

From The Pulpit

by Rev Donald M. Clark

THE MARK OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

Text: "Instead of being moulded to the world, have your mind renewed, and so be transformed in nature able to make out what the will of God is; namely, what is good and acceptable to Him and perfect." Rom. 12:2.

HOW THEN should we, as Christian people, act and live? What are the marks of Christian character?

Paul, in his practical way, gives a list of admonitions on avoiding self-conceit and sharing hospitality. All of these are matters which still touch us.

I would that we might look at some of the practical marks of Christian character which the circumstances of our time ask of us.

Paul spoke about very contemporary matters. Let me follow this example and speak of a matter that is contemporary for us.

A mark of Christian moral character is seen in our concern for the common virtues. The world rests on a foundation of integrity and honesty. Only so can we live in it, and know that tomorrow it will still be sustaining us.

There is a basic honesty in deed and speech which life asks of each one of us, for the Kingdom of God cannot be built out of deceit or upon a lie.

The so-called "simple" virtues which demand of us a continuing discipline are distinguishing marks of Christian character. These common virtues touch the very foundations of our life together.

A MARK of Christian character in our day is a sensitive social conscience. The economy of abundance amid which we live dulls the edge of the conscience of multitudes of our people.

Basic to our Christian faith is a breadth of concern which can never stop with ourselves or our own kind. Whatever interferes with the well-being and the full life of those who are children of God (even though they themselves do not acknowledge that relationship) becomes a matter for our concern.

A mark of Christian character is stability amid change and danger. A mark of Christian character is that we do not panic in dread of the future with its changes and its danger. A Christian does not have to change his objectives or his life purpose every time a new discovery is made, a new political alliance is made, a new book is written, or when the doctor says: "You are growing old."

The Christian continues to bear his constant witness, and even if the worst comes, the Christian is still stable, in life and outlook, because he has a faith that abides amid whatever happens.

A FINAL MARK of Christian character is a belief that underneath all change there is that which does not change.

Truth is truth in any man's life, no matter how often he denies it. Goodness is goodness even if everyone else denies it; right conduct does not depend on a popular majority vote--it depends on how God Himself has made life, and whether the deed accords with His purpose.

There it is! The Christian knows that behind the change and the danger, and within tomorrow this is God's world and we can set no limits to what God can do in His own world.

God can use even the wrath of men to praise Him. He can use the weakest of His instruments, people like you and me, so that we become strong in the power of His might. Thus the Christian, while he may not know, while he may not be able to see what is ahead, does not lose his confidence. And whatever the circumstance, the Christian continues to work at being a Christian.



REV. D. M. CLARK

ALTAR CALL

For One World, We Must Have One Altar

By EMORY G. DAVIS, D.D.
NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Reading about an experiment in London--a student club where Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, Moslems and varying brands of Christians live together, and celebrated a Christian holiday by holding communion together--reminded me of other occasions where I experienced this divisiveness of religious practice.

The article states that "Moslems and Hindus joined with Roman Catholics, Orthodox, Lutheran and Reformed in attending the service... although only the Christians partook of the communion itself..."

Once, when my wife and I were guests in a Roman Catholic mass, although I sat beside one of the priests who served those kneeling at the Altar, I was bypassed when "the host" was served. The devout Catholic woman with my wife reminded her that she would not be able to participate.

IN A DISCUSSION about religious practices, a Roman Catholic priest explained why Protestants and Roman Catholics could not take communion together. I heard James Bevel, noted civil rights leader, tell the priest that until all "brothers" could take it together, he "should lead a boycott."

Granted, one of the basic tenets of the Christ-

ian faith is the commemoration of the "blood of Christ that was shed," and the "body of Christ that was broken," called the Holy communion. Christian theology has taught for centuries that this "ordinance" was instituted by the Nazarene, himself.

Now, nearly 2,000 years later, we discover that this sacred rite--as well as many others--does not bring religious people together, but rather separates them. It seems quite inexplicable to a growing number of clergymen and religious leaders that emphasis should be put on rituals and ordinances to such an extent that our apartness is accentuated.

It may be asking too much of Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, Moslems, etc., to find a ritual either religious or secular, that would bring humanity together for something "kerygmatic" (acclamatory) and "diakonic" (reconciling, healing, serving) enough to call ALL men FROM religious INTO life.

We have competed too much--faith against faith, denomination against denomination, supreme beings against supreme beings.

For One World, we must have One Altar, strong and decisive enough to compel us all. Human blood is our daily "cup" and the lives we break our daily "body."

AMERICA'S SINGERS ASSOCIATION TO CONVENE HERE



"SPIRITUAL CLOUDS" caught here in action at a recent Musical presented by the group at the EIK's Lodge Hall will be one of the host groups for the National Singers' Association's Convention to be held here beginning July 13... From left, the Spiritual Cloud members are Fonzie Johnson, Willie Blanch, Milton Overton, Lonnie Chaney, President of the Association's local Chapter #11, Floyd Smith, James Harris, Sam Robinson, and Moddy Spain... Other groups of Nevada's local Chapter who will host and participate in the upcoming Convention of 16 Chapters from the states of Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, and Nevada are the Gospel Tones, Swans of Joy, Miltonette Singers, Spellmonaries, Youth Choir, and the Singing Stars.

FOR THE FIRST TIME in its history, the America's Singers Association, (a nation-wide organization) will hold its annual convention here in Las Vegas July 13 through July 17.

Extensive programs, to which the public is urged to attend, have been scheduled for both day and nights. The first two days activities, July 13-15 (Wednesday through Friday) will all take place at Doolittle Recreation Center. Saturday night's and Sunday afternoon's (July 16 and 17) programs will be held at the Convention Center.

On Saturday morning, beginning at 8 a.m., a parade is scheduled to form at Bonanza and 'D' Streets and end at Doolittle Center.

Nightly events of the Convention are planned as follows: Wednesday, July 13--The America's

Singers Association's Local #11 (Las Vegas Chapter) in charge of presentation, Thursday night, July 14--Usher Board, the evening's hosts. Friday night, July 15--Women's Night. Saturday Night, July 16--Children's Night (A highlight of the Convention, the Association is especially hopeful the public will attend). On Sunday afternoon (July 17) at 2 p.m., as a special treat, there will be singing by both local and visiting groups and choirs.

Officers of the Association are: Lonnie B. Chaney, President; Milton Overton, Vice-President; Asalee Harris, Recording Secretary; Irma Jean Croft, Ass't. Secretary; Lillian L. O'Neal, Financial Secretary; Marie H. Veal, Treasurer; Mary Tatum, Supervisor of Women's Department; and Rev. A. B. Carr, Spiritual Advisor.

Residents-Matt Kelly School District

The Matt Kelly Neighborhood Council will meet TONIGHT, Thursday, July 7 at Matt Kelly school at eight o'clock. If you live in the area between Jackson street and Lake Mead Blvd., and between 'H' and Highland, you are in the Matt Kelly Neighborhood Council District, and are urged to attend these Council meetings to discuss problems of our area and to learn where and how these problems can be met.

★★ Register to Vote ★★