

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



January 3, 2016

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.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

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

The Church Isn't Supposed to be Segregated

I'm just going to say it flat out, the Lord's church should NOT be segregated. The church isn't supposed to be segregated by skin color, age, economics, or anything else. But far too often we choose to segregate ourselves into separate congregations and even into separate and distinct groups within the same congregation. Here are a few thoughts on resolving the problem of segregation in the church.

What the Church is Supposed to Be

The church is made up of all those who belong to Jesus Christ. Therefore, a local congregation of the church ought to be made up of all those who belong to Jesus Christ who live in that vicinity. **Congregations ought to be as diverse as the communities in which they are located.** There is absolutely no biblical reason for a diverse community to have a congregation that is made up of just older people, just younger people, just white people, just black people, just poor people, or just rich people.

Furthermore, there is no biblical reason that within a congregation Christians should *always* be segregated into groups: singles, young marrieds, college-age, 50+, teens, recovering addicts, etc. There can certainly be benefits to *occasionally* breaking up into groups such as these, as people are at different stages of life, but too much of this can be detrimental to the very fabric of the church.

Jesus came to tear down walls of separation (Ephesians 2:14). He came to make us into one family, in which "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female" (Galatians 3:28). The apostle Paul spent most of his ministry trying to bring people together, in spite of their racial and cultural differences. **He chastised separating from one another** (Galatians 2:11-14). He told older Christians and younger Christians to teach each other and learn from each other (Titus 2:1-8; 1 Timothy 4:12).

God's design for the church is about togetherness, not segregation.

It's About Identity

As I see it, one of our biggest problems is personal identity. Too often, **our identity is all wrapped up in carnal matters.** Our identity is wrapped up in our age, our hobbies, our profession, our race, our nationality, or maybe even our experiences. Because our identity is wrapped up in these carnal things, we *identify primarily with* others who share that identity.

When we make a big deal about identifying as a millennial, we naturally identify with others "in our group." Those who do not share our identity are not necessarily our enemies, **we just don't consider them "one of us."** How we identify ourselves, therefore, is of the great importance. Do you primarily identify yourself as a black person, a white person, a baby-boomer, a Dallas Cowboys fan, an outdoorsman, or what? What is your identity?

As Christians, **our primary identity should come from being "in Christ."** Peter wrote:

*But you are a chosen **race**, a royal priesthood, a holy **nation**, a **people** for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of*

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*"Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." **Philippians 3:12-14***



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darkness into his marvelous light.

Do you see that? Your race is “Christian.” Your nationality is “Christian.” Your people are “Christians.” When we learn to see things this way, when we learn to identify primarily as someone who is “in Christ,” then we will see others who are in Christ as being our people, our group.

As Paul wrote, “From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh” (2 Corinthians 5:16). It’s all about being “in Christ.” It’s all about being “a new creation.”

The more we focus on the spiritual, the less the physical will matter.

Take Responsibility

Our tendency at this point is to **acknowledge the problem but blame the people in the other groups**. Older people say, “You’re right, but young people these days just don’t want to have anything to do with older folks like me.” While the younger people say, “Older Christians think poorly of my generation and they don’t want to build relationships with us.” And groups of Christians with different skin colors say, “It’s not *us*, it’s *them*.”

It’s time we stop the finger pointing and it’s time each of us takes responsibility for ourselves. It’s time we get out of our comfort zones, in order to get to know our brothers and sisters in Christ; regardless of their age, their socioeconomic background, their skin color, their hobbies, or anything else that might make them different from us. It’s time we **take the initiative to help make the church what the church is supposed to be**.

I realize it can be hard, when lines of segregation have already been drawn, to make changes; but if we are all willing to make small steps in the right direction, we can make a difference over time. You could start today by:

- Inviting someone over to your home for dinner who isn’t “in your group.”
- Sitting on a different pew in the worship assembly.
- Attending a different Bible class.

If you’re looking for a new congregation, you could even consider helping a congregation be less segregated; **who cares** if there are very few people your age, with your skin color, or at your economic level?

“From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh” (2 Corinthians 5:16).

Wes McAdams (radicallychristian.com)

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

A Prophet Like Moses

Shortly before his death, Moses addressed the children of Israel. He reminded them that they had not wanted God to directly communicate with them (Deut. 18:16 cf. Exod. 20:18-19). But, God did communicate with them through Moses. And, He would continue to communicate with them through prophets. He told them that they were not to direct their lives as the Canaanites did. They were not to use human sacrifices, witchcraft, soothsaying, interpretation of omens, sorcery, spells, mediums, spiritists or summoning of the dead (Deut. 18:9-14).

They needed to know how to discern a true prophet. Remember, Moses provided adequate evidence that he spoke for God (Exod. 4:1-9). The book of Deuteronomy addressed this subject with two additional points. First, a prophet of God will not contradict previous revelation (Deut. 13:1-5). Second, a prophet of God will be 100% correct in what he prophesies (Deut. 18:21-22). He will not merely sometimes be correct, or even most of the time be correct; he will always be correct.

The Coming Prophet

Moses foretold of a coming prophet. He said, “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren, him you shall hear” (Deut. 18:15). Again, he said,

I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brethren, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I commanded him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which he speaks in My name, I will require it of him. (Deut.18:17-19).

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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

Jan. 3	Matthew 7-9
Jan. 4	Matthew 10-12
Jan. 5	Matthew 13-15
Jan. 6	Matthew 16-18
Jan. 7	Matthew 19-21
Jan. 8	Matthew 22-24
Jan. 9	Matthew 25-27
Jan. 10	Matthew 28

“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)



things, whatever He says to you... (Acts 3:18-25)

Consider the many parallels between the life and work of Moses and Jesus:

1. Both preserved in childhood (Exod. 2:2-10; Matt. 2:14-15).
2. Both sent by God (Exod. 3:9-10; John 3:17; 4:34; 8:42; Gal. 4:4-5, etc.).
3. Both left glory to serve (Heb. 11:24-26; Phil. 2:5-8).
4. Both did miracles (Exod. 4:1-ff; Jn. 3:2, 20:30).
5. Both fasted forty days (Exod. 34:28; Matt. 4:2).
6. Both gave people laws (Josh. 8:31-32; Gal. 6:2).
7. Both ratified a covenant for the people with blood (Exod. 24:1-8; Heb. 9:16-ff; Matt. 26:28; Heb. 9:16-28).
8. Both had seventy helpers (Num. 11:16; Luke 10:1).
9. Both called prophets (Deut. 18:18; Luke 13:33; 24:19).
10. Both involved in giving memorial feasts (Exod. 12:14; Luke 22:19).
11. Both made intercessory prayers (Exod. 32:32; John 17:9).
12. Both willing to die for the people (Exod. 32:32; John 10:17).
13. Both present when multitudes were miraculously fed (Exod. 16; John 6).
14. Both offered an opportunity for salvation (Exod. 14 cf. 1 Cor. 10:1-2; Num. 21 cf. John 3:14; Mark 16:15-16).
15. Both offered freedom (freedom from Egypt; freedom from sin).
16. Both offered a promised land [Canaan; Heaven (cf. Heb. 3:16-4:14)].

Take Heed

God's prophet should be heeded. God said, *"I...will put my words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I commanded Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him"* (Deut. 18:18-19). Jesus connected this to Himself, saying,

He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day... For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. (John 12:48-49)

May we all heed the Prophet like Moses – Jesus the Christ!

Bryan Hodge

(Christian Worker, Vol. 101, Num. 12, Dec. 2015)

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Of Whom Did He Speak?

Consider two clues which are provided: (1) This prophet would come, *"from your midst, from your brethren."* It is most natural to understand this to be speaking of an Israelite (Deut. 15:17; 17:15; 24:14 cf. 18:15, 18). (2) This prophet would, in some way, be like Moses. Peter revealed that this prophet was Jesus.

But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled... For Moses truly said to the fathers, the Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all

Celebrate

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

January Birthdays: Tom Wilcox (17), Anita Boyd (19), Jaceton Evetts (20), Mattison Churchwell (25), Karen Bland (29), Judie Turner (29).

January Anniversaries: None.

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Dec. 20, 2015	Dec. 27, 2015
Bible Class	48	40
AM Worship	56	58
PM Worship	42	NA
Wednesday PM	52	40
Contribution	\$2,324	\$1,250

Privileged To Serve

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

	Next Week: 1/3/16	Next Week: 1/10/16	January 2016	
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Make Announcements: Ken Maninger	
Greeters	Fuller / Stultz	Allen & Linda Griffith	Prepare Communion: McCaghrens	
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Don Smith	Clean Building: McCaghren / Bridges	
Communion	James Thomas*, Hank Wheeler Garrett Barnum, Tom Wilcox	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Ryan Rudloff, Allen Bland	Hostess Committee: Cindy McCaghren's group	
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Allen Griffith	February 2016	
Attendance Cards	Jaceton Evetts	Chase Churchwell	Make Announcements: Gene Bannister	
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: James Fuller	Prepare Communion: Mike & Patti Bannister	
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	John Barnum	Clean Building: Dennis / Guthrie	
Scripture Reading	Don Smith	Hank Wheeler	Hostess Committee: Cindy McCaghren's group	
Communion	James Thomas	Ken Maninger		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Tom Wilcox		
Wednesday Devotionals:	January 6 Prayer Night	January 13 Allen Griffith	January 20 Tom Wilcox	January 27 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)

Studies for the week of January 3, 2016

Sunday Class Acts 18:19ff: Second Evangelistic Journey
Wed. Class Ezekiel 37: Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones

<u>Press Toward the Goal for the Prize (Phil. 3:12-14)</u>	<u>John 19:16-30 – Events During the Crucifixion</u>
<p>I. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended (13).</p> <p>A. Paul does not consider that he had arrived spiritually.</p> <p>1. He was not a perfect man ("Not that I...am already perfected" [12]).</p> <p>B. In like manner, we must continually evaluate ourselves spiritually.</p> <p>II. One thing I do (13).</p> <p>A. Paul wanted to accomplish only one thing – receive eternal life.</p> <p>B. "But seek first the kingdom of God..." (Mt. 6:33; cf. Mt. 16:26; Col. 3:2; Titus 2:12).</p> <p>C. How?</p> <p>1. Come to realize that life is short and very uncertain.</p> <p>2. Realize that our turning to Christ through an obedient faith is not the end – but the beginning.</p> <p>3. Work at growing in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 3:18).</p> <p>4. Come to realize how important the church of the Lord is.</p> <p>5. Make the conscious effort to remove yourself from being the center by remembering that there will be a time of reckoning one great day.</p> <p>III. Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead (13). Two important considerations:</p> <p>A. There must be a <i>forgetting</i> that takes place.</p> <p>B. There must be a <i>reaching forward</i> that takes place.</p> <p>1. To <i>reach</i> refers to the idea of a runner, straining toward the finish line.</p> <p>IV. I press toward the goal (14).</p> <p>A. Do not just enter the race and run it – give it everything you have.</p> <p>B. What is the goal?</p> <p>1. The course that the contestants in the games would follow.</p> <p>2. The prescribed bounds – a marked out course of faith and holy living.</p> <p>C. Toward the goal – expresses the aim of the runner.</p> <p>D. For the prize – expresses the end of the race.</p> <p>E. Notice his reference to <i>upward call of God</i> – a reference to the prize itself – eternal life with God in heaven.</p> <p>F. This <i>upward call of God</i> – eternal life – is to be found in Christ Jesus.</p> <p>1. There is no prize to be received outside of Christ – one must be found in Christ.</p> <p>2. The only way scriptures teach that one may be found in Christ is to be baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:26,27).</p>	<p>I. The walk to the cross (16-17): Pilate releases Jesus to the soldiers, who lead him (carrying his own cross) to a place known as the "Place of a Skull" (Golgotha).</p> <p>A. Then he (Pilate) delivered Him (Jesus) to them (Jews).</p> <p>B. To be crucified.</p> <p>C. He, bearing His cross (17).</p> <p>1. The cross consisted of a stake sunk into the ground in an upright position with a cross piece attached to its upper part – like a T.</p> <p>D. A place called the Place of a Skull...Golgotha.</p> <p>a. The Latin word for skull is "Calvary." (only in Lk. 23:33).</p> <p>II. The wrongdoers on the cross (18): Two thieves are crucified with Jesus.</p> <p>III. The writing above the cross (19-22).</p> <p>A. The record of the sign (19-20): <i>Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.</i></p> <p>1. Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross.</p> <p>2. Written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.</p> <p>B. The request to remove the sign (21): The chief priests demand that Pilate change it to read: <i>He said, 'I am the King of the Jews.'</i></p> <p>C. The resolve to keep the sign (22): <i>What I have written, I have written!</i></p> <p>IV. The wardrobe below the cross (23-24).</p> <p>A. The soldiers (23-24a): They divide Jesus' clothes into four parts, one for each of them, and cast lots for his seamless garment.</p> <p>1. The soldiers...took His garments and made four parts.</p> <p>2. The tunic – the garment worn next to the skin.</p> <p>B. The Scripture (24b): This action was predicted by David in Psalm 22:18.</p> <p>V. The women at the cross (25): Various women are there, including Jesus' mother, her sister, the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.</p> <p>VI. The words from the cross (26-30).</p> <p>A. Jesus speaks to Mary and John (26-27).</p> <p>1. To Mary (26): "Woman, behold your son!"</p> <p>2. To John (27): "Behold your mother."</p> <p>B. Jesus speaks to the guards (28-29): "I thirst!"</p> <p>1. Knowing that all things were now accomplished.</p> <p>C. Jesus speaks to the Father (30): "It is finished!"</p> <p>1. Jesus was not going to allow Himself to die until every last part of the OT prophecy concerning Him was fulfilled.</p>