

Christians Like My Cat

I was thinking about how my cat, Mr. Jones, acts and got to thinking that some people who claim to be Christians are a lot like him. Mr. Jones acts instinctually but they ignore Bible teaching by choice. Let's look at a few of like behaviors.

My cat wants what he wants and he wants it now. It doesn't matter what I am doing or if it is something that may not be good for him (like all the cat treats he can eat). He has no patience or self-control. We have all seen Christians like this. They are determined that everything needs to be done or issues resolved the way they want it refusing to consider any other view point or facts that may impact on the matter. Instead they pout like a small child letting anyone who will listen know how badly they have been treated. They may even move to another congregation that will give in to them.

If my cat wants something he can be very friendly but as soon as I give him what he wants, the friendliness stops. Either by nature or nurture (learned behavior) he has learned how to manipulate me. We have all seen Christians who are very friendly and cooperative until they get whatever it is they want and then they go back to their old ways. A human version of the manipulation game.

When Mr. Jones wants to be the center of my attention sometimes he will reach up with his paw and pat my arm or lightly nip it. I don't think I have ever seen anyone physically nip someone else but we have all seen Christians that want to be the center of attention and do things sometimes good but sometimes not good to get that attention. Attention being the desired outcome.

Galatians 6: 22 & 23 put it very clearly, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." If you are acting like my cat, then you are not living so as to have the fruits of the spirit in dominant in your life. Remember, we are to follow Jesus example and put others first.

Mr. Jones is self-centered in his dealing with me but he is a cat acting largely on instinct. He is not a rational, reasoning being. He is not living with the goal of spending eternity with God. If you are acting like my cat, what's your excuse? I hope it's good because you don't have to convince me, you have to convince God.

Larry Benson

Crying with a Sucker

“And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19

It was Saturday morning when I found myself sitting beside a little boy and his father at the barber shop. Though I am not a “youth minister,” working with kids of all ages is a big part of my life so I turned to this boy and started a new friendship. The boy was about two years old and really full of life. His father informed me that the little boy did not like the barber’s chair very much. Even so, the boy seemed fine playing with his Batman action figure.

The time came for the boy to get up in the barber’s chair. His father placed him on the booster pad and the barber put the cape around his neck. When the first button snapped, the terror began. The little boy was crying, kicking, and screaming bloody murder. A child who had been so pleasant was now a holy terror. The barber reached over to his candy jar and pulled out a sucker that he compassionately handed to the boy. In an effort to cease the child’s crying, the plan simply did not work. The only thing to change was that now my new friend was screaming and crying with a sucker in his hand. I couldn’t help but sit back in my chair and just grin. Not because he was in distress or because the barber couldn’t do his job, but because I thought *this is exactly how modern-day Christians act.*

Have we really taken the time to be still and know that he is God? Have we counted our blessings and truly seen them as gifts from the creator that he was never obligated to give? Have we really understood the gift of salvation that Jesus has blessed us with?

So often in our lives we are like this kid with the sucker. We live with the blessings that God has bestowed on us and yet cry and scream because we aren’t getting what we want. When I was an undergrad at Freed-Hardeman University, Dr. Mark Blackwelder told us to list three blessings every day and write them in a journal. Each day the three blessings had to be different so no blessing could overlap. We were to do this for a whole year! He said, “If this is a challenge for you, perhaps you need to reconsider how you view life.” God has richly blessed us in so many ways. Let’s stop crying with a sucker in our hand and ask ourselves, “What can I do to bless my Lord?”

Joshua Houston

PRAYER REQUEST:

Shirley Bibb, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Selma Boyd, Ernestine Taylor, Houston Henry, Laura Wisner, Edna Vance, Holly Bowman, Jeannetta Acklin, Lester & Ann Clark, Shirley Tenpenny

SHUT INS:

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

***MEMBERS**

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*

DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA: Jean Nickens*

NHC: Lizzie Bush, Geri Melton*, Sue Reeves*

STONES RIVER MANOR: Margaret Davidson*, Jeweldean Hall*, Virgie Leonard*, Ernestine Taylor*, Laura Wisner*, Lillian Whitworth, Edna Vance*

COMMUNITY CARE: Louise McKnight*

MILITARY:

Tony Berry

NEWS & NOTES

- **CYC meeting** this evening, for all those planning to attend CYC in Pigeon Forge. If you are not able to attend the meeting, please contact Randall Phifer and let him know how many tickets your family will need.
- **College Students - Creation Unveiled** - Thursday, November 3rd 6pm at MTSU Ballroom A&B (Room 250) at the Student Union Building. **Speakers: Kyle Butt and Dr. Mike Houts.**
- **Middle Tennessee Christian School** will host the **56th Annual Steak Dinner** Fundraiser Thursday, November 3rd at 6:30 pm.
- There will be a **Fellowship Day** at Bradyville Road church of Christ on November 6th. Lunch will be served after morning worship.
- Our annual **Senior Saints Banquet** is planned for Friday, November 11th at 6 pm at our church building. The sign-up sheet is in the foyer. Please see Keith Short or Larry Benson if you have any questions.
- A **ladies brunch and ornament exchange** will be held on Saturday, November 12th at 10:30. Please sign the list in the foyer if you plan to attend.
- In preparation of the **2017 Membership Directory**, please check your information for any corrections or additions. A printed copy of this list is in the foyer.
 - ***check out the bulletin board for activities and weekly updates.**

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We're on the web!
www.salemcreekcoc.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday
 Morning Worship 9:00 am
 Bible Classes 10:15 am
 Evening Worship 5:30 pm

Wednesday
 Ladies Morning Bible Class (Sept-May) 10:00 am
 Evening Bible Classes 6:30 pm

ELDERS

B.K. Ham
 Jim Hatfield
 Jon Holland
 Andy Mitchell
 Randall Phifer
 Keith Short

MINISTER

Ron Harper

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

DEACONS

Rick Acklin Rick Corum
 Larry Benson Andy Melton
 Michael Bowman Brian Melton
 Craig Buckner Alan Pepper
 Joe Byars Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

October 23, 2016

Sunday	AM worship	216
	Bible classes	148
	PM worship	137
	Contribution	\$5,679.00

Wednesday	PM Bible classes	152
Wednesday	AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)	14

When county schools are closed due to inclement weather A.M. ladies class will be cancelled

To Our Honored Guests...

We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back as often as you have opportunity!

We were honored by your presence!

GREETERS

*Please be at the door
 15 minutes prior to services!*

October 30

Jim & Gayle Glover

November 6

Regenia Grissom
 Dean Thompson

