



NEW TESTAMENT POSTCARDS

## Identifying the Right Influences to Imitate

3 JOHN verses 9-15 • MESSAGE #6

### 1. Intro

### 2. We must identify and imitate the right influences.

- The biblical principle of imitating good and evil.
- Our assurance is strengthened or weakened by what we imitate.

### 3. We must identify and \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ influences.

- Self-centered influences exalt themselves over \_\_\_\_\_.
- Self-centered influences exalt themselves over \_\_\_\_\_.
- Self-centered influences exalt their interests above \_\_\_\_\_.

### 4. We must identify and \_\_\_\_\_ influences.

- Godly influences live \_\_\_\_\_ within a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Godly influences have a \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.
- Godly influences build their lives on \_\_\_\_\_.

### 5. Conclusion

## Just a Moment

with Pastor Fred

I'll never forget – and will forever appreciate a comment a man made many years ago in another ministry. He was a deacon – a godly senior saint. Leadership was discussing the pros and cons of changing pulpit translations. Some argued against that change – they liked the translation they had been born and bred on. Switching gears threatened comfort zones and security. Then this deacon said, “If we want to minister to this congregation only – then I don't see any reason to change. However, if we want to reach the lost, if we want to impact the next generation for Christ then we must change.” May his tribe increase.

Wilf Burrell's comments are true in a number of scenarios. It is easy to get comfortable at church – this is the music I like or this is the bulletin format I'm used to reading, this is where I sit, etc. But church isn't about us – it's about our commission to make and to mature disciples for Christ. Yes, if we want to maintain status quo – then why introduce change at all? Just keep things the same.

There are scores of churches that do just that – and guess what? They're dying. Thom Rainer's research states 56% of USA churches are declining; 9% have plateaued and 35% of churches are growing. Change is hard but it is essential for growth demands it. To change for the sake of change is novelty. But to change to be better equipped to meet current and future needs is essential. Changes we've introduced here have always been rooted in our passion for God, his glory and the mission he gave us to fulfill. And that dear friends will never change.



Pastors

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*Magnify  
the LORD with me,  
and let us exalt his  
name together!*

PSALM 34:3

Prelude  
Call to Worship

*Crown Him With Many Crowns  
Creator God Our Sovereign Lord*

*I Am Not My Own*

Scripture Reading & Pastoral Prayer

*Identifying the Right Influences to Imitate*  
Pastor Anthony Lange

*In Christ Alone/Solid Rock*

Benediction  
Prayer Team

HOLT BAPTIST CHURCH

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*Becoming fruitful disciples of Christ for God's glory.*

## THE LORD'S DAY

May 17, 2026

Corporate worship is designed to remind us of the instability of our own hearts and the eternal stability of God's grace.

### Philosophy of Worship

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts." Colossians 3:16

#### Nursery Schedule

##### Sunday School - ABF

Amanda Wilson & Julie Rizzardi

##### Worship Service

Nursery: Randi Chaney & Karla Ruest

Toddler: Ronda VanSumeren, Kaylen Elliott & Kali Lange

#### Small Groups meet today or throughout the week

##### Today

9:00am Coffee & Fellowship

9:30am Sunday School & Family Chat

10:30am Worship

##### Wednesday, May 20

10:30am Senior Saints Bible Study

7:00pm Praise Team

##### Saturday, May 23

8:00am Counseling Team Mtg

## Announcements

**Summer Recess.** Sunday School and the Adult Bible Fellowship will take a break over the summer. Classes will resume September 13.

**Sunday Breakfast Refreshments** will continue in June from 10 -10:25 am in the breakfast room. Come a few minutes early and enjoy fellowship prior to the service. Please sign up to volunteer to bring treats and make coffee.

**Communion** will be observed next Sunday. Fred, Anthony and Paul will each speak on the role of the God-head in salvation based on Ephesians 1. Songs will be sung in-between. We will conclude with the Lord's Supper. Our NT Postcard series will resume May 31.

**Summer mowing schedule** is posted on the bulletin board. Please sign up for a week to help.

**de Roos Reception.** Ryan and Abigail, our missionaries to the Philippines, will be here May 31. From 9:30 – 10:15 am we will have a reception upstairs in the Fellowship Hall with coffee, juice and donuts. Come and encourage them.

#### **Greeter's Next Sunday**

Barb Bush

Michael & Sarah Winnie

#### **Guest Services**

Today—Dan Cecil

Next Sunday—Steven Blake

**The Widows Brunch** will be held at the Fromans on Thursday, June 18 at 9:30 am.

#### **New Calendar Dates**

Annual Church Picnic July 5

CEF Summer Bible Club July 20-24

Fall Fest September 13

Magnify November 13-14

#### **Growing Deeper**

##### **Small Group Discussion Questions**

1. How do you view ambitious people who serve in the church? Is it wrong to be ambitious? Explain ...
2. What are some practical ways to be hospitable to everyone in the church?
3. How do you typically respond when you find out you're wrong?
4. Do I avoid those who disagree with me? How can we foster unity with those with different convictions?
5. How do the examples of these two men challenge or encourage you?
6. How has 3 John blessed you? Can you remember something specific that helped you Monday through Saturday?

#### **Giving for 2026**

April budget \$24,573.73

April giving \$28,743.08

You may give online. Go to:  
holtbaptist.org and click on the Online Giving tab.

#### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Kelly Sharpe May 18

Graham Goble May 19

Don Depoorter May 22

Nathan Taepke May 22

## Prayer Requests

*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.*  
Colossians 4:2

#### **General Requests**

- Josh & Carissa Bell - Senegal (preparing for furlough)
- de Roos—on furlough in Canada with family
- The Clark family
- Counseling Ministry - certification & weekly appointments
- For HBC to grow deeper spiritually / to reach out to others
- Langes – Searching for a new house

#### **Physical Needs**

- Amber Breinling (Lois Martin's niece) - recovering from surgery
- Chris Oehler (C Bettenhausen's brother) - recovery from surgery
- Gina Golden - diabetic & kidney issues
- Kara deRoos (Ryan's mother) - recovery
- Kathy Lange (Anthony's mother) - recovering from cancer
- Nic Martin - pain management injections at UMH Sparrow

#### **Praying Biblically – Hebrews 13:20-21**

May the God of peace who brought again from the dead, our Lord Jesus Christ, equip us with everything good to do Your will. Work in us that which is pleasing in Your sight through Jesus Christ; that all will be done for Your glory. Amen

#### **Prayer For Our Government Officials**

Jocelyn Benson, Secretary of State

#### **Prayer Individual of the Week**

Mickey Lilly

#### **Shut in of the Week**

Dave Murray

"I need not torment myself with the fear that my faith may fail; as grace led me to faith in the first place, so grace will keep me believing to the end. Faith, both in its origin and continuance, is a gift of grace." - J.I. Packer