

# 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



June 21, 2015

## Contact Us:

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## Meeting Times:

### Sunday:

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

### Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class.10:00 AM  
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

## When Christians Blend In



The other day I watched a video of several different octopi and their incredible camouflaging capabilities. At the beginning of the video we see what appears to be an ordinary patch of sea grass. As the cameraman approaches a portion of the "grass" suddenly illuminates to reveal that an octopus has been hiding within it. I watched the intro of the video several times over only to realize that even though I knew the octopus was there, he was nearly impossible to see.

The octopus was designed with a mechanism to camouflage itself from predators thus keeping them safe from harm most of the time. They have camouflage down to an exact science making seamless transitions from visible to invisible. The ability to blend in is quite remarkable. In fact, there are very few creatures that can do it as well as the octopus. One of those creatures is called the "Christian."

It's sad, but true that many so-called Christians, only behave as such one day of the week. When they come to worship on Sunday they do the things Christians do, but when they head back to school, or work, or their house they change. They undergo a metamorphosis, shedding off their Christian "shell," to become just like the rest of the world that surrounds them. These creatures go by many names "Sunday-morning only," "pew-warmers," and the ever popular term "hypocrites" and rightly so. When these "Christians" undergo this metamorphosis they are actually doing the opposite of what God's wants them to do.

*"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."* (Romans 12:2 ESV)

This command is two-fold. First, Paul says *"do not be conformed to this world."* Secondly, Paul says through God, *"be transformed by the renewal of your mind."* This is the kind of change God wants from us. God does not want us to change ourselves to blend in with the world around us. Instead God desires for us to become more like Him, knowing His will, that which is good, acceptable, and perfect.

It's time for us to stop pretending. There's no more time for us to sit around and play church. It's time we became real, true to life, authentic Christians. It's time that we shook this notion that we can be an arms-length away from both the world and Christ (James 4:4). We are meant for so much more than playing Christianity on the weekends. We must drop Christianity as a hobby, and take it up as a lifestyle. When worldly pressure sets in, refuse to conform. You can't be a light to world if you're as dark as the world that surrounds you (Matthew 5:14-16). You can't live for Christ if Christ doesn't live in you (Galatians 2:20). And you can't follow Christ if you blend in with the world.

Jack Dodgen (start2finish.org)

*"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.... Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate."*  
Psalm 127:1a,3-5

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

# Sacrifice, Submission, & Table Fellowship



One of the most mysterious aspects of the Christian faith is the Trinity. We worship one God. We are monotheists, and at the same time we profess that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all God. This is a mystery. We profess it, but we will never fully comprehend it. Instead of trying to explain this phenomenon by offering inadequate illustrations (e.g. water, ice, vapor, etc.), we should seek to learn from how God reveals himself. God does not need our explanation, but we need his revelation. There are many things we can learn from the doctrine of the Trinity, but perhaps one of the most important is that God dwells in community. God reveals what perfect community is. He reveals the importance of community. We were designed to live in community.

In America, the individual is prized above all else. We think in terms of our individual rights and individual identity, whereas many ancient cultures thought in terms of what is best for the community. This focus on individuality is a threat to the church. The church is in danger of becoming a community of individuals which is no community at all. We may still gather on the first day of the week, but we often do this as a group of individuals and not as a group who is willing to submit to one another. The development of a community takes work. It is something that doesn't just happen. It takes maturity, purpose, and leadership.

How do people overcome this pull to see everything through the lens of individuality? The answer is found in the Bible. The church needs to return to sacrifice, submission, and table fellowship which foster community. These three things are at the heart of the gospel.

The apostle Paul gets to the heart of the gospel in Philippians 2:3-8, an important passage on sacrifice and submission.

*“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Phil. 2:3-8)*

## Sacrifice

The essence of Jesus' mission is others. He is willing to do things he would rather not do because he is acting out of love. Sacrifice is not easy. It is a discipline. Paul describes what Jesus did as *“becoming obedient.”* Sacrifice must be at the heart of a thriving community. The sacrifice of Jesus is something all Christians are called to imitate (1 Peter 2:21-24).

## Submission

When Jesus came to this earth, he *“emptied himself.”* This has nothing to do with his divinity. Jesus was both fully human and fully divine while he walked the earth. This refers to his attitude and demeanor. He was God, but he became a servant. He submitted himself to his parents. He submitted himself to others. The first became the last because this is how he wants all Christians to live. Christians must be willing to submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21).

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## Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB

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

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:30am 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

**June 21** 1 Kgs. 10-11; 2 Chr. 9

**June 22** Prov. 30-31

**June 23** 1 Kgs. 12-14

**June 24** 2 Chr. 10-12

**June 25** 1 Kgs. 15:1-24; 2 Chr. 13-16

**June 26** 1 Kgs. 15:25-16:34; 2 Chr. 17

**June 27** 1 Kgs. 17-19

**June 28** 1 Kgs. 20-21

*“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)*



(Continued from page 2)

### Table Fellowship

Sacrifice and submission are essential, but they are not enough. Table fellowship is essential in the formation of lasting relationships within a community.

*“And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:44-47)*

In order to develop a healthy community, churches must regularly eat together. This was an important aspect of Jesus’ ministry. He was constantly having meals with anyone who would eat with him. He ate with sinners, tax collectors, prostitutes, Pharisees, and many more. Jesus revealed himself to his disciples in the breaking of bread (Luke 24:13-35). Friendships are formed and strengthened while sharing a meal together. Enemies let down their defenses when we show them hospitality.

Individuality continues to reign supreme, but there is good news. Christians are called to be different. Churches can make a real difference in the world when members don’t focus on what makes them different, but instead unite around what we agree upon. The motto of the church is not “Have it your way!” When we return to sacrifice, submission, and table fellowship we will begin to offer the world something unique that they cannot get anywhere else. When we return to the gospel and imitate the life of Jesus, then we will be the light we are supposed to be.

(start2finish.org)

## Celebrate

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

**June Birthdays:** Mike Bannister (4), Caleb Dennis (6), Loutrell Dobbins (8), Shannon Dennis (13), **Tiffany McCaghren (22)**, **Donnie Evetts (24)**, **David Greer (26)**, **Stormy Barnum (27)**, Ashley Kahlich (29).

**June Anniversaries:** James & Laverne Thomas (5), Johnny & Cindy McCaghren (8), Wayne & Mileen Kahlich (19), **David & Lisa Greer (28)**.



## Records

	June 7, 2015	June 14, 2015
Bible Class	49	40
AM Worship	64	52
PM Worship	51	35
Wednesday PM	37	33
Contribution	\$2,119	\$1,914

# Privileged To Serve

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

	Next Week: 6/21/15	Next Week: 6/28/15	June 2015	
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<b>Make Announcements:</b> James Fuller	
<b>Greeters</b>	Allen & Linda Griffith	Maninger Family	<b>Prepare Communion:</b> Gene & Barbara Bannister	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	John Barnum	James Fuller	<b>Clean Building:</b> John Barnum Family	
<b>Communion</b>	James Thomas*, Don Smith Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell	Hank Wheeler*, Allen Bland Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis	<b>Keep Grounds:</b> Tom Wilcox	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Tom Wilcox	Allen Griffith	<b>July 2015</b>	
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Caleb Dennis	Chase Churchwell	<b>Make Announcements:</b> Don Smith	
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	<b>Prepare Communion:</b> Ken & Jo Maninger	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	James Fuller	Gene Bannister	<b>Clean Building:</b> Johnny & Cindy McCaghren	
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Hank Wheeler	Mike Bannister	<b>Keep Grounds:</b> James Fuller	
<b>Communion</b>	James Thomas	Hank Wheeler		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Billy Chism	Tom Wilcox		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	June 24 Don Smith	July 1 Prayer	July 8 Joe Dennis	July 15 Allen Griffith

# 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 June 21, 2015

Sunday Class ..... Acts 8:20ff  
Wednesday Class ..... Ezekiel 10:19ff

**Being A Godly Father**  
 "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain" (Ps. 127:1).  
 "Dad doesn't matter." That seems to be the sentiment of Hollywood and many in our society today. Our society is plagued with one parent homes (for various reasons), and it is usually dad who is missing.  
 If "dad doesn't matter," why is God referred to as "our Heavenly Father"?  
 God designed the home to function with two parents working together.  
**Every child is entitled to a father who will love and nurture them.**  
 Fathers will give account to God for a unique stewardship – our children

**Key Principles**  
**God intends every child to grow up with its father at home to guide and protect it.**  
 From the beginning, God commissioned parents to be their children's primary teachers (Gen. 18:19; Deut. 11:18-21; Ps. 78:2-4).  
 The heavenly Father is the model for every father (Ps. 103:13; Pr. 3:12).  
**There are keys to faithful stewardship as a father.**  
 Be the "light" of your home (Mt. 5:14-16).  
 Children need to be reproved at times, corrected for their soul's sake.

**Application**  
**Fathers should honor their children's "birthright" (to grow up with their father at home to guide and protect them).**  
**Fathers need to focus on the keys to being a godly family leader.**

- **Compassion** (Lk. 15:20,30-31; Job 29:16; Jas 1:27).
- **Patience** (Col. 3:21; Eph. 6:4).
- **Nurturing** (Lk. 11:11,13)
- **Role modeling** (Pr. 23:26; 1 Pet. 1:16; 1 Jn. 4:19).

**Fathers should pursue spiritual excellence.**  
 Put the kingdom first, and teach your family to do it too (Mt. 6:33).  
 Teach your children to love, respect, obey their parents (Eph. 6:1,2).  
 Be a loving husband (Eph. 5:28,29) and considerate father (Eph. 6:4).  
 Provide physical and spiritual leadership (Josh. 24:15).  
 Be honest in all your dealings (Rom. 12:16).  
 Set aside Sunday for your family to worship (Heb. 10:25).  
 Never speak or act in an unchristian manner (Pr. 15:1).  
 Rule your household with love, kindness, and care (Eph. 5:31-33).  
 Love and respect every family member (Mt. 7:21).  
**Fathers influence more than just their own children.**

**The Bread of Life (Part 2) – John 6:35-71**

<sup>15</sup>I am the bread of life... whoever comes to me... whoever believes in me.  
 This is a key verse for the interpretation of the rest of the chapter.  
 We must keep on eating if we are to keep on living. If we cease eating, we will cease living. This is true in both the spiritual and physical realms.  
<sup>20</sup>you have seen me and yet do not believe.  
 They have seen the signs but have not believed in Him. If they have not believed, they have not eaten of the *living bread*. If they have not eaten of the *living bread*, they do not have life, therefore they are dead.  
<sup>37</sup>whoever comes to me I will never cast out.  
<sup>38</sup>I have come down from heaven... to do... the will of him who sent me.  
<sup>39</sup>that I should lose nothing... he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.  
**Raise it up on the last day** – notice the repetition of this phrase in the coming verses. There are no more days after the *last day*.  
<sup>40</sup>that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life.  
 These are all verbs of action. This is why it is called a "**work of God**" (29).  
<sup>44</sup>No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.  
<sup>45</sup>Notice the process: **Taught > Heard > Comes** (Rom. 10:17)  
<sup>46</sup>he who is from God; he has seen the Father.  
<sup>47</sup>whoever believes has eternal life.  
<sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life.  
<sup>50</sup>This is the bread that comes down from heaven... one may eat of it and not die.  
<sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats... live forever.  
 The bread... is my flesh. – compare to 1:14 – the word became flesh.  
<sup>53</sup>unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life.  
**Very offensive language to the non-spiritual thinking person!**  
<sup>55</sup>For my flesh is **true food**, and my blood is **true drink**.  
<sup>56</sup>abides in me, and I in him. Compare to chapter 15.  
<sup>57</sup>living Father... I live because of the Father... whoever feeds on me... will live because of me.  
<sup>60</sup>"This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?"  
<sup>63</sup>It is the Spirit who gives life... The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.  
<sup>66</sup>After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.  
<sup>67</sup>So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?"  
<sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,<sup>69</sup> and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."