



“You can disagree without being disagreeable.”

-Ruth Bader Ginsburg

“When I Don’t Agree with Church Leadership”

Rev. David J. Bauer (based on an article by Rev. Chuck Svoboda)

“What were you thinking!?” Bill demanded of the pastor in the board conference room. At first, board members spoke up, trying to defend their pastor and a recent board decision to discipline a member of Bill’s family.

But Bill went on attack again, “This whole church has been in turmoil ever since you became a pastor!” The accusation stung the pastor, while the board went absolutely silent. It was clear that Bill did not like their decision to take his son off of the deacon board because of sinful behavior in his personal life. In the board’s mind, this young man had spiritual problems which affected his testimony and violated church policy. There were details shared in confidence the board knew about, that Bill obviously had no knowledge of.

Bill’s angry outburst continued, “You call yourself a pastor? You do not have a pastor’s heart and are phony! You are a big liar!” Still no answer or defense from the board members. Feeling isolated and thrown under the bus by his board, the pastor resigned his position that week.

There are a lot of ways of demonstrating our displeasure with the church leaders, most of which often show our anger and works of the flesh instead of fruits of the Spirit. But what should we do when we do not agree with a decision made by church leaders? What is the proper approach?

First, we must expect decisions made that we don’t agree with. But this does not mean they are wrong decisions. As long as we have two people left in this world we will have varying opinions. Spouses will not always agree.

Second, we must commit the situation to God who is Sovereign. Know that God can do much more with a situation than we can. Do we believe that God can answer prayer? If we believe that, we need to take the situation to God alone –Psalm 5:3. Ask for God’s special “*grace*” in the matter. Recognize that these experiences are a part of God stretching our heart, allowing the graces of His Holy Spirit to be imparted in our life –2 Corinthians 9:8. Nothing happens outside of God’s notice.

Third, we should thank God for allowing the situation. Prayer in thanksgiving is the key that can solve every problem –1 Thessalonians 5:18. When we no longer say, “*Why God?*” But instead, we ask, “*What are you trying to teach me?*” This may be the key to the solution in any area that may not be to our liking. Realize that God is in the business of conforming us to the image of His Son. God uses all kinds of situations to teach us humility and submission to the mind of Christ –Philippians 2:1-11.

Finally, most importantly, we must recognize the Divine Authority God has ordained in His church. If we and the majority of the church prayerfully called the pastor and elected church leaders, then we must accept their decisions as coming from God. Understand that God can change their hearts and minds if there is a need for adjustment, or even the possibility of human

error –Psalm 37:4-5. If we believe that a situation needs to be adjusted, know that God can do a fine job without our “*help*,” which may turn into “*interference*” in God’s eternal and perfect plan –Psalm 18:30.

When we are greatly bothered about a matter, we should “go” to the proper leaders, share our concerns in love. Go humbly, which means to not display anger or a superior attitude. A simple question is appropriate: “*Please help me to understand the leadership decision...*” This plea should disarm the conflict and not put leaders on the defense. Having heard the explanation and voiced our thoughts, we then should commit the entire situation to God, without initiating strife or getting further involved in any way. Involving others in our corner will become potentially divisive to the entire congregation. Rights or wrongs are NOT the issue, but what we allow it to do to us is the real problem we must deal with.

Beware the sin of judging motives when decisions are made. Full facts are generally not known by those who “*take up*” the “*offence*” in such issues. Most of the time church leaders know more of the facts on the case than we do; we usually do not have the “*inside scoop*” on matters and decisions. We must learn to accept decisions from leaders as those above us in the body of Christ, appointed to “*...watch for our souls as those who must give and account*” –Hebrews 13:17.

Beware also the “contamination” in the sin of taking the offence of someone we “*feel*” was not treated “*properly*.” Do not participate in or sign a petition against the leadership of your church. Our family and many others in the church will be seriously tainted when we lead in such a rebellion. Also, what about the tragedy of “*wasted*” days, months, and even years that can never be reclaimed because of wrong relationships with God, church leaders and each other –Ephesians 4:30.

Pureness of our motives will not give us Divine standing. Divisive flesh actions instead of Fruit of the Spirit actions we will answer for one day. See 2 Cor. 5:10



Rev. David J. & Dolores Bauer
Director & Office Assistant

The average person’s memory is able to retain about 100 million bits of information – the information found in 500 sets of encyclopedias (that’s a lot of megabytes!). But to use computer language, the brain is not the only place where information is stored, but it is also an information processor. Yet it only weighs a little less than four pounds and uses about 20 watts of energy. This would rival even our most sophisticated modern computers or cell phones for efficiency. What are you doing with your brain? How much of God’s Word have you stored in your memory as a treasure which can never be taken away? Memorize God’s Word. Get a head start on eternity! See 1 Peter 1:25 & Psalm 119:89



Pumpkin Bars

- ½ Cup (1 stick) Butter/Margarine (softened)
- 1/3 Cup Sugar
- 1 Cup Quaker Oats (Quick or Old Fashioned)
- ¾ Cup All Purpose Flour
- 1 - 8 oz Pkg. Cream Cheese (softened)
- 1 Cup Sugar
- 4 Eggs
- 1 - 16 oz Can of Pumpkin
- ½ Cup Light or Dark Corn Syrup
- 2 tsp. Cinnamon

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 9X13 pan. Beat Butter and Sugar until fluffy. Add Oats and Flour, Mix well. Spread in bottom of pan. Bake 18-20 minutes until light golden brown. Cool slightly. Beat Cream Cheese and Corn Syrup at medium speed until fluffy. Add Eggs, one at a time beating well after each. Add remaining ingredients, Mix until smooth. Pour over partially cooled crust. Bake 45-50 minutes until center is set. Cool and chill. Serve with Cool Whip. Makes 20 bars.

-Eleanor Svoboda



Sewing loose buttons on shirt, garments, etc.? Keep a bottle of transparent Nail Polish handy. When you buy a new garment, just touch the center of each button with clear nail polish. This will seal the thread, so it won't unravel.

Want a sure-fire way to thread a needle? Spray some Hair Spray on your finger and apply to the end of the thread. It will stiffen just enough to thread easily.

Keep a child from locking himself in the bathroom by throwing a Towel over the top of the door so it won't close fully. Good hint for when we are babysitting our grandchildren.

Tuck a piece of Charcoal or Chalk in your toolbox to absorb moisture and keep your tools from rusting.

Kitty Litter sprinkled on a garage floor oil spill will absorb it if you let it sit about ½ hour before sweeping it up. Scrub any remaining stain with liquid detergent and warm water.

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P. O. Box 272 - Hinsdale, Illinois 60522

708-579-3800/3801 djbauer101@gmail.com



Bible Related Ministries Newsletter

Rev. David J. Bauer, Director

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"Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life." -Proverbs 4:23

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Rev. David J. Bauer's BRM Itinerary



Oct. 17 6:30 p.m. BRM Board Meeting, Countryside, IL

Oct. 19-20 Parker Road Bible Church, Mokena, IL
Missions Conference

BRM Interims and Associates Engaged in Ministry:

>Rev. Steve Barack, BRM Associate - Sr. Pastor of Lisle Bible Church, Lisle, IL

>Dr. Al Carsen, Sr. BRM Associate – Sr. Pastor of Merson Church, Merson, MI

>Dr. Joe Stewart, BRM Associate – Sr. Pastor of Grace Bible Church, Dallas City, IL

>Rev. Darwyn Hassert, BRM Associate - Smyrna Bible Church (and vicinity), MI, preaches and assists as needed in nearby areas

>Rev. Don Zimmerman, Interim Pastor of Western Springs Baptist Church, IL

>Rev. Jim Vyleta, Interim Pastor West Madison Bible Church, Madison, WI

Lighter Side: The Compassionate Lawyer

One afternoon, a wealthy lawyer was riding in the back of his limousine when he saw two men eating grass by the roadside. He ordered his driver to stop and he got out to investigate. "Why are you eating grass?" he asked one man.

"We don't have any money for food," the poor man replied.

"Oh, come along with me then," instructed the lawyer.

"But, sir, I have a wife and two children!"

"Bring them along!" replied the lawyer. He turned to the other man and said, "Come with us."

"But sir, I have a wife and six children!" the second man answered.

"Bring them as well!" answered the lawyer as he headed for his limo.

They all climbed into the car, which was no easy task, even for a car as large as the limo. Once underway, one of the poor fellows says, "Sir, you are too kind. Thank you for taking all of us with you."

The lawyer replied, "No problem, the grass at my home is almost a foot tall."

BRM Field Report #10

Fall is a time for "missionary emphasis" in many churches. Some churches have Missions Conferences that can extend over two or three days. Some churches request an update on our BRM "adventures" in church facilitation. We have been invited into churches at times just to give a short presentation. Other churches request a short-written report on our ongoing ministry and special prayer requests. We welcome communication with church mission committees for current prayer requests. Our ministry is fueled by prayer.

We enjoyed a trip to Charleston Bible Church in Central Eastern Illinois. Charleston Bible Church is only one mile south of the Eastern Illinois University (on University Drive). In fact, the Registrar from Eastern, Brad Bennington, is the current pastor at the church. Pastor Dave was asked to preach and give a BRM report. We enjoyed re-connecting with our old friends in Charleston, Illinois.

Near the end of September, we had a great time with our BRM Associates, board members and pastor friends at our BRM training retreat in Cedar Lake Ministries, Indiana. Cedar Lake happens to be the same Conference grounds where Rev. Chuck Svoboda held church planting and BRM conferences each year around Labor Day.

On the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Iron River Bible Church is looking at a candidate. This pastor is speaking in the church and will be interviewed, with possible recommendation by the board and search committee. Could this be God's answer to our prayers? We watch and wait on the Lord...

Ottawa Chapel in Coopersville, Michigan has a new pastor. We welcome Pastor Peter Hill, wife Allie and two boys who moved into the parsonage in September to begin ministry. Pastor Bob and Linda Porterfield retired and moved near their children after 34 faithful years in Coopersville.

We thank God for the ability to facilitate churches of all sizes, giving counsel to pastors, board members and people in the pews.

Sincerely,

Rev. David J. Bauer -Ephesians 2:4-6