

# mercEmail

*"He delights in mercy" (Micah 7:18)*

## **Nip It In The Bud!**

by Steve Higginbotham

Those of you who know me, know that I'm a huge fan of the Andy Griffith Show. In spite of the fact it is aired 9 times a day on our local cable system, I've felt compelled to tape nearly every episode so I can watch it whenever I want. My home and office are both cluttered with Mayberry memorabilia. I guess I'm a Mayberry "junkie."

I suppose one of the reasons the show still appeals to me, and so many others is because it teaches so many valuable moral and ethical lessons. For instance, do you remember the phrase that Barney Fife coined? ... "Nip it in the Bud!" Now there's an excellent philosophy, but it didn't originate with Barney Fife. The Lord stated this same truth only in different words when he said, "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone." Just think of all the contentions and hard feelings that could be erased if we would take the advice of our Lord, as well as Barney Fife, and "Nip it in the bud!"