

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



May 20, 2012

Contact Us:

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325-646-7102
www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship..... 10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service..... 2:30 PM
Worship..... 6:00 PM

Tuesday:

Redstone Class..... 9:30 AM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class On Break
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Jim Moore

Don Smith..... James Thomas

Preacher:

Ryan Smithey.....

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

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

God's Family

By Jerry Martin

God has furnished us with everything that pertains to "life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:5). He has breathed forth His inspired message that is designed to completely equip us for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17). These provisions are available to guide us in every sphere of our lives, including marriage. God made man (man and woman) and gave them everything they needed, not just to survive, but to succeed. Let's go back to the beginning to see the faithfulness of God in planning, presenting, and perpetuating the family. Every family that follows the Divine pattern is representative of God's family.

First, let us look at the plan. God's plan was that mankind be the crowning part of His creation. After each day of creation God saw and declared that day's creation good. On the sixth day His creative plan is described in the following words: "*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth*" (Gen 1:26-28). When all was created, including man, God beheld His completed work as "very good." God's family reveals God's plan.

Secondly, let us look at the participants. The material that germinated and established the first family as God designed was the two individuals, man and woman (male and female) that God made. He made them whole, complete, and unique individuals that when united would provide companionship that would dispel isolation and loneliness. A marriage will be as successful as the singleness possessed by the two individuals who give life to that relationship. It is the individual that must determine to seek "*first the kingdom of God and His righteousness*" (Matt. 6:33). It is the individual that has to determine to be obedient to the "*will of the Father*" in heaven (Matt. 7:21). It is the individual that is to "*examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith*" (2 Cor. 13:5). It is the individual that must "*study to show thyself approved unto God*" (2 Tim. 2:15). It is the individual that is to be the "*earthen vessel*" that houses the treasured gospel message that is to be shared with the world (2 Cor. 4:7). It is the individual that "*must stand before the judgment seat of Christ*" to give an answer of the deeds done in his body (2 Cor. 5:10). With all that said, could anyone deny that a family that follows God's plan will consist of two whole, complete, separate individuals whose singleness

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...he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,
And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall
cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they
are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined to-
gether, let not man put asunder.
Matthew 19:4-6

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brings strength to the relationship? God’s family is made up of participants who respect God’s plan.

Thirdly, let us see how God’s plan is perpetuated. After making the first couple, God prescribed His plan for future relationships in the following words: *“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh”* (Gen 2:24). The two individuals, male and female that become husband and wife, are the material of which the home will be made. It will be their characteristics that will give this union its unique appearance. When they say “I do” they will give life to a relationship that is uniquely theirs. It is like giving birth to a child. This relationship will have qualities and traits from each of the individuals that gave it life. The relationship will begin in infancy, totally dependent on its “parents” for survival and success. The two “single, whole, separate” individuals will not cease being individuals but now they will share a responsibility for something they both conceived and to which they gave birth. The spiritual genetics and Christian traits of the two individuals that gave life to the marriage will determine the strength and stamina of the family it represents. God’s family sees that the next generation repeats God’s plan.

God’s faithfulness is clearly seen in His plan and provisions for the family. Our faithfulness will be seen in how we become participants in and perpetrators of His plan for the family. “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph 6:4).

WHAT IS BIBLICAL LOVE?

By Wayne Jones

Would you not agree that “love” is one of the most overused words in our world today? Both in secular and religious circles, the word is regularly overused and misused. So, from a biblical perspective, what is love? We will offer three answers to this question. Love is...

The Badge of Discipleship

Badges are used for identification purposes. From a policeman to a store clerk, a person’s position is identified by the badge they wear. Spiritually speaking, we often identify people by the “badges” they wear. The false teacher is noticed by his fruits (Matt. 7:20), while the Christian is known for being a light (Matt. 5:16).

As it relates to this badge of love, remember the words of Christ, “by this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another” (John 13:35). Conversely, if we do not show love one to another, we are identified as being part of Satan’s camp (1 John 3:17). This badge must be worn and displayed to all of those around us. We are required to love our family (Eph. 5, 6), to love our God (Matt. 22:37), to love our brethren (Heb. 13:1), and even to love our enemies (Matt. 5:44). We are not given the right to pick and choose who we are going to love, but as Christians this badge should be worn in times of peace and in times of conflict. We will be known as followers of Christ, only if we boldly wear the badge of discipleship—love!

The Balance of Emotion

Some cite love as their reason for overlooking the wrong actions of another. Have you ever heard a parent say, “I just love my child too much to tell him/her no”? The person who makes this statement does not understand the true nature of love. Love demands discipline. Jesus said, “as many as I love, I rebuke and chasten” (Rev. 3:19). On the contrary, those who refuse to rebuke and chasten also refuse to love. Solomon also connected discipline and love: “He who spares his rod hates his son: but he that loves him disciplines him promptly” (Prov. 13:24).

Love thus helps to balance the emotion between giving the benefit of the doubt and simply overlooking sin. Many in the church today who are crying “love” and “unity,” often make those cries with

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Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)
Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord’s Way
Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB

Gospel Broadcasting Network
Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org

Good News Today: Sunday @ 6:00 am on
Dish: 259, DirectTV: 364, Harris: 208

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)
Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

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 Study Schedule

Week 21

Numbers 4-9 & Mark 13-14

Study sheets are available at the back of the auditorium.

Also anyone interested can join us at 5 PM each Sunday in the fellowship hall to discuss the questions and answers.

“...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;” (1 Pet. 2:2)



SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

Wayne Jones

For years I have marveled at the face-to-face encounter Jesus had with Satan in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13). Like many, I have studied this account since my youth. Yet every time I revisit it, I am amazed at the spiritual strength of our Savior during a time of what must have been extreme physical weakness. Thus, when given the opportunity to provide food for Himself by His new-found power (which I believe He received at baptism), it must have been a real and difficult temptation. Thankfully, unlike Esau of old, our Savior was able to look past His own physical interests and see the big picture.

In reality, when we fail to overcome temptation it is usually because we fail to see the big picture. Consider the big picture that Christ saw when tempted to use His powers for selfish interests.

He saw that character was more important than reputation. Satan's initial statement called into question the very deity of Jesus Christ. There was a challenge in the very first word—the word "if." In essence, Satan was saying, "Prove it to me! Prove to me you are the Son of God!" Christ would have seen this as a challenge to His reputation. Yet, He knew that answering this challenge would have been an abuse of His power and would have revealed a lack of trust in His Father. In short, Christ saw His character was more important than His reputation. We would do well to see the same.

He saw that commands were more important than circumstances. The fact that Jesus had been fasting for forty days and that He was severely hungry did not change the commands of God. Nor did these circumstances change Christ's approach to the commands of God. He could have gone another forty days without food and the principle of Deuteronomy 8:3 would have still been the same. For many in our current society, circumstances serve as the deciding factors for moral decisions. That is why things once considered wrong are now socially acceptable. The fickleness of situational morality or situation ethics is

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Visitation Meeting

Remember our visitation meeting each Sunday night following the evening worship to sign cards and discuss the work going on. Please join us each time. Last week **37 contacts** were made.

Happening This Week

- ◆ We are delighted to have Wayne Jones, preacher for the University congregation in San Marcos, and his family in this week as we begin our **gospel meeting** titled "*Fortifying the Family*". Please join us every opportunity you have.
- ◆ **Audio recordings** are available by requesting a CD on an attendance card or from our website at www.4thstreetcoc.org
- ◆ We hope that all can **join us following this morning's worship assembly for lunch in the fellowship hall** and enjoy more time visiting one with another.
- ◆ Also join us **Monday and Tuesday night following the meeting for refreshments and more time to visit.** We are asking members that plan on staying to bring sandwiches and finger foods for themselves and our guests.
- ◆ On **Wednesday, May 23** we will have a **class at 11 AM** followed by a **baked potato and salad lunch.** There is a sign-up sheet for our members at the back of the auditorium to make sure we get everything covered...please sign and indicate what you plan on bringing if you are coming.

Celebrate

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

May Birthdays: Ian Barnum (05), Barbara Bannister (10), Nita Karla Boyd (14), Kami Hardy (14), Pam Teague (14), Caitlin Barnum (15), Billy Chism (15), Peg Moore (17), Randy Brubaker (23), Ryan Smithey (23), Gracen Hardy (30).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	May 6, 2012	May 13, 2012
Bible Class	41	42
AM Worship	64	61
PM Worship	43	47
Wednesday PM	31	26
Contribution	\$1747	\$1542

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 5/20/12	Next Week: 5/27/12		
Sunday AM:	Lead Singing: Tom Wilcox	Lead Singing: Gene Bannister	May 2012 Make Announcements: Garrett Barnum Prepare Communion: Don & Darlene Smith Clean Building: Jessica Stultz Keep Grounds: Jim Moore June 2012 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: The Smithey Family Clean Building: John Barnum Family Keep Grounds: Ryan Smithey	
Greeters	Charles & Bennie White	Gene & Barbara Bannister		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Garrett Barnum		
Communion	Jim Moore*, Allen Griffith John Barnum, Garrett Barnum	Ken Maninger*, James Fuller Don Smith, John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Jim Moore		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	Allen Griffith		
Scripture Reading	Garrett Barnum <i>Genesis 12:1-8</i>	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	Jim Moore	Ken Maninger		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Don Smith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	May 23 Gospel Meeting	May 30 James Fuller	June 6 Jim Moore	June 13 Don Smith

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)

<i>Studies for the week of May 20, 2012</i>	Sunday ClassGospel Meeting Wednesday Class.....Gospel Meeting
<p><i>(Continued from page 2)</i></p> <p>unbalance emotion. Love does not allow me to tell a person in sin that they are alright. Love does not allow me to ignore the need of repentance and restitution for sinful practices. Biblical love will balance that emotion and promote me to carefully, tactfully, and lovingly rebuke and chasten.</p> <p>The Beginning of Obedience</p> <p>Why should I do what God tells me to do? Why should I live a certain lifestyle? Why should I abstain from various activities and vices? The standard answer is, "Because the Bible tells me to do so." Over and over again, God through His inspired Word demands that we live holy lives free from the defilements of the world. But why should I obey God? Many people struggle with that question, either vocally or mentally. While the answers to this question are plentiful, they all have their basis in one word—love. Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Moses connected obedience with love (Deut. 30:20). In fact, according to Paul, what really matters is work (obedience) that is motivated by love (Gal. 5:6).</p> <p>Despite the errors that Satan spreads about love, we can know what true love is and what it does. Is biblical love a practice in your life?</p>	<p><i>(Continued from page 3)</i></p> <p>both illogical and unbiblical.</p> <p>He saw that the eternal was more important than the temporal. Again, taking this approach means seeing beyond today or next week or next year. Have you ever finished a big piece of lemon ice box pie only to regret the indulgence because you were on a diet? Just ten minutes before it seemed like the right thing to do. But with clear reflection (and a satisfied appetite), it is much easier to see that it was not the wisest choice. For many people, such is the case with sin. A moment, evening, or life of pleasure can satisfy for now, but eventually there will be regret and remorse. Christ had the ability to see His true purpose for coming to earth and how that purpose could have been nullified by one moment of self-indulgence.</p> <p>One man has called the temptation of turning stones into bread the "temptation of provisions." Overcoming this type of temptation boils down to answering this question: How much do I trust God? Paul reasoned that if God gave us His own Son, then He will also freely give us all that we need (Rom. 8:32). Do you trust God enough to put character over reputation, commands over circumstances, and the eternal over the temporal?</p>