

He spoke gently and sincerely, "Hi, Jarod. What's the matter?" *How did he know this kid's name?* I thought. "Do you mind if I pray with Jarod?" Lowell asked. "Uh, no," I mumbled, and watched in amazement as he took this kid under his arm and talked to--no, *with* him.

"Jarod," he said softly, "if you could change *o-n-n-n-e* thing, what would you change?" The deep-set scowl on the boy's face remained, but he looked up into Lowell's face, surprised to hear such a question. Finally he spoke.

"I want Dad here!" he said resolutely, arms folded across a defiant chest. "Yeah, I know you do, little buddy." Lowell's words struck me with their warmth. I decided to go back into my class to do more crowd control. Ten minutes later the door opened. A smiling Jarod rushed over to me and threw his arms around my legs. "I'm sorry, Teacher," he said loudly. "Will you forgive me?" Wow! I wondered if Jarod would forgive *me*!

I had forgotten where I had come from. "At one time," the apostle Paul reminded us, "we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived, and enslaved" (Titus 3:3). But God in His mercy has rescued us (vv.4-5). Those of us "who have trusted in God" are to be careful to devote ourselves to "doing what is good" (v.8).

I saw a little bit of Jesus in Lowell that day. He was doing good. I was merely trying to threaten Jarod into making my own life less difficult. Instead, Lowell showed him how much Jesus loves us all. --TG

REFLECTION

- How do I treat other people who are "problems"? Like I wish they weren't here? Or do I remember that they are made in the image of God?
- If God dealt with me the way I deal with others, where would I be?

A gentle touch accomplishes more than a clenched fist.



JULY 5, 2020

The Little Terror

The 5-year-old boy in our junior-church class threw himself to the floor for the umpteenth time. "That's it!" I snapped. ".. You're out of here!"

Amid screams of protest, I scooped him up, careful to keep his flailing feet from inflicting permanent damage on me. As I set him down in the hallway, he slumped to the floor and curled up. Because he came to church with his neighbours, I couldn't go get his parents. My temper was warming dangerously.

Down the hall another worker, Lowell, was dealing with another discipline problem. I saw Lowell pat the kid on the head and escort him back to his class. Then he stopped and came toward us.





Church Restoration

What to Expect From a Pastor I



(Ephesians 5:12) For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

In Titus 3:1-15 there are 8 aspects of life-centred teaching for a pastor to preach and all of us to live: (today just 3)

1. To obey _____, verse 1

(Acts 4:19) ... "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.

(Romans 13:1) Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.



(Matthew 22:21) ... "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

(1 Peter 3:15) But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

2. To do _____, verses 1, 8, 14, 1:16, 1:8, 2:3, 2:14,



Hi, I Just Wanted
To Send You A
Little Note To Let
You Know That I Was
Thinking Of You!

3. To _____ the Saviour (to _____ to grace), verses 3-8

not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, (Titus 3:5)



And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful. (Titus 3:14)