

# 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



April 15, 2018

## Contact Us:

3201 4th Street  
Brownwood, TX 76801

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

### 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.

## What Is Unique About the Church of Christ?

Some members of the church of Christ say it is unique among the 33,000 churches in the world.

Since unique means "the only one of its kind," could this really be true? Making the claim proves nothing, so let's test the hypothesis by looking at things some think are unique about the church of Christ.

### Are We The Only Religious Group That Tries To Follow The Bible Exactly?

We believe the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God, and that God gave it as the only guide for churches (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Surprisingly, this is not the case in all religious groups. Many would be taken aback to learn that their preachers, if pressured, would admit they do not believe the Bible to be the inerrant word of God.

Some doubt the creation account (Gen. 1-3), saying that Adam and Eve are invented characters.

Some deny that Noah built a literal ark to survive a global flood (Gen. 6-9).

Moses parting the Red Sea? Only an over-excited writer embellishing a boring exodus account (Ex. 14:21-30).

Jonah and the fish? A fish fairy tale.

Prophecies foretelling events in Jesus' life? Coincidences.

Feeding five thousand? Just a boy's generosity inspiring people to share what they had hoarded (Jn. 6:1-14).

Walking on water? He knew where the rocks were (Mk. 6:48).

Virgin-born (Mt. 1) and third-day resurrected? (Mt. 28). Just legends.

There is no middle ground when it comes to the Bible: Either it is a fraud and should all be rejected, or it is from God and should all be accepted. It claims inspiration (2 Pet. 1:21); it claims perfection (Ps. 19:7). Strong evidence supports it, such as fulfilled prophecies, prescientific statements, freedom from contradictions, honest portrayal of heroes, brevity of expression, and arche-

ological/manuscript evidence.

We cannot choose what we deem acceptable. That puts man over Scripture instead of Scripture over man. Augustine said, "If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don't like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself."

But we are not unique in defending the Bible or in trying to follow it. Many religious groups have high regard for Scripture and defend inspiration, creation, and miracles, while opposing evolution, humanism, and modernism.

### Are We Unique In Our Members' Love For Each Other And Others?

Jesus said that love would be the distinguishing characteristic of true disciples (Jn. 13:33-34). A church that is harsh, caustic, negligent, and unmerciful loses the spirit of the one whose body it claims to be (1 Pet. 2:21; Jn. 8:1-11).

We take love seriously. Possibly no subject is preached more often, but it is more than just a message. We operate homes for orphans, abused children, and seniors. Members sit with families in surgery waiting rooms. We also mow grass and clean houses for those with injuries, help addicts, send needy students to summer camp and college, take older members to doctors' visits, provide mothers days out, help with divorce recovery, provide counseling for depression and grief, and pray daily for those who request it.

Youth groups frequently take to the streets to paint houses, clean up unsightly areas, and give food and clothes to the poor. Elders send relief money to congregations in disaster areas to distribute among the displaced and suffering. Some load trucks and drive hundreds of miles to pass out street by street bottled water, packaged food, toiletries, and cleaning supplies. Others go to foreign lands to help with medical needs, farming techniques, well-digging, and literacy.

Is this unique? It would be untrue to say we alone have a spirit of compassion. Many religious bodies, including Catholics, Baptists, and Methodists, do amazing things in their communities and make a lasting difference around the world.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

### Are We The Only Group That Believes In One Body And One Faith? (Eph. 4:4-5)

We believe in “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit” based on the seven great unifiers: One body, one Spirit, one hope; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God (Eph. 4:3-6).

God desires unity of fellowship (one body) based on the standard of the gospel (one faith). Like the early disciples, unity can be had today by continuing “stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:42).

Divisions caused by preacher-following and denominational allegiances violate Jesus’ prayer (Jn. 17:20-21) and Paul’s instruction (1 Cor. 1:10-13). Since the Bible only makes Christians only (Lk. 8:11; Acts 11:26), all should prefer “Christian” to man-made labels. In matters of faith, strive for unity; in opinions, grant liberty; and in all things, practice love.

Let us have no creed but Christ; follow no Book but the Bible; desire no home but heaven. In pursuit of unity, replace man’s creeds with Christ’s Testament. If a creed says less, it does not say enough; if more, too much; if the same, it is unnecessary. If all speak only where Scripture speaks and are silent where it is silent, unity will inevitably follow. Everything we believe and practice needs a book, chapter, and verse (Col. 3:17).

Are we unique in calling for one body based on one faith? Not entirely. Other religious groups have broken sectarian ties to pursue undenominational Christianity.

### Are We Unique In A Weekly Observance Of The Lord’s Supper?

Most groups serve communion infrequently. For instance, Lifeway surveyed 1,066 Southern Baptist pastors and found that 65% offer the Lord’s supper four times a year or less. Many mainline groups would have similar practices. The Roman Catholics requires taking the Eucharist (bread) only once a year, but it does offer mass daily.

We take the Lord’s supper every Lord’s day, since that was the practice of the early church (Acts 20:7). Bible scholars agree that the early church had weekly communion:

The language used in Acts 20:7 of the supper (“upon the first day of the week”) is identical to that used in 1 Cor. 16:2 of giving. Since all churches (so far as I know) use 1 Cor. 16:2

as authority to take a weekly collection, why not interpret the same language the same way and have weekly communion?

Jesus left the supper as a memorial of His death. It connects His first and second comings with weekly markers of His sacrifice.

Is this unique? No – at least three other religious groups offer weekly communion.

### Are We Unique Because We Are “Politically Incorrect”?

We pledge primary allegiance to Christ and not to any nation, political figure, party, or view (Acts 4:19; 5:29). Our pulpits stress holy living (Gal. 5:19-21). While some denominations have modified their views over the years, we still teach the same things as two hundred years ago – even as they did two thousand years ago.

Since the Bible has not changed – and must all be preached (Acts 20:26-27) – we still speak against such sins as abortion (Pr. 6:17), adultery (Rom. 13:9), animal cruelty (Deut. 25:4; Pr. 12:10), child abuse (Mt. 18:6; Tit. 2:4), civil disobedience (Rom. 13:1-6), cursing (Col. 3:8), dancing (Mt. 14:6; Gal. 5:19-21), fornication (Col. 3:5), hatred (Pr. 10:12), homosexuality (Rom. 1:18-32), hypocrisy (Lk. 12:1), immodest dress (1 Tim. 2:9), judging (Mt. 7:1), lying (Col. 3:9), poor stewardship (money, environment) (1 Cor. 4:2), pornography (Mt. 5:8, 28), pride (Pr. 6:16-17), racism (Acts 10:34), rape (Deut. 22:25), self-righteousness (Mt. 5:20), and social drinking (Prov. 20:1; Eph. 5:18).

But others are known for strong moral convictions. Many members of most religious bodies live morally pure lives and stand for what is right. This is not unique.

### Are We Unique Because We Sing A Cappella?

In seeking to follow the New Testament exactly, we do not use mechanical instruments in worship. Every New Testament passage on church music refers to singing: Acts 16:25; Rom. 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12; and Jas. 5:13. Instruments were available to the early church, and were used in Jewish worship, yet they sang a cappella. Historically, no instruments were used for centuries, and were opposed by the early reformers. Since worship must be in spirit and truth (Jn. 4:24; 17:17), it is unsafe to go beyond New Testament instruction (2 Jn. 1:9).

Is this unique? No; millions around the world will sing a cappella on any given Sunday.

(Continued on page 3)

#### 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 @ 10:00am 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

**Apr. 15** 1 Kings 14—17

**Apr. 16** 1 Kings 18—20

**Apr. 17** 1 Kings 21—22

**Apr. 18** 2 Kings 1—4

**Apr. 19** 2 Kings 5—8

**Apr. 20** 2 Kings 9—12

**Apr. 21** 2 Kings 13—16

**Apr. 22** 2 Kings 17—19

*“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)



### Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **34 contacts** were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ The elders are encouraging all who can to make a donation to **Cherokee Home for Children** for **Cherokee Day**. You can do so by putting an extra check in the plate, clearly marked “For Cherokee Home”, or give it directly to one of the deacons. Make the check to the church here. We will send one check to Cherokee Home. Need by April 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ August 14—Host Summer Youth Series.
- ◆ October 14-17—Fall Gospel Meeting with Jacob Rutledge.

### Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ **April 15-18—Gospel Meeting @ Lake Shore Drive** (Waco) w/ Wes McAdams, “*Baptized: Considering Your Life in Light of Our Baptism*”
- ◆ April 27-28—Heart of Texas Ladies Retreat @ Brady
- ◆ April 28—Ladies’ Day @ Comanche, “*Be Still and Know that I Am God*”
- ◆ April 29-May 2—Gospel Meeting at Windmill (Weatherford) w/ Wade Webster, “*Tell Us Plainly*”
- ◆ May 5—Cherokee Day @ Cherokee Home for Children
- ◆ May 5-10—Focal Point @ University (San Marcos).
- ◆ May 12—Ladies’ Day @ Dublin, “*Generations Joined in Jesus*”
- ◆ May 23-28—Young Men’s Development Conference @ College Station (BSC Church of Christ)
- ◆ June 17-21—Lakes Shore Drive Junior Camp (Grades 2-7)
- ◆ June 24-28—Junior Camp
- ◆ July 15-20—Senior Camp
- ◆ Aug. 3-5—Discipleship University (Dripping Springs)

(Continued from page 2)

### Are We Unique In Our Vision To Carry The Whole Gospel To The Whole World?

Filled with aspiration and longing for heaven, we have hope to share with others. World evangelism has always been the church’s major task and joy (Mt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15). We have missionaries scattered across the globe, with many dedicating their lives to reaching a nation with the gospel.

But this is not unique. No. Other religious groups are also known for world evangelism.

### Are We Unique In Our Teaching On Baptism?

We practice baptism of believers (Acts 8:37). At their stage of development, infants are incapable of belief and confession (Mk. 16:15–16; Rom. 10:9–10), and have no sins of which to repent (Acts 2:38; Mt. 18:3), so they are not baptized. This is not unique, though, since many groups baptize only believers.

We practice baptism by immersion in water, since the New Testament word baptize means “to submerge.” In Bible times, baptisms were always “burials” (Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12). There is no historical example of sprinkling until a.d. 251 when Eusebius wrote of Novation’s “baptism” (Ecclesiastical History). Eusebius doubted that it qualified as a baptism even though “buckets” or “barrels” were used.

Unique? No. Other groups insist on immersion as well.

We practice baptism for the remission of sins, based on the Bible’s teaching that baptism saves (Mk. 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21), is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), and washes away sins (Acts 22:16).

Is this unique? No. Others also teach baptism for remission of sins and the necessity of baptism for salvation..

### Are We Unique? Yes!

How can this be if there is not a single doctrine or practice that is found only in the churches of Christ? The answer is that the churches of Christ are the only group that believes and practices all of these things. All religious groups within “Christendom” practice some, and some practice many, but only one teaches all.

God is so wonderful. He wants to bless us. He wants to save us. He does not want a single person to be lost (1 Tim. 2:4). He gave His Son for us.

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thess. 5:21).

*Adapted from an article on housetohouse.com*

## Celebrate

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

**April Birthdays:** Vicki Tallent (4), Lasha Dennis (6), Sarah Rudloff (6), Ginger King (8), Jimmie Claborn (9), Kristi Maninger (9), Becky Smith (9), Darlene Smith (10), Caroline Dennis (30).

**April Anniversaries:** John & Tina Barnum (8).

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...*



## Records

	Apr. 1, 2018	Apr. 8, 2018
Bible Class	54	36
AM Worship	72	46
PM Worship	43	38
Wednesday PM	47	39
Contribution	\$2,499	\$1,808



	This Week: 4/15/18	Next Week: 4/22/18		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p><b>April 2018</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      John Barnum  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      Dennis Family  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      John Barnum Family</p> <p><b>May 2018</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      James Fuller  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      James &amp; Cindy Fuller  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      Mike &amp; Patti Bannister</p>	
<b>Greeters</b>	Dennis Family	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Randy Huckaby		
<b>Communion</b>	John Barnum*, Larry Petty Ken Maninger, Chase Churcwell	Ryan Rudloff*, Coyce Reed James Fuller, Don Smith		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith	Tom Wilcox		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Jaceten Evetts	Aaron Smith		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Ryan Rudloff	Allen Griffith		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	James Fuller	Mike Bannister		
<b>Communion</b>	John Barnum	Ryan Rudloff		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Rafe Smith	Gene Bannister		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	April 18 Rafe Smith	April 25 Don Smith	May 2 Prayer Night	May 9 Scripture Reading

## 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 April 15, 2018

Sunday Class ..... **Romans 11:17**  
 Wed. Class ..... **Old Testament History: Genesis 22:1**

#### Our Debt: I Owe Him – Romans 1:1-7

In order to comprehend the magnitude of our indebtedness to God, we must:

- Be convicted about the seriousness of our sin.
- Share with Paul the conviction that only the gospel of Christ with its glorious power can save us from the consequence of our sin.
- As a result, a third conviction was Paul's gratitude that in being found faithful to God's call, he was placed into the Lord's service (1 Tim. 1:12-17).

#### I. The Text.

##### A. We are called by God.

1. Paul opens the letter of Romans by describing himself in three ways (1:1).
  - a. "A bondservant of Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 4:6-7).
  - b. He was "called to be an apostle" (Acts 9:15; 26:18).
  - c. He was "separated to the gospel of God".
2. He tells the Romans "you also are the called of Jesus Christ" (1:6).
3. He adds the Romans were "called to be saints" (1:7).

##### B. We are loved by God.

1. Paul tells the Romans they are "beloved of God" (1:7).
2. The gospel itself is the story of God's love "which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures" (1:2).

##### C. We are transformed by God.

1. Paul refers to his own conversion and "apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name" (1:5).
2. Outside of Paul himself, there is perhaps no greater example of people transformed by the obedience of faith than the Corinthians (1 Cor. 6:11).

#### II. Application for Today.

##### A. We are called by grace to obedience.

1. The NT clearly presents the three elements involved in our salvation.
  - a. The grace of God (Eph. 2:12).
  - b. The cross of Jesus (Eph. 1:7).
  - c. The obedience of faith (1:5).
2. Obedience is the true result of faith.

##### B. We are called to obedience that is joyful, not burdensome.

##### C. We are called to obedience that is humble, not arrogant.

May we be His people of absolute faith and faithfulness. We owe Him that!

#### Freedom in Christ (1) – Galatians 5:2-9

III. Appeal to Steadfastness, Faithfulness, and Duty (Chapters 5-6).

##### B. Freedom in Christ (5:2-15).

##### 1. The Law Versus Christ (2-6).

- a. Paul forcefully affirmed, *Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing* (2).
    - 1) Circumcision was the "sign of the covenant" first between God and Abraham (Gen. 17:10-13) and then the old covenant at Mount Sinai.
    - 2) Anyone who received circumcision as a Christian rite was forfeiting his relationship to Christ and the benefits of being in Christ.
  - b. Paul emphatically repeated himself, *And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law* (3).
  - c. *If a believer insisted on acting like a child of the Law, accepting circumcision as a requirement for salvation, he would lose the very salvation which Christ has made available to all who accept Him by grace through faith.*
  - d. Paul warned the Galatians of the dire consequences of those who attempt to be justified by law (4).
    - 1) First, he said, *You have become estranged from Christ.*
    - 2) The second consequence, Paul declared, *You have fallen from grace.*
  - e. *For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith* (5).
  - f. Paul begins v. 6 with the phrase *in Christ Jesus*.
  - g. Paul explained that *"in Christ Jesus" neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything.*
  - h. Instead of circumcision, what God requires of Christians is *faith working through love.*
- ##### 2. The Galatians' Error (7-9).
- a. Since the Jewish Christians had been freed from the burden of the old law, Paul urged his readers not to allow themselves to be bound by it.
  - b. *You ran well* (7).
  - c. *Who hindered you from obeying the truth?*
  - d. *This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you* (8).
  - e. Paul warned, *A little leaven leavens the whole lump* (9).