happens when you are late:

When you are late, the hectic rush to get here without being any later leaves you in a totally wrong frame of mind to enter into worship. Frayed nerves are not conducive to spiritual meditation.

You miss the opportunity to greet the brethren and to be greeted by them, thus missing out on the encouragement that comes in this way.

You are unable to welcome visitors to the services. Therefore you are failing to do your work in this regard, and are leaving this essential job to others.

Your late entrance is disruptive to good order, and is disturbing to others who have carefully planned to arrive on time.

In simplest terms, you miss out on part of the worship service, and that's what we came together for in the first place. If you miss a

verse of a song, or an entire song, or a song and a prayer, etc., you have simply missed an important part of our worship to God. And if you miss the first several minutes of a Bible class, you miss out on some vital discussion and may not be able to "catch up" with the class at all.

What is the solution to this serious problem? Here are some suggestions:

Realize that being late to worship services and Bible studies becomes a habit. Everyone is late occasionally, due to unavoidable circumstances. But there are some who are always late, and this indicates that a habitual pattern has been established.

Apply conscious effort to break this habit. Force yourself to begin preparing to leave for the services earlier than you have been.

Don't try to arrive exactly at the starting time. Plan to arrive at least 15 minutes early. Then if something goes wrong, you can still be on time.

Consider what it would be like if every member followed the same late pattern that you follow. Realizing the disastrous results this would bring, you should then see the obligation you have to do better.

Finally, get in the habit of being early. After you have done this for a while, and as you enjoy the benefits of welcoming

visitors, greeting brethren, and being able to sit down without all the rush, ready to join into the whole worship service, then you will see that you never want to be late again.

ZZZZZZZ Cloyce Sutton II

I am thankful for sleep. Our bodies are designed to need rest. Most of us need about 7-8 hours of sleep to recharge and refresh. Many of us get fewer hours; some get more. But there's nothing like the feeling you have after going to bed at a decent hour, sleeping uninterrupted, and awaking when your body is ready. As rare as it may be, it is truly wonderful.

Now having said that, I am also thankful that our God never sleeps. It is a bit ironic that the One who designed us to need sleep needs no rest Himself. That is good for all of us.

"I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come? My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep." (Psalm 121.1-4)

This "restlessness" of God is part of his eternal vigilance on behalf of his creation. Because He is not bound by