

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

**November 12, 2006**

## *Pouting*

J. S. Smith

Anyone who has raised children or ever met one has seen him or her pout. Mommy doesn't fork over a quarter for the gum ball machine or Daddy tells him to stop hitting his sister with the dog and the pout is on. Lower lip protrudes, chin droops, tears well, spirit disappears.

Children pout when they don't get their way and often when they are chastened for doing the wrong thing. Sometimes you tell them not to play with their food, and they exclaim, "Fine, I won't eat at all." They pout because they think they are punishing their parents, and if parents cave into the pout, they will never see an end to the behavior.

Pouting, however, is not a behavior that automatically eases on the day of one's baptism or eighteenth birthday, whichever comes first. Husbands and wives pout when unwillingly put on the compromising side of some matter.

Church members have even been known to pout. Should an elder or parent make a critical comment to a Bible class teacher, some will exclaim, "Fine, I just won't teach class anymore." If their pout is in low gear, they may choose the silent approach instead and just refuse ever to sign up again.

Maybe someone makes a suggestion about the communion preparation, building cleaning or something else. The person responsible for things feels reprov'd and rejected and throws on the pout face. "Fine, I just won't do anything anymore!"

Some pouters go so far as to threaten to take their membership elsewhere when they receive the slightest criticism or the sincerest rebuke. This is not what Jesus had in mind when he admonished people to come to him "as little children." Childlike trust, yes; childish immaturity, no.

Can you imagine Apollos pouting because of the correction wrought by Aquila and Priscilla (**Acts 18**)? Can you see Peter's lower lip sticking out after Paul rebuked him for hypocrisy (**Gal. 2**)?

Spiritual maturity includes the ability to accept suggestions and even corrections without going to pieces and putting on a martyr face. God chastens us because he loves us, and our parents have done the same (**Heb. 12:1-11**). Usually, when a brother in Christ conjures up the courage to suggest or correct, he has the same selfless motive – to help. Either he is trying to save a soul from death (**James 5:19-20**), or he is just trying to help me be a more effective steward of God's gifts and opportunities. Not all suggestions are good, just as not all rebukes hit their mark, but it takes honest meditation to determine what is actually helpful. Rather than resorting to defensiveness and pouting, accept another's assistance in the spirit it is given and do all to the glory of God, even if that means sacrificing a little of your own.

## *Pouters*

Larry Ray Hafley

Remember what king Ahab did when Naboth refused to sell his vineyard to him? *So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased....And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food?* (1 Kgs. 21:4).

Yes, bless his heart, Ahab was pouting. Occasionally, we have members of the church who act like that when they do not get their way. They walk around with their face exhibiting their attitude. Perhaps they do it to attract attention. Some folks are happiest, it seems, when they are pouting. They are selfish. They seek their own benefit and not that of others (Cf. **Rom. 15:1-3**).

We all get our feelings hurt from time to time. We may feel slighted by another. What is the solution? Quit and pout? No, mature Christians do not act that way. Consider Jesus. When he was reviled, when he heard bitter, contemptuous words against himself, he did not reply in kind (**1 Pet. 2:23**). When Paul's preaching plans were frustrated and thwarted by ungodly men, did he retreat and sulk and pout? No, and neither should we.

Do not allow a pouter to transform you into one! It can happen to us if we are not careful. When a brother suddenly ignores you, or turns against you (for whatever reason), he is pouting. Do not allow his ungodly attitude to cause you to do the same. Pray for him. Maintain your spiritual poise. You are not the only one against whom he is pouting. Even though it may be unknown to you, he is treating others the same way. That is the nature of petulant pouters.

Such childishness should be pitied, not petted and pampered. Give the pouter no sympathy. Serve the Lord and let him stew in his own juice. Elders, deacons, preachers, and saints need to be busy tending to God's work and not trying to humor a chronic crank who sulks like Ahab.



Preacher's point – Here are two articles on pouting. The first one focuses on not being a pouter, while the second focuses on how to respond to a pouter. Both points are worthy of our consideration.

Don't complain about the thorns among the roses, rejoice about the roses among the thorns.

One who kneels to God can stand up to anything.

*“The LORD on high is mighty. [qv://0/anchor/6](#)Your testimonies are fully confirmed; holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, forevermore.” –*

**Psalm 93:4-5**

# Family News

**Jill Bansemer** went home from the hospital on Tuesday. Her and Eric's baby **Sydney Elizabeth** remains in an incubator at Vanderbilt. She has been gaining weight and doing well. It will still be a long time before she comes home from the hospital, but so far so good.

**Mary Burnett** remains at home. She had a better week this week.

**Connie Cobern** has had bronchitis this past week.

**Metty Fain** is in Room B2, 215 Highland Circle Dr, Portland TN 37148.

**Elmo Ferrell** is having some hip pain.

**Barry Fultz**, who used to be a member here, is scheduled for major surgery on January 10<sup>th</sup>. He will then be unable to work for a little while.

**Fran Pickens** has had bronchitis this past week.

**Cotton Read** continues to have problems breathing. **Nancy** had eye surgery on Tuesday. She has yet to fully recover and is having some pain.

**Laura Reed** is doing pretty well.

**Howard See**, who some people here knew, has passed away. His funeral is on Tuesday.

**Georgia Taylor** continues to not do very well. She remains in assisted living. She appears to be getting worse and worse.

**Ame White** is scheduled to have surgery on her right wrist this Thursday. It is supposed to be out-patient at Sumner Regional.

**Robert Wray's** eyes are better. He returns to the doctor on Tuesday.

*New Reports:* **Allen Malone** (Vietnam).

*Out of town, traveling, or visiting:* **Allen Malone** (remains in Vietnam); **Peggy Williams** (here today, traveling to Arlington next weekend where her father will be laid to rest).

## Lakeview church of Christ

132 New Shackle Island Road

P.O. Box 514

Hendersonville TN 37077

Building: 615-824-1376

[www.BibleSaints.com](http://www.BibleSaints.com)

Bible Call: 615-824-1310

Troy Nicholson

[troyjenn@bellsouth.net](mailto:troyjenn@bellsouth.net)

*"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks" (1 Thes 5:16-18).*