

# ***The Lakeview Lamp***

*“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” -  
Psalm 119:105*

**November 28, 2004**

*Turning the World Right Side Up*

Frank Himmel

Paul's enemies at Thessalonica said of him and Silas, *“These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king — Jesus”* (Acts 17:6-7, NKJV).

Actually, they had that just backwards. The world was already upside down, mired in sin under Satan's influence. Paul and Silas were attempting to dethrone him from the hearts of men and women by preaching the gospel of Christ. Jesus reigns in heaven; He must be made Lord in our lives. To the extent people serve Him, the world can be righted.

Our time is no different. And of late, it seems that things are more topsy turvy than ever.

When the Massachusetts Supreme Court orders that homosexuals be allowed to marry, their concept of family is upside down.

When a spokesperson for an international AIDS prevention group says that it is “immoral” to advocate abstinence among teens as a solution to AIDS, morality is standing on its head.

When societal acceptance of every kind of conduct, under the banner of tolerance,

is regarded as the highest virtue, while at the same time evangelism is classed as “hate speech,” we have regressed, not progressed.

When denominational churches appoint unrepentant homosexuals to leadership positions and talk about the maturity and courage that such changes exhibit, they reveal their true stripes as people defiant of, not subservient to, God's will (The same thing is true of appointing women to these positions.).

When the murder of unborn babies and sickly seniors is defended as an expansion of individual rights, clearly many do not know rights from wrongs.

What their enemies said about Paul and Silas was an unwitting compliment. It is past time for us to join them in doing all we can to turn this upside-down world upright again.

*“All nations will be blessed through Him, and they will call Him blessed.”—*  
**Psalm 72:17b**

### *“Cliques”*

Phil Morgan

Have you ever noticed certain people within a larger group who always tend to gravitate to one another? Typically, they end up spending a disproportionate amount of time visiting with the same people. It is predictable, and readily visible to a visitor or outsider.

The word for this rather exclusive association of friends is “clique.” Friends naturally enjoy spending time together, but a clique is the result of putting personal preferences on display. People who are not immediately included in a group where friendship obviously abounds feel excluded (even when no effort to exclude anyone was intended!). Cliques limit the extent to which people get to know others in the larger group. They can even serve the powers of division by hindering the strong togetherness that is to characterize biblical “fellowship.”

**Romans 12:5** and **Ephesians 4:25** explain that as fellow Christians “*we are members of one another.*” The extent of your influence and involvement in the lives of others is supposed to be broad, and not limited to the few with whom association is easy and almost natural.

Jesus warned, *“For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?”* (**Matthew 5:46-47**). Anyone can enjoy associating with people with whom they share common interests. But it is much harder to develop a measure of closeness when that does not come easily or naturally. But that is exactly the effort that our Lord expects from those who grasp the concept of biblical “love” and are trying to pattern their lives after the heavenly Father.

Be careful of “cliques.”

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Where you are hereafter depends on what you are after here.

*“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, ...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, ...”* (**Matthew 6:19-20**).

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"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it"  
(Psalm 118:24).