

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



March 30, 2014

Contact Us:

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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study9:45 AM
Worship10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service 2:30 PM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class..On Break
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

James Thomas

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

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.

“Power?”

How should power be distributed in the church of our Lord? Meaning who is the person or persons here on earth that should wield power in the church? Should the power and authority rest on just one man or should there be a group of leaders to act as some sort of council? Also at what level should this power structure be located? Meaning, does each local congregation possess this power or should there be a centralized headquarters somewhere making the decisions for the church? Besides all that, are these questions even that important anyway?

As you already know, this concept of power and organization in the Lord's church is very important. One of the reasons this topic is so critical is because much division has taken place by people who claim to be followers of Christ. In order to begin to answer these questions we need first to ask if the Word of God has anything to say about such matters. Yes, the bible has a great deal to say about how the church is to be participated in. Just think for a moment, would God offer his Son to be brutally killed for the church and then not tell us how to organize within the body of Christ?

If we were to attempt to see Christianity from the perspective of the outsider (non-believer), there is much confusion and disunity among folks that call themselves Christians. How did that happen? Well, we know God is not responsible for the mess in religion today and down through the centuries, 1 Cor. 14:33, *“For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints.”* From what we see historically much of the trouble started with the misunderstanding of authority and “power” in the church.

When we read the New Testament it is clear that our Lord gave via the Holy Spirit the blueprint for the church to the apostles. Okay what was it that the apostles taught the people back in the first century regarding organization and power in the church? To begin with, there would be no earthly headquarters for the church. The one and only head of the church is Jesus, who now resides in heaven at the right hand side of God the Father. Eph. 1:20-23, *“...that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”* Now that is very plain and clear, Jesus is the head of the church. Okay so no earthly headquarters. Which also means that there is no one mere man to be a world leader of Christ's church and there is not to be a headquarters ruling the church either, that is above and beyond the local congregation. Now we are making some progress, in answering some of these questions. Now all we need to do is answer how the local congregation is to be ruled. We read that the apostle Paul went about establishing congregations in many places within the Roman Empire, recorded in the book of Acts. After these churches were established we also read that Paul set up leaders in those congregations. Acts 14:23, *“And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.”* These men that served as Elders in the local congregations were the spiritual leaders, and not just anybody could serve in this capacity, these men had to meet God's qualifications. Paul listed the qualities and qualifications for elders in the 1 Tim. 3:1f and Titus 1:5f.

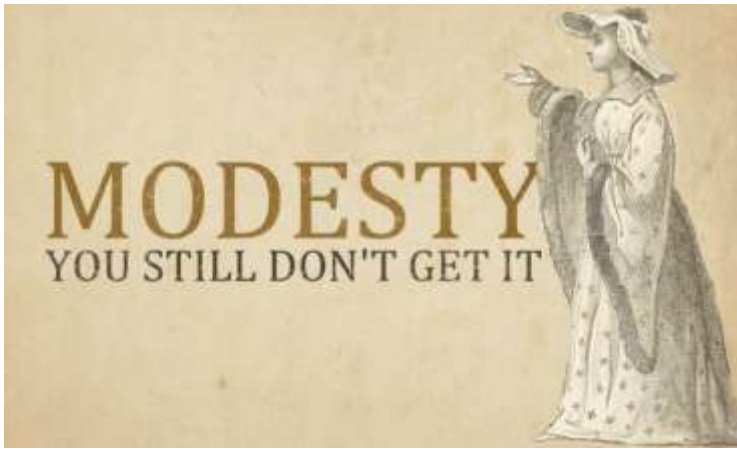
At the beginning of this article I asked about “power” in the church. Well, the power only really belongs to God through Christ and His word. Even the qualified elders of the church are not a power to themselves but rather servants to care for the flock of God. Read 1 Pet. 5:1-4, *“So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”* We would do well to return to the bible for how to do things in this life and not rely on the ideas and traditions of men.

From Northside Bulletin, Northside church of Christ, Topeka, KS



But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, *“And who is my neighbor?”* ... *“Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?”* He said, *“The one who showed him mercy.”* And Jesus said to him, *“You go, and do likewise.”*

Luke 10:29,36,37



It's interesting to me how most Christians still don't understand what modesty is all about. In fact, I've known some older Christian women – and men – who dress pretty “immodestly” (even at worship)!

If someone said, “I saw a woman who was dressed very immodestly,” most of us would assume that woman was wearing clothing that was – in some way – sexually provocative. While showing too much skin or wearing clothes that are too tight is certainly immodest, we fail to recognize that **clothing can be immodest without being sexually provocative.**

1 Timothy 2:9-10 (ESV) says, “*women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.*”

The word translated, “modesty” here is defined by Strong's as, “*a sense of shame or honour, modesty, bashfulness, reverence, regard for others, respect.*”

Here's another way to think about the word: When you say to someone, “You are so amazing” and they disagree with you, you might respond, “Oh, come on now, you're just being *modest.*” That is probably the context in which this word is best understood. Modesty says, “I don't want attention. I'm embarrassed by compliments. Please look away from me. I'm not worthy of your admiration.” That is modesty!

Attention Drawing Attire

Every Christian should live with the desire not to draw attention to themselves. But many times, our clothing choices are immodest because that's exactly what we're trying to do – draw attention to ourselves. Paul mentions, braided hair, gold, pearls, and

costly attire. But we really don't get all up in arms about Christians who wear fancy clothes and jewelry; when that's exactly the context in which Paul addresses modesty!

Now, I'm not saying we should all dress in rags. But we do need to examine our hearts. The question is, what are your motives? Do your clothes serve a practical purpose – like covering up your body – or are you just trying to *impress* people? When you dress in flamboyant clothes, wear a lot of expensive jewelry, or spend lots of time on your makeup and hair – are you not being immodest? Are you not trying to draw attention to yourself?

A New Kind of Attire

Paul says the Christian woman's attire should be “*good works.*” When Christians “*clothe ourselves*” in good works, God gets the attention! Jesus said, “*Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven*” (Matthew 5:16).

The world has ALWAYS told women they are obligated to look beautiful. Paul says, don't get so caught up in *dressing* beautifully, but in *living* beautifully!

Revealing Attire

Immodesty is a pride issue. Immodest clothing can say, “Look at how much money I have,” or, “Look at how trendy I am,” or, “Look at how beautiful my body is.” That's sinful pride! When a woman wears short shorts, she is communicating pride in her body. When a man goes without a shirt, he is communicating his pride in his physique. That is not the way Christians should conduct themselves!

When people dress provocatively, they may not even realize they are being – or intend to be – sexually provocative. They may simply be thinking to themselves, “I look good in this and I'm going to wear it.” But again, that is sinful pride! Whether you're just showing off how good your body looks, trying to make people jealous that they don't have your body, or trying to “turn on” members of the opposite sex – you're being immodest!

Stop trying to be impressive and be faithful!

Christians must learn to be modest in the way we think of ourselves. The world screams, “Be proud of who you are and how you look!” And God says, “Stop looking at yourself and look at Me!” We are often so self-absorbed and our clothing often reflects that fact. It's time for a change!

Wes McAdams (via www.radicallychristian.com)

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

Sunday @ 6:30 am on Dish:267, DirectTV:376

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network

Gbntv.org and on Roku

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 118

Isaiah 24-29

& 1 John 5—2 John

Study sheets are available at the back of the auditorium.

“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)



- ◆ Jun. 29-Jul. 3—**Junior Camp**
- ◆ Jul. 20-25—**Senior Camp**

The Woman and the Rabbi

"Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me all that I ever did'" (John 4:39, ESV).

There they sat, the rabbi and the woman. Her life had been wild and self-indulgent. She had been married five times. No doubt in her village she was the subject of lurid speculation. As the young people would say these days, the encounter was "awkward." She had enjoyed all there was to enjoy from life - wine, men and song. No doubt she was at the well in the heat of the day for a reason - she was an outcast, the subject of hurtful gossip and innuendo.

Yes. She had been hurt. Had her life been one of sinful selfishness? Certainly. But she had been hurt by the "righteous," the moral pace-setters in her community. There was little chance that these people could draw her back to God. There was little chance that they wanted to do so.

So the last thing she wanted that day was to converse with a preacher! And she probably wanted to discuss her personal life with this man as badly she wanted to meet a crew from 60 Minutes!

When Jesus came to Sychar, he did not consult a manual on evangelism technique, nor did he follow some "Church Growth" model that was all the rage. Mission methods often suggest converting prominent members in society—chieftains or patriarchs, who will in turn affect those over whom they have influence. So Jesus made contact with the village's most scandalous figure.

Why did he do this? Probably because she was the first person in that town he met! She was not a Church Growth technique; she was a person, created in the image of God, and whenever Jesus comes into contact with someone, that person is elevated!

Ancient Church Father Tatian observed: *"Jesus came to the fountain as a hunter ... he threw a grain before one pigeon that he might catch the whole flock."*

It might be nice to convert the CEO of General Motors or the president of our nation, but in the meantime we might consider doing what Jesus did: Why not befriend the young person in the pew beside you? Why not talk to a lonely neighbor about coming to church? Why not speak to a visitor to worship, standing over there by himself and looking a little, well, awkward.

You never know; a whole village might be converted.

Stan Mitchell

Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **24 contacts** were made.

Special Announcements

- ◆ **Bible Bowl today @ Hamilton, 2:00-4:00pm**
- ◆ First Sunday Fellowship Meal & Elders, Deacons, and Preacher's meeting next Sunday

In The Area

- ◆ **Today—Bible Bowl @ Hamilton (2 Cor. 9-13)**
- ◆ **Saturday—Ladies Day @ Highway 36 "Focus on the Unseen" (Valerie Crim) [Flyer posted]**
- ◆ Apr. 6-9—**Gospel Meeting @ Hamilton "Getting at the Heart of Things" (Mike Vestal) [Flyer posted]**
- ◆ Apr. 6-9—**Gospel Meeting @ Deleon (Paul Shero) [Flyer posted]**
- ◆ Apr. 12-15—**Annual Southwest Lectures @ Austin "Equipping for Service: Lessons from the Pastoral Epistles" (Various Speakers)**
- ◆ Apr. 20-23—**Gospel Meeting @ San Angelo (BJ Clarke)**
- ◆ Apr. 20-23—**Gospel Meeting @ Bangs (Tyler Young)**
- ◆ Apr. 20-23—**Gospel Meeting @ Colleyville "Come Let Us Reason Together" (Andy Baker)**
- ◆ Apr. 25-27—**Lovelady Lectures @ Lovelady "Lessons in Lyrics" (Various Speakers)**
- ◆ Apr. 26—**Bible Bowl @ Stephenville**
- ◆ Apr. 26—**Ladies Day @ Deleon**
- ◆ May 3—**Cherokee Day @ Cherokee Home for Children (see bulletin board for details and donation needs)**
- ◆ May 4-7—**Gospel Meeting @ Gordon (Michael Light)**
- ◆ **May 11-14—Our Gospel Meeting with Loy Mitchell**

Celebrate

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

April Birthdays: Julie Baker (1), Lasha Dennis (6), Ginger King (8), Kristi Maninger (9), Darlene Smith (10), Earlene Burge (17), Birdie Reynolds (17), Caroline Dennis (30).

April Anniversaries: John & Tina Barnum (8).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Mar. 16, 2014	Mar. 23, 2014
Bible Class	46	50
AM Worship	69	72
PM Worship	56	48
Wednesday PM	57	46
Contribution	\$2,144	\$1769

Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 3/30/14		Next Week: 4/6/14		March 2014 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Cindy Fuller Keep Grounds: James Fuller April 2014 Make Announcements: Garrett Barnum Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannister Clean Building: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Ken, Jo, Kristi, Lunday Maninger	Hank Wheeler; James, Cindy Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Garrett Barnum	Allen Griffith		
Communion	John Barnam*, Hank Wheeler Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis	Ken Maninger*, Gene Bannister Chase Churchwell, James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	James Fuller	John Barnum		
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis	Chase Churchwell		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	John Barnum		
Scripture Reading	Garrett Barnum	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	John Barnum	Ken Maninger		
Closing Prayer	Billy Chism	Don Smith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	April 2 Don Smith	April 9 Joe Dennis	April 16 Tom Wilcox	April 23 Kevin Wilcox

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 March 30, 2014		Sunday Class The Organization of the New Testament Church Wednesday PM Mark: Chapter 7
<p>Studies in Luke—The Good Samaritan—10:25-37</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ "Jesus' Ministry in Perea" (9:51-19:28) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The focus shifts from Jesus' signs and wonders, to His teaching. ◆ You will notice many more words in red (red letter edition). ◆ Many parables recorded in this section. ◆ The Samaritans were hated by the Jews, and visa versa. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Jesus sent messengers to a village of the Samaritans to prepare for His coming, but they refused to receive Him (9:52,53). ◆ The animosity between the two groups dates all the way back to the Assyrian captivity and King Shalmanezar repopulating Israel with foreigners (2 Kings 17) ◆ The character of lawyer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ His question was never honest. His desire was to "put (Jesus) to the test" (10:25). ◆ Having looked foolish in the first exchange (10:25-28), "desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" (10:29). ◆ The parable, "The Good Samaritan" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A certain man fell among robbers and was left for dead (his nationality or identity is not given). ◆ Two of Israel's elite, a priest and a Levite, see him, but offer no assistance. ◆ A Samaritan sees him and cares for his every need. ◆ Jesus asks, "Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" (10:36). ◆ The answer was obvious, "The one who showed him mercy." ◆ What kind of neighbor am I? ◆ How well do I practice my religion? 	<p>The Epistle of James—An Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Despite the objection of some (such as Martin Luther), James is one of the most practical and needed letters for Christians. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ He rebukes worldliness and pretense in religion. ◆ He denounces social injustices. ◆ He challenges Christians to make their lives consistent with their profession of Christianity. ◆ One of the most challenged books in the New Testament. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ However, it passes every test of authenticity. ◆ It is in complete harmony with the teaching of Jesus and the apostles. ◆ It is pretty much universally agreed that the writer is James, the half-brother of Jesus. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ He identifies himself as, "a servant (doulos –slave) of God and the Lord Jesus Christ" (1:1) ◆ Of course, the Holy Spirit is the true author of the book. ◆ Written, "to the twelve tribes of the Dispersion" (1:1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Those Jews scattered through the Roman Empire due to persecution (Acts 8:1f; 12:1f). ◆ "diaspora" - scattered seed. ◆ Date: One of the earliest books of the New Testament. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Around 45-48 AD. ◆ Written to Jewish Christians, at about the time the gospel first went to the Gentiles. ◆ Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Understand the purpose of trials in the Christian's life. ◆ To become "perfect" men—mature Christians ◆ Theme: The Practice of True Religion. 	