

4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
~ Matthew 16:18



December 20, 2020

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship 10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service N/A
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class N/A
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

John Barnum

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
World Bible School

Are You a Disciple Under-Developed (DUD)?

Too often it happens that some- one desires to avoid hell and gain the promise of heaven; so, they are baptized and somehow think that this action is sufficient to save them regardless of what else they do or do not do. Even though they have been taught about being added to the church and becoming a working part of a local congregation, they re- main aloof. Even though they have been taught about the Lord's expectation of spiritual growth on their part, they do not grow. Many re- main under-developed and may not even know it. Below, then, is a test to determine if you are a D.U.D.

True — False. "I care more about what a congregation has to offer me and my family than what all of us can bring to the church." If you honestly answered true, have you ever thought that, perhaps, your attitude leans toward selfishness? The church consists of members who are people just like you. If everyone had the attitude that you have, there would be no programs of any kind because everybody would be waiting for someone else to do something. The only way anything gets done is through volunteers who have a commitment to their Lord and to the well-being of the local congregation. By working together, we function as the body of Christ should (1 Cor. 12:12-27).

True — False. "If there are not any children that are my children's age, I will try to find a larger congregation." If everyone had the same attitude, wouldn't that pretty much ensure that small congregations would remain small and large congregations would stay large? Have you ever thought that if you stayed with your family, the next family who came would be more likely to stay since your children were there? If no one takes the first step to build up the youth population, how will it ever happen? Have you not thought of the idea that you could work to bring other young people who know your children? Your family could be a catalyst rather than a disappointment.

True — False. "I make encouraging comments to others to help build them up and keep my negative comments to myself." If that is false, you are not helping. It is not that there is no need for constructive criticism. Taking people aside to vent your complaints does not contribute to the esprit de corps of the congregation, and it makes you look bad. "I didn't like the song leading today," "the prayer was too long," or "the sermons just don't move me" may indicate that the crux of the problem is with you— not those leading in worship. Have you thought about making a positive suggestion to any of the leaders instead of whispering behind their backs?

True — False. "People in the congregation don't pay enough attention to me." If you answered true, why is that, do you suppose? How often have you made an encouraging phone call to other brethren? Have you prepared food for others when they were ill or visited them in the hospital? Have you offered to mow someone's lawn while he was recovering from a sprained ankle or broken leg? Have you asked yourself why you expect to receive kindness if you have never shown any (Pro. 18:24)?

True — False. "I am more of a positive influence than a problem." If you can be depended upon each week to be present for worship and to participate in the various activities of the congregation (unless illness prevents you), may your tribe increase. If it is false, should you not determine to do better? People should not have to leave worship each week wondering where brother absent and sister sluggish are. Elders must give account for the souls of the members. Do you make it easy or difficult for them (Heb. 13:17)? If they were discussing your absence, would they be saying, "We'd better call

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**Please practice COVID precautions,
for your own safety and the safety of your brethren.**

Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.

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him immediately; he never misses worship” or “That’s the third absence this month; what else is new?” Are you an asset or a liability?

What Is a Disciple?

According to the Scriptures, certain things are to be true of those who are disciples of Christ. It is simply stated in Matthew 8:23: “Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him.” The key word is *followed*. According to *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, a disciple is a “person who subscribes to the teachings of a master and assists in spreading them.” In other words, he is a follower and evangelistic (by definition). The contrapositive form of this statement (which is always true) is: “He who does **not** follow what his master teaches and does **not** help to spread those teachings is **not** a disciple.”

It is important to note what Jesus taught His followers in Matthew 10:24-25a: “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master.” What are the implications of these words? When a disciple is being taught, he may have questions about teachings he does not fully understand; so, he asks questions for clarification. What he does not do, however, is disagree. He cannot place his opinions and judgments above his master’s—first because he is a follower, and, second, because the master is wiser than the pupil.

Therefore, non-involvement with the church is not an option. The brethren at Corinth had a lot of problems, but this one was not one of them. They were eager to be present to worship—and just as eager to be the center of attention by exercising their spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12). They were rude to each other and divisive, and these problems had to be corrected. However, they were not apathetic and lazy. They were true disciples, as shown by the corrections that they made when Paul rebuked them for their errors. They improved themselves from being very imperfect to gaining a level of maturity.

Forsaking the assembling of ourselves together is not the mark of a disciple. How can one be a learner if he is not present to be edified? How can one assist in spreading the teachings of Christ if he does not first know them himself? Furthermore, how can one be a disciple when he does not practice what his master taught? Jesus exercised compassion on the sick, healing them wherever He went. Today, Chris-

tians do not have the ability to heal, but they can still express compassion on those who have various needs (Matt. 25:21-46).

Your goal, then, is not to disagree with your Master, but to follow Him. Not doing what He taught is not only foolish (7:21-27), it is dangerous and indicates that you are not a disciple at all. As Luke records, “A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher” (Luke 6:40). While genuine disciples know that at times, they will fall short of the goals the Lord has set before them, they must also realize that they cannot just ignore them and still be called disciples.

Besides following Jesus and not disagreeing with Him, discipleship involves other elements. First is **commitment** (14:26-33). The time to make that decision is at the point of initial obedience. Yes, Jesus wants to give you salvation, but He expects commitment out of you, also. You do not find that in many “sinner’s prayers.” Those concocted salvation promises were invented by men, not God, and are barely more than slogans. Most of them say nothing of repentance, although a few do. All of them omit baptism, which the Scriptures never do, and none of them say anything about commitment or counting the cost in becoming a disciple. Those statements have no other goal in mind than to try to impart salvation cheaply. They are disgraceful and an insult to the Holy Spirit who inspired the New Testament! God is interested in those who diligently seek Him—not those who passively and momentarily want salvation.

Second, a disciple is one who **continues in the Word** of the Master (John 8:31-32). No one becomes a follower of Jesus by displaying a casual interest in spiritual concerns. One must read the teachings of Christ, meditate upon them, think about their meaning, and then walk and abide in them (1 John 1:7). There are no shortcuts to spiritual growth.

An absolute requirement, third, is **meeting with the saints for worship**, as is described in Acts 20:7 and required in Hebrews 10:25. A young disciple needs to be taught by those who are older in the faith and encouraged by his older brothers and sisters. A true disciple does not say (unless a health issue is involved), “Shall I go to worship this morning or stay home and catch up on sleep or various projects?” To intentionally determine to be somewhere else or do something else is to disagree with the Master who built the church and is Head over it (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23).

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Television

In Search of the Lord’s Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:00am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

God’s Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)
Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Reading Schedule

video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/

- Dec. 20 **Jonah; Proverbs 20 (video)**
- Dec. 21 **Micah; Proverbs 21**
- Dec. 22 **Nahum; Proverbs 22 (video)**
- Dec. 23 **Habakkuk; Proverbs 23**
- Dec. 24 **Zephaniah; Prov. 24 (video)**
- Dec. 25 **Haggai; Proverbs 25**
- Dec. 26 **Zechariah 1—3; Proverbs 26**
- Dec. 27 **Zechariah 4—6; Proverbs 27**

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

(2 Timothy 2:15)



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Last week **60** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ The schedule for the remainder of December will continue to be **assembly for Sunday morning worship only**. The worship assembly, as well Sunday evening and Wednesday evening lessons, will be live-streamed over our Facebook group.
- ◆ **Please continue** (start?) **to practice common sense prevention measures**. (Wear mask, limit personal contact, social distance, use hand sanitizers, etc.) It may not be “your thing,” but please be considerate of others who are taking it more seriously.
- ◆ Continue to pray for the church and our country.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ March 14-17—Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Jon McCormack

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True disciples, fourth, have **love for one another** (John 13:34-35). But how can that love be expressed if you isolate yourself from the assemblies and activities of the church? A great many things can happen in a week’s time. The one who misses a couple of Lord’s days may have missed a great deal. How embarrassing it is to be one of few who do not know (due to willful absences) of a serious medical condition that has befallen a brother or sister! You cannot exercise the proper love and care for your brethren if you choose to be absent when all the other brethren are meeting.

Fifth, Jesus expects **certain actions** on the part of His disciples; He said: *“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples”* (John 15:8). Bearing fruit is not accidental; it results from purposeful efforts. It results from the spreading of the Master’s teachings. Other people may decide to become Christians based on what they see in your life and what they read in the Scriptures. You cannot convert others if you yourself are lukewarm and uncommitted. You cannot afford to be a stumbling block to another (Luke 17:1-2); you must walk as closely with God as you can.

A Disciple Under Development (Excellent!), (DUDE)

The good news is that you do not have to be a DUD; you can go from being a DUD to a DUDE. Everyone has free will, and God has given you the time to repent! If you have grown slack in your worship and service of Him, why not determine to become a disciple all over again? It may be that you once had a strong determination to love Jesus, your Lord, but over time, and confronted by various problems, you allowed yourself to slip (Heb. 2:1-4). Do not become complacent! Hell is still hot, and heaven makes a much better eternal dwelling place. Sin is just as real as it was when you first obeyed the Gospel, and you are still in need of salvation from it. Repent and become a disciple again. There remains much work to do in the kingdom!

Gary W. Summers (Defender, Nov. 2020, p. 5-7)

Celebrate

“Rejoice with those who rejoice...” (Romans 12:15)

December Birthdays: Kaci Churchwell (18).

December Anniversaries: David & Glenda Milam (20), Ken & Jo Manger (25).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Dec. 6, 2020	Dec. 13, 2020
Bible Class	—	—
AM Worship	16 + [15]	33 + [18]
PM Worship	[16]	[22]
Wednesday PM	[22]	[17]
Contribution	\$1,105	\$2,389

Privileged To Serve

"...be ready to every good work," (Titus 3:1)

	This Week: 12/13/20	Next Week: 12/20/20		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Dex Dennard	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	<p>December 2020 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Randy & Laura Huckaby</p> <p>January 2021 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Barnum Clean Building: Barnum</p>	
Greeters	—	—		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	John Barnum		
Communion	John Barnum*, Kyle Duaine Randy Huckaby, Don Smith	Dex Dennard*, Coyce Reed James Fuller, Randy Huckaby		
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Don Smith		
Attendance Cards	—	—		
Sunday PM:	Online	Online		
Opening Prayer				
Scripture Reading				
Communion				
Closing Prayer				
Wednesday Devotionals:	December 23 Online	December 30 Online	January 6 Prayer Night	January 13 Ryan Rudloff

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of December 20, 2020

Sunday Class **Cancelled**
 Wed. Class **Exodus 29:10**

The Trinity

- I. God.
 - A. God is A Person.
 - B. God is Spirit.
 - C. God is Self-Existent.
 - D. God is Infinite.
 - E. God is Supremely Holy.
 - F. God is Impartial.
 - G. God is Sovereign Lord.
 - H. God is Unique.
 - I. God is Unchangeable (Immutable).
 - J. God is Merciful.
 - K. God is Love.
 - L. God is God.
- II. Jesus Christ.
 - A. The Deity of Jesus.
 - B. The Humanity of Jesus.
 - C. The Nature of Jesus today:
 - D. Characteristics of Jesus That Make Him Worthy to Follow.
 1. His Power.
 2. His Compassion.
 3. His Honesty.
 4. His Courage.
 5. His Promises.
 6. His Uniqueness.
- III. The Holy Spirit.
 - A. The Holy Spirit is a Person.
 - B. The Holy Spirit is God, is Divine.
 - C. The Holy Spirit Inspired the Word.
 - D. The Apostles and Others Received Miraculous Gifts of the Spirit.
 - E. The Holy Spirit Indwells the Christian.
- IV. The Trinity.
 - A. One in essence; Three in person.
 - B. One infinite Spirit Being; Three personal distinctions – each God.
 - C. These Divine Three are equal.

Jesus Healed Multitudes by the Sea of Galilee, and Selects Twelve Apostles

- I. Jesus healed multitudes beside the Sea of Galilee (Mt. 12:15-21; Mk. 3:7-12).
 - A. The crowds continue to swell as stories continue to spread about Jesus' ability to heal and cast out demons. The pushing and shoving of the crowds becomes a danger.
 - B. The demons have supernatural knowledge, therefore, they know who Jesus is. Again, Jesus forbids them to declare His identity.
 - C. Matthew 12:18-21 is the longest OT quote in Matthew.
 1. It comes from the first servant song of Isaiah 42:1-4.
 2. This quote contains two striking contrasts to the popular Jewish conception of the Messiah.
 - 1) First, He would be gentle.
 - 2) Second, He would be a global Savior, not a national hero.
 - D. Jesus was continuing to teach and heal, but He was also going out of His way to avoid an immediate showdown with the Jewish leaders.
- II. After prayer, Jesus selected 12 apostles (Mt. 10:2-4; Mk. 3:13-19; Lk. 6:12-16).
 - A. Jesus' next response to increasing hostility was to select 12 men to carry on His work when He was gone.
 - B. Although this scene encompasses only 5 verses, it is one of the most crucial moments in Jesus' ministry; so important, in fact, that He bathes it in prayer the entire night before.
 - C. Of all the myriads Jesus' disciples, He chooses 12 in whom to invest Himself.
 - D. The word "apostle" has a range of meaning in the NT.
 1. Essentially, it indicates "a messenger sent with a commission."
 2. The one sent is granted the authority of the one who sends him.
 3. Here, we are specifically dealing with the group of Twelve Apostles.
 4. The number 12 is significant – suggesting religious completeness.
 - E. The Apostles are listed 4 times (Mt. 10:2-4; Mk. 3:16-19; Lk. 6:14-16; Acts 1:13).
 1. Each is in a different order; but always the same three groups of four. (Always beginning with Peter, Philip, and James.)
 2. A number of these men have more than one name.
 - F. It is likely that several of the Apostles were related to each other, and possibly to Jesus as well.
 - G. Judas Iscariot is the single Apostle who was not faithful to Jesus until death.