

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 25, 2017

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801
325-646-7102
www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

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.

Is the Church Broken?

Is Christianity cracked? Is the church broken? Has Christianity been marginalized? Is the church ineffective and irrelevant, today? In one sense, "Yes," Christianity has stress fractures, the church has been severely damaged, Christianity has been sidelined in the lives of most people, and the church has become an extraneous and unconnected historical tidbit from the past, but stuck in an apathetic present day. For many people nowadays, Christianity and the New Testament church have no practical application.

As a world religion, Christianity faces stiff challenges (through sheer numbers and militancy) from other world religions, such as Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and atheism. Most of the world's population is either completely unaware of or outright rejects without the least consideration of Christianity. What passes for Christianity in the eyes of global populations frequently does not fairly represent Bible teaching and is associated with godless characteristics of western civilization (e.g., general immorality, consumption of alcohol, immodest attire). On the world stage and according to international discernment of what typically represents itself as Christianity, "Yes," Christianity is cracked at best, the church is broken, Christianity deserves to be marginalized, and the church is irrelevant.

Denominational divisions and degrees of active or bygone antagonism between church groups heightens for observers from outside of Christianity the notion of an incapacitated world religion that derives its name from Jesus Christ. Doctrinal discord between church organizations adds to the confusion for adherents to other world religions as well as muddles the minds of those who fall under Christianity's influence, especially in westernized nations. Even among the churches of Christ, indifference to religion, apathetic application of the Gospel to one's life and carelessly handling the Word of God establishes that at least in one sense, Christianity is cracked, the church is broken, Christianity has been marginalized, and the church is ineffective and irrelevant, today.

However, before members of the Lord's church become completely demoralized, there are some things that we need to realize. **First**, there is a difference between divinely given biblical **ideals** for the church of the Bible and human **implementation** of those heavenly directives. **Second**, discrepancies between Holy Spirit-inspired prescriptions for the existence as well as for the function of the church of Christ and imperfect enactment of Christianity have always existed from near the beginning of the New Testament church. **Third**, careful students of the Bible can discern definitively the God-given **pattern** (1 Timothy 1:16; 2 Timothy 1:13) for practicing Christianity faithfully.

Christianity as God gave it through the Holy Spirit is not cracked. The Lord's church as it was intended to be is not broken. True Christianity cannot be marginalized. The church of the Bible as it was envisioned by God is neither ineffective nor irrelevant, and furthermore, the Lord's church as it was anticipated in the mind of God will never

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Jesus said to him, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*" This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: *'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'* On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." **Matt. 22:37-40**



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be ineffective or irrelevant (Ephesians 3:10-11).

Much of the New Testament was written to correct derivations from holy doctrine within the early church. The Jerusalem congregation experienced deception (Acts 5:1-10) and discord (Acts 6:1-6) among some of its members. In addition, the Jerusalem church was derelict in its duty to spread the Gospel throughout Judea, Samaria and beyond (Acts 1:8); only after persecution came upon the Lord's church did Christians generally go out of Jerusalem and Judea, taking the Gospel with them (Acts 6:8-8:4).

Besides being instructional, the Book of Romans denoted false teachers within the church (Romans 16:17-18). Nearly every chapter of 1 Corinthians addresses some grievous error of brethren in first century Corinth. Among other matters, 2 Corinthians highlighted contests over leadership and authority in religion. In Galatians, the apostle Paul counteracted a fallacious substitution for the Gospel of Christ (Galatians 1:6-9), and he rebuked brethren for returning to the Old Testament for instruction in religion (Galatians 2:16; 5:4). Ephesians and Philippians intimate a lack of unity (Ephesians 4:1-6) and love (Ephesians 4:3, 15) among brethren (Philippians 2:1-2). Five of the seven churches in Asia Minor were flawed, for which Jesus Christ rebuked them (Revelation 2-3).

Particularly through the corrective writings of the New Testament, but also through positive instruction, a **New Testament pattern** emerges for the church of divine origin. The *practice* of Christianity, though, differs from the divine ideal to the extent of *human inadequacy* or *deliberate disobedience* of God's will revealed in the Holy Writ.

The **one true church of the Bible** belongs to its Founder—Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:23). Its establishment was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy (Isaiah 2:2-3; Daniel 2:31-45), and it was founded in A.D. 33 in Jerusalem (Acts 2). It is comprised of independent congregations (Acts 14:23) under Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:18; 1 Peter 5:1-4), which when fully organized are ruled by elders (Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 13:17), served by deacons (1 Timothy 3:8-13), taught by

teachers (Hebrews 5:12-14) and preachers (Romans 10:13-15), and served by other members, too (Romans 12:4-8).

The worship of the one true church of the Bible is to be in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). The whole congregation assembles on the first day of each week (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 14:23) to worship God through the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:20-29), singing (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16), giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2), praying (Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 14:15) and preaching (Acts 20:7).

Members are baptized men and women (Acts 8:12), baptized believers (Mark 16:16), those who have repented and have been baptized (Acts 2:38) and profess Jesus as Christ (Romans 10:9-10). They are obedient souls (Romans 6:1; Hebrews 5:8-9) who have been immersed in water (baptized) (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12). Members of the Lord's church are from every nation (Acts 10:34-35) and constitute the saved (Acts 2:47). They are Christians only.

The binding agent responsible for the cohesiveness of Christians is God's Word alone (Revelation 22:18-19). Otherwise and particularly for our present age, the New Testament is the doctrine by which Christians are to conduct themselves (Hebrews 9:15). The Gospel (Romans 1:16; Galatians 1:6-9) rather than human creeds (Mark 7:7) guide the children of God in this life and toward an eternal home with God in Heaven. The doctrine of Christ governs the New Testament church (2 John 9).

The church of the Bible is spiritual rather than material and physical (John 18:36). The church is a kingdom (Matthew 16:18-19), a house (1 Timothy 3:15) and a body (Ephesians 1:22-23). It is the church of God (1 Corinthians 1:2) or the church of Christ (Romans 16:16). Members of the church (Romans 12:4-5) are saints (1 Corinthians 1:2), brethren (Acts 15:22-23), Christians (Acts 11:26), children of God (Romans 8:16) and priests (Revelation 1:6).

The church of the Bible is distinct from world religions other than Christianity. Further, the Lord's church is different from manmade churches (Matthew 15:13).

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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 25 Psalms 48-50; 1 Cor. 8-9

June 26 Psalms 51-53; 1 Cor. 10-11

June 27 Psalms 54-56; 1 Cor. 12-13

June 28 Psalms 57-59; 1 Cor. 14-15

June 29 Ps. 60-62; 1 Cor. 16; 2 Cor. 1

June 30 Psalms 63-65; 2 Cor. 2-3

July 1 Psalms 66-68; 2 Cor. 4-5

July 2 Psalms 69-71; 2 Cor. 6-7

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



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **42 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ A **Wedding Shower for Garrett & Megan**, is being planned in conjunction with the Bangs congregation. Date TBA (July). Selections are at Pampered Chef, Bed Bath & Beyond, Wal-Mart and Target.
- ◆ All of our teachers, cradle roll through adult, are encouraged to attend the **Central Texas Bible Teacher's Workshop in Austin, July 21-22** (if you can only go one day, that is encouraged as well). The congregation will pay the expense, including motel. If you will need a motel, please let Cindy Proud know by next Sunday. Otherwise, registration is due the following Sunday.
- ◆ **Ladies**—registration is now open for the **Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat** in October. You can register at www.texasladiesinchrist.org/register.html
- ◆ **Junior Camp is this week.** Keep our campers and workers in your prayers.
- ◆ There is a **Gospel Meeting this Friday-Sunday at the church at Meridian.** Information on bulletin board. They will also be hosting a **Youth Day** on Saturday.
- ◆ **No SYS this week**, due to Junior Camp. However, all are welcome at the singing (5:30pm) and worship (7:15pm) each evening at camp.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ August 8—We host Summer Youth Series
- ◆ August 12—Back to School Family Game Night
- ◆ October 15-18—Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Dave Rogers
- ◆ November 4—Ladies' Day w/ Lasha Dennis

Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ June 30-July 2—Gospel Meeting @ Meridian w/ D.J. Stucky, *"The Great High Priest"*
- ◆ July 1—Youth Day @ Meridian
- ◆ July 9-13—"Shine" camp (girls, incoming 7th-12th grade) @ Oldham Lane (Abilene).
- ◆ July 10-13—VBS @ Rising Star (through 6th grade)
- ◆ July 16-21—Senior Camp
- ◆ August 2-4—VBS @ Hamilton (All ages)
- ◆ August 4-6—Discipleship U @ Dripping Springs. *"EXILES—*

Holy Faith in a Hostile World." 6th grade and up. Registration deadline—July 28th.

- ◆ August 6-9—Gospel Meeting @ North Main (Weatherford) w/ Wade Webster
- ◆ August 18-24—Polishing the Pulpit
- ◆ September 15-17—Marriage & Family Seminar @ Granbury Street (Cleburne) w/ John & Carla Moore
- ◆ October 5-7—Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat @ Brady

Faith, Hope and Love

Faith is the eye through which I can see,
The wonderful home, now waiting for me.
Faith is the substance of things not yet shown,
Things of the future, which God shall make known.

Hope is a lifeline which anchors the soul,
The calming assurance that God will control.
Hope is the rock which we must build upon,
Eternally lasting when this world is gone.

Love is a gift, given by God the Father,
Which he told us to share with each other.
Love is a blessing, the greatest by far,
Outshining the light of the brightest star.

"Faith, Hope, and Love" said the apostle Paul,
But of these, love, is the greatest of all.

Cliff Holmes (gospelgazette.com)

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The universal church over which Jesus Christ is the Head is perfect in every way respecting the divine ideal for it. Nevertheless, the church is less than perfect because of the human factor when it comes to implementation of divine directives. To the best of our abilities, Christians ought to conscientiously do their best to be a part of the faithful enactment of Christianity. Thereby, each can do his or her part to avoid bringing about a broken church.

Louis Rushmore (gospelgazette.com)

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 11, 2017	June 18, 2017
Bible Class	40	46
AM Worship	51	62
PM Worship	41	43
Wednesday PM	38	38
Contribution	\$1,622	\$2,384

Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 6/25/17		Next Week: 7/2/17		June 2017	
Sunday AM:		Song Leader: Ken Maninger		Song Leader: Joe Dennis	
Greeters	Maninger Family		Fuller Family		Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: James & Cindy Fuller Clean Building: Randy & Laura Huckaby Karen Bland July 2017 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren Clean Building: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister		Allen Griffith		
Communion	James Fuller*, Ryan Rudloff Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis		Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Hank Wheeler, Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox		Allen Bland		
Attendance Cards	Ian Barnum		Aaron Smith		
Sunday PM:		Song Leader: Ken Maninger		Song Leader: Joe Dennis	
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith		Gene Bannister		
Scripture Reading	Randy Huckaby		James Thomas		
Communion	James Fuller		Ken Maninger		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum		James Fuller		
Wednesday Devotionals:	June 28 Don Smith	July 5 Prayer Night	July 12 Joe Dennis	July 19 Rafe 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 June 25, 2017

Sunday Class **Romans 6:17ff**
Wed. Class **Prayer**

Two Great Commandments – Matthew 22:34-40

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." (Matt. 22:35-40)
While we no longer live under the Old Law, these "Two Great Commandments" are still very important to the Christian.

I. The Command to Love God.

A. Under the Old Covenant.

1. The Israelites were expected to love God with all their "heart...soul...strength" (Deut. 6:5) and "mind" (Matt. 22:37).
2. Thus, they were to love God with their whole being.
3. Note how the Law stated their responsibility in Deuteronomy 10:12-13.

B. How We Are to Love God Today.

1. Does God expect any less of us? Of course not!
2. We demonstrate our love for God through keeping His commandments.

C. The Blessing of Keeping His Commandments.

1. We enjoy a special relationship with God and Jesus (John 14:21-23).
2. We will abide in the love of God (John 15:10; 1 John 2:5).
3. Our prayers will be answered (1 John 3:22).

D. How to Grow in Our Love for God.

1. By allowing God's love for us to move us (1 John 4:9-10; Rom. 5:8).
2. By asking God to help us grow in love (2 Thess. 3:5).
3. By praying, and growing in love when He answers (Psalm 116:1-2).
4. By keeping the word of God (1 John 2:5).

II. The Command to Love Our Neighbor.

A. Commanded of Christians (Romans 13:8-10).

B. Enhanced by a New Command (John 13:34-35).

C. Practiced When We Keep God's Commandments (2 John 5-6; 1 John 5:2).

D. Taught by the Example of God & Christ (1 Thess. 4:9-10; 1 John 3:16-18).

"On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets" (22:40).

"Love is the fulfilling of the Law" (Romans 13:9).

Personal Relationships and the Care of Widows – 1 Timothy 5:1-16

I. Timothy's Relationship with Those Both Older and Younger Than He (1-2).

"Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity".

II. Inspired Counsel Regarding Widows and Family Members (3-8).

A. God commands Christians to "honor widows" who are "really widows".

1. "Honor" includes the giving of material support, help or assistance.
 2. "Really widows" – a woman whose husband died and has no family (4).
- B. A command concerning those widows who have children or grandchildren.
1. Children/grandchildren to show "piety" at home, "repay their parents".
 2. A true widow is described as follows: she is "left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day".

C. In contrast, there are some widows who live "in pleasure" (6).

D. Paul commands these things so that the church can be "blameless" (7).

E. In v. 8, Paul issued God's condemnation on anyone who "does not provide for his own", "especially for those of his household".

F. If one does not provide for his own: "he has denied the faith" and "is worse than an unbeliever".

III. Qualifications for Special Enrollment of Widows (9-10).

A. Paul identified a special class of widows, to be "taken into the number".

B. Qualifications: ≥ 60 years old, "wife of one man", "well reported for good works," "brought up children," "lodged strangers," "washed the saints' feet," "relieved the afflicted," and "diligently followed every good work".

IV. Reason for Refusing to Enroll Younger Widows (11-15).

A. "For when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry, having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith".

B. "They learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not".

C. Instead, the younger widows should "marry, bear children, manage the house" giving "no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully".

D. Sadly, some younger widows had, "already turned aside after Satan".

V. Do Not Place an Unnecessary Burden on the Church (16).

A. If a Christian "has widows", he/she is obligated to, "relieve them".

B. The Christian is to do this so that the church will not be, "burdened".