

*My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous*

1John 2:1

## Store In My Heart

### Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

The attitudes Paul calls for here should be natural to one who develops the kind of love that God desires in His children.

When those qualities are active and growing in our life they will be shown forth in our relationships, especially with our fellow Christians. Jesus said such loving relationships would demonstrate to others that we are in Him. The kindness, tenderness and forgiveness Paul requires here are an outgrowth of our desire to be like Christ in all things.

God has demonstrated these qualities throughout history. From the examples left for us to follow, we can see the benefit of such attitudes. Jesus was the perfect example of this attitude of concern for others more than self.



# My Neighbor's Electric Fence

## Gardner S. Hall

Recently I have picked blackberries near an electric fence. As I did so I did a little meditating about it.

The purpose of that fence is to keep the cattle from trespassing. Regardless of how green the grass might be outside that fence, the cows could not have it. My garden is just a few feet away and the cows would like to get to my corn. They can't understand why they should be fenced out of it. But to go past that fence and get into my corn would be trespassing. Anything inside that fence is permissible for them. Anything outside is forbidden.

As I thought along that line a passage of Scripture came to my mind. It figuratively erects a fence. *"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son" (2John 9)*. The revised version says, *"Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God."* That is telling us that regardless of how good and innocent something not taught by Christ may look, we go beyond His fence when we do it. Has He taught instrumental music for His church? No. Well, we transgress and go beyond His fence when we use it in His church. Has He taught sprinkling for baptism? No. Then if we do it we go outside His fence. Has He taught His church to send money to a separate organization and let it do work for it? No. What about congregations who thus use their money? They transgress -- they go beyond the Lord's fence. The money sent to some organization to do work the Lord

## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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## For Our Information

Ruben and Brenda Keisler are still in Europe. They should be heading home in a couple of days.

Bill Venable is visiting his daughter and should also return in a few days.

We had several visit from our area last week. Visitor cards are on the board in the office. A card to thank them would be kind.

Tonight we start in 1Kings 18:41.

Wednesday we are in 2Timothy 2:1.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

has instructed the church to do is transgression, whether to do preaching or benevolence. Has Jesus taught His church to provide facilities to play games, feast and entertain? No. Then churches that provide such facilities are going beyond the Lord's fence, and are deprived of God and Christ.

God doesn't give us a shock when we ignore His fence. He has given us the power to reason and understand and told us not to be as the horse or mule which have no understanding. The cow comes in that category too. So they have to have bridles, bits, electric fences, etc. (See **Psalm 32:8-9**). But human beings, able to read and understand (**Ephesians 3:3-5**), should need no shock to remind them of their transgressions.

However, God at one time in history did give us some examples to help us understand what He means by transgression, or going beyond His Word. We have the story of two priests who *"offered strange fire before the Lord, which He commanded them not"* (**Leviticus 10:1**). *"And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord"* (**vs. 2**). What was wrong? They burned the incense with fire He had not commanded. Now, why should we have to have a shock to prevent our doing something in His service which He has not commanded? David transgressed once when he put the ark of the covenant on a cart instead of having the priests bear it, as God had said. Uzzah died as a result. (See **1Chronicles chs. 13** and **15**). Many other examples could be given. The Hebrew writer warned, *"For if the word spoken by angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?"* (**Hebrews 2:2-4**). With all these examples and warnings, why should we need a shock to keep us within the Lord's fence?

Maybe I should admit that I became careless and came into contact with that electric fence. No cows seemed to be looking, which is probably the reason I didn't get a cow-laugh.



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!