

## WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR HANDS

The little sketch on the front of this bulletin exhibits four possibilities of what one can do with their hands.

First, one can wring them in despair. When one looks around and sees things that are not as they should be, they can simply worry over them, be in despair about them and in no way have they helped alleviate the problem. In the work of the church, this is certainly true. If the lost are not being taught, if the needy are not being cared for and if any other part of the work of the church is being neglected, don't wring your hands in despair, put them to work to correct the problem.

Secondly, one can fold them as if there was nothing to do. Some seem to think, just look the other way and the problem will go away on its own. No! so! Some seem to think, someone else will do it. Well, maybe, but not necessarily. The true answer to the problem is for you to do the work yourself, when you see it needs to be done. If everyone holds the "fold them as if there was nothing to do" view of what to do with their hands, it will never be done.

Thirdly, one can clench them in anger. Though there are certainly times when one should be angry over sin, anger does not correct the problem. Uncontrolled anger often expands the problem, blows it up and makes it even bigger than it was before. Again, the answer is to do something about it.

This brings us to our fourth choice of what to do with your hands, find a place where they fit into the Lord's work and KEEP THEM BUSY. Many are the passages of scripture that could be cited inculcating the need to work. We sing a song on occasion that has the words, "Let us do with our might what our hands find to do" (song. To the Work, by Fanny J. Crosby). I doubt any member of the church has ever lived that thought everything was just fine, nothing needed to be done, no one could do a better job, etc. etc. etc. So why not do something about it instead of wringing your hands, getting angry or just sitting on the seat of do nothing.

Occasionally one hears a member of the church say something about what "they" do out there at the church. Brethren, its not "they" its "we". If what "they" are doing is not up to par in your sight, then its partially because "you" are not doing your part to make the work and worship the best it can be. Think on these things.

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## THE DAY WE FIRED THE PREACHER

I'm not certain how long he had worked with the congregation before the members began to notice. Surely, he must have been on his best behavior for at least a while.

Some members believe the first time they noticed was the night he failed to appear for the scheduled personal work activities. The next day he explained to a fellow member that one of his neighbors had invited him to a high school basketball game. "I knew you could carry on without me," he said.

Then he missed a Wednesday evening Bible study. As a matter of fact, he missed on a number of occasions. Not that he didn't make arrangements for someone else to teach the class, but he had first one excuse, then another as to why he wasn't there to teach it himself.

Then it was Sunday evening service. Everyone remembers when this was. You see, just the week before he had spoken of the essential nature of worship, and the importance of Christian fellowship. All even remember him stressing Hebrews 10:25 and "not forsaking the assembling of the saints". He explained that since they had a guest speaker for that Sunday evening and he was really tired and probably would not have gotten much out of the service, it was a great opportunity for him to catch up on his rest a little.

Now the whole issue came to a head the Sunday morning he failed to appear for the service. The members later learned that on the spur of the moment he decided to go to the lake and do some fishing. "Not many good fishing days left for this year", he said.

Well, that is the straw that broke the camel's back, or more accurately, the member's back. Impassioned pleas were now being made to "fire the preacher!" "He doesn't even know what membership in the church means" was the cry of one member. "He has no concept of the importance of the church," said another.

But perhaps the secretary summed it all up in the best possible manner when she recorded in the church notes: "The decision has been made to dismiss our present preacher. It is clear that he cannot be a minister here as he insists on acting **JUST LIKE THE MEMBERS...** We simply can't have a preacher that would stoop so low as to use our own excuses to act as we do".

Author unknown (could have happened)