



## Who Are You Associating With, and Does It Matter?

Brethren many times I've heard the question "Where does it say I can't associate with that person"? Or even the statement "Well, it's up to me who I see."

Let me give you all a brief answer to this very question, especially to some brethren here at Summer Lane (the congregation where Ricci labors):

When we learn what God in His Word has declared as sinful, we are expected to make changes in our lifestyles. We may change and slip back into our old ways. Every person experiences regression in their growth process. The faithful covenant Christian keeps trying until his life is perfected (matured) for Christ, but some people surround themselves with people who have all kinds of ugly habits.

Paul warned covenant Christians in Eph 5:1.

Pay particular attention to **verse 4**:

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. **Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.** For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.

Paul gave some more advice in I Corinthians 15 verses 33-34: "Do not be deceived: **"Bad company corrupts good morals."** Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. **I speak this to your shame** (ESV).

Let me ask you the question, reworded: "Who are you associating with, and Does it matter"?

*Ricci Gambino, Birmingham, England*

Ricci is a young man that we are working with in England. He is a policeman by profession but does a lot of preaching at the Summer Lane church as he seeks to get them to return to the old paths. He will be one of the speakers at the lectureship in Mildenhall on March 7. Please keep the work in England in your prayers.

*Ken Chumbley*

## NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick's aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron's sister who is having health problems, Myrtle Grimsley, Lanny Niver together with his daughter, and Tim Smith.

Myrtle Grimsley and Lanny Niver were sick and unable to be out last Sunday.

Ken Chumbley will be leaving for England tomorrow, Lord willing to work with the brethren. Please keep him and the work there in your prayers.

### Preaching – a Joy, a Responsibility, a Trust continued from page 4.

With each passing day, I come to understand and appreciate more the need and emphasis placed on preaching and teaching sound doctrine (Tit. 2:1; 2 Tim. 1:13), the warnings against apostasy (1 Tim. 4:1ff; 2 Tim. 4:3-4), and the duty of God's preacher (1 Tim. 4:6; 1 Tim. 6:12).

Preaching is thrilling and joyous as we see the Word of God touch hearts and move men to salvation through Jesus Christ. So apt are the words of an old song:

Into our hands the gospel is given,  
Into our hands is given the light,  
Haste, let us carry God's precious message,  
Guiding the erring back to the right.

Preaching the Gospel is also a trust (Tit. 1:3; 1 Tim. 1:11) that we dare not betray! May we all, as heralds of the good news, defend (Phi. 1:16) and guard that precious treasure, the undiluted Gospel, so judgment will see us rejoicing with the faithful warriors of ages past. May we speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15) and with boldness (Acts 4:32; Eph. 6:20) as seeking to please God, not men (1 The. 2:4). Let us ever remember the sterling admonition of Paul to Timothy: "O Timothy, guard that which is committed unto *thee*" (1 Tim. 6:20). May we "Preach the Word" with zeal and enthusiasm.

*Lynn Parker  
Kingsbury, TX*