

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 7, 2020

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

John Barnum

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
World Bible School

Five Reasons Racism is Ridiculous

Atheism has no rational basis upon which to call anything objectively just or unjust, including racism. If mankind is merely the result of billions of years of mindless evolution and is nothing more than animals (as atheistic evolution contends), then man can logically make evolutionary-based racist remarks that are consistent with the godless General Theory of Evolution. In fact, Charles Darwin's "Bulldog," atheist Thomas Huxley, did just that in his 1865 essay, "Emancipation — Black and White." He alleged, for example, "no rational man, cognizant of the facts, believes that the average Negro is the equal, still less superior, of the white man." In truth, if there is no God, mankind could just as easily look down upon and mistreat others (whom he deems are less evolved), as he does roaches, rats, and orangutans. Those who are Christians, however, logically contend that since (1) God exists, and (2) the Bible is the Word of God, racism is morally wrong — and completely ridiculous for the following five reasons.

#1 — ALL HUMAN BEINGS ARE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

Not only did God specially create Adam and Eve in His image and vastly different than all other living things on Earth (Gen. 1:26-27), since then, every human being has been made according to God's likeness. While preaching to Gentiles in Athens thousands of years after the Creation, Paul, a Jew, did not contend that man was once the offspring of God; he said, "*We are*" the offspring of God (Acts 17:28-29). [The Greek word *esmen* in 17:28 is the first person plural of *eimi* (to be). This recognition of being God's offspring served as a basis for his argument, as the next verse indicates: "*Being then the offspring of God....*"]

James wrote: "*But the tongue can no man tame; it is a restless evil, it is full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we the Lord and Father; and therewith curse we men, who are made after the likeness of God: out of the same mouth cometh forth blessing and cursing. My brethren these things ought not so to be*" (3:8-9, ASV). [The English verb "*are made*" (ASV) derives from the Greek *gegonotas*, which is the perfect participle of the verb *ginomai*. The perfect tense in Greek is used to describe an action brought to completion in the past, but whose effects are felt in the present.] The thrust of the expression, "*who are made after the likeness of God*" (Greek *kath' homoiosin theou gegonotas*), is that humans in the past have been made according to the likeness of God, and **they are still bearers of that likeness**. For this reason, praising the Creator at one moment, while hurling unkind, racist remarks at another time, is terribly inconsistent in a most unChristlike way. All human beings (of every color and ethnicity) are divine image bearers.

#2 — GOD ONLY MADE ONE RACE — THE HUMAN RACE

Although people come in different colors, shapes, and sizes, and although they often associate more closely with those whom they find more similar in ways to themselves, the fact is, there is only one human race. Racism is ridiculous because we are all related, not by means of naturalistic evolution, but by special Creation. No one person is inherently of more value than another person. We are all sons and daughters of Adam and Eve — the specially created couple whom God made thousands of years ago in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:20). What's more, we are also sons and daughters of Noah and his wife, through whom the Earth was repopulated

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

after the worldwide Flood of Genesis 6-8.

As the apostle Paul informed the idolatrous Athenians 2,000 years ago, God “made from **one** blood every nation to dwell on all the face of the earth” (Acts 17:26). Adam and Eve had children, who had children, who had children...who had you and me. We are all physically related. We are all of one race — the one human race. We are all (as modern science classifies us) of the same human species — *Homo sapiens*. We all trace our ancestry back to Noah, and then back to Adam. We may have different skin color, facial features, hair texture, etc., but we are all brothers and sisters! We are family — a part of the same human race.

#3 — GOD DOESN'T PLAY FAVORITES... AND NEITHER SHOULD WE

Although God is omnipotent, He is actually color-blind. His all-loving, perfectly just nature will not allow Him to love someone more than another based upon the color of a person's skin or the nation in which one was born. Similar to how God cannot lie (Titus 1:2), God cannot show favoritism.

Moses wrote: “For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing. Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Deut. 10:17-19). Peter said: “God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him” (Acts 10:34-35). According to Paul, God “does not receive a face” (Gal. 2:6, NASB literal footnote rendering); that is, “God does not judge by external appearance” (Gal. 2:6, NIV).

In short, it is impossible to hold “the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, (the Lord) of glory, with respect of persons” (Jas. 2:1, ASV). The Christian's care and concern for his fellow brother by Creation and by Christ is to be color-blind.

Whereas racism is fueled by earthly ignorance and hate, the Christian is filled with the fruit of Heaven's Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). The child of God is directed by an omniscient, omni-benevolent Father Who expects His children to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 3:18). To the Philippians Paul wrote, “And this I pray, **that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment**, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God” (1:9-11).

In two of the more challenging sections of Scripture, Paul wrote: “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth” (1 Cor. 13:4-6, ESV). “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.... Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.... Repay no one evil for evil.... If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men” (Rom. 12:9-18).

No Christian can be a racist, and any racist who claims to be a Christian is, in truth, a liar. As the apostle John explained, “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also” (1 John 4:20-21).

“[W]hatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no harm to its neighbor [i.e. regardless of his or her color and ethnicity]. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law” (Rom. 13:9-10, NIV).

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Television

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

video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/

June 7 Numbers 1—2; Proverbs 7
June 8 Numbers 3—4; Proverbs 8
June 9 Numbers 5—6; Proverbs 9
June 10 Numbers 7—8; Proverbs 10
June 11 Numbers 9—10; Proverbs 11
June 12 Numbers 11—12; Prov. 12
June 13 Numbers 13—14; Prov. 13
June 14 Numbers 15—16; Prov. 14

“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

- Last week **36** contacts were made.

Announcements

- We are glad to be **resuming our regular Sunday schedule today**. Please continue to practice the precautionary measures and social distancing. Respect others who may be more cautious than yourself. There are still some masks available on the back table.
- Wednesday evening Bible class** will remain online this week (6/10), and should resume at the building next week (6/17).
- Summer Youth Series** will begin next Tuesday (6/16) at Bangs. We will be hosting July 28th.
- Junior Camp** has been cancelled. Plans are still in place for **Senior Camp** at this time.
- If you are visiting with us, we are thrilled to have you. Please fill out the “visitor” side of an attendance card. Members only need to fill out a card if there is some information you need to convey (prayer request, visit or card request, etc.). Please place the card in the collection plate, or leave it in the seat.
- Both Gene and Billy’s phone numbers are incorrect on the “elder/deacon” directory page. The numbers on the front of the bulletin and on their personal directory pages are correct. Please make the update in your directory.
- The **Summer Youth Series** will start a couple of weeks later than usual, and with an abbreviated schedule. First one is June 16th at Bangs.
- Junior Camp** has been cancelled for this summer. They are still hoping to have **Senior Camp**.
- There is a new **Spiritual Sword**, “Lessons From the Book of Job,” available on the back table.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- October 11-14—Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Denny Wilson
- Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow**
- July 12-17—Senior Camp

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#5 — JESUS IS EVERYONE’S SAVIOR

In one of the earliest Messianic prophecies, God promised Abraham that it would be through One of his descendants that “*all the nations*” and “*all the families of the earth shall be blessed*” (Gen. 22:18; 12:3). It certainly was an honor for Abraham’s family to be chosen as the one through whom the Savior of the world would come, but Jesus did not come only to save the Jews. God did not enact a plan of salvation to save one particular color of people. He did not send Jesus to take away the sins of a particular ethnic group or nation. Jesus is the answer to the whole world’s sin problem; He is “*the Savior of the world*” (1 John 4:14). “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved*” (John 3:16-17).

“*God...desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth*” (1 Tim. 2:3-4). For this reason, “*repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations*” (Luke 24:47) — to people of all colors, in all cultures, in whatever countries.

The Gospel “*is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes*” (Rom. 1:16). And when individuals in the world “*obey the Gospel*” (2 Thess. 1:8) and are added to the Lord’s Church by God Himself (Acts 2:47), we **all** become **one** in Christ Jesus. “*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus*” (Gal. 3:29).

CONCLUSION

I do not claim to be an expert on race relations, but I know that some people genuinely struggle with the sin of racism. Some struggle with being the recipients of racism, which in turn may cause them to be tempted to react in racist ways. Others struggle with cowardly silence as they tolerate the sin of racism in their homes, churches, schools, businesses, and communities. Still others seem so preoccupied with advancing their own racial agenda that they appear to hastily interpret most everything as a racial problem, when most things are not.

Jesus once taught the hypocrites of His day, saying, “*Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment*” (John 7:24). May God help us to see as He sees: “*for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart*” (1 Sam. 16:7). What a better world this would be if everyone realized the foolishness of judging a book by its cover. Racism really is ridiculous.

Eric Lyons (apologeticspress.org)

Celebrate

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

June Birthdays: Mike Bannister (4), **Loutrell Dobbins (8)**, John Ross (15), Donna Sublett (19), David Greer (26), Ashley Kahlich (29).

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

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	May 24, 2020	May 31, 2020
Bible Class	—	—
AM Worship	41 + [18]	48 + [11]
PM Worship	—	—
Wednesday PM	[29]	[25]
Contribution	\$1,825	\$2,237

	This Week: 6/7/20	Next Week: 6/14/20		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	June 2020 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: James & Cindy Fuller Clean Building: James & Cindy Fuller July 2020 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Mike & Patti Bannister Clean Building: Mike & Patti Bannister	
Greeters	_____	_____		
Opening Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Don Smith*, Rafe Smith Chase Churchwell, Allen Griffith	Randy Huckaby*, James Fuller John Barnum, Mike Bannister		
Closing Prayer	Mike Bannister	Gene Bannister		
Attendance Cards	_____	_____		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Ryan Rudloff		
Scripture Reading	Ryan Rudloff	Vernon Zier		
Communion	Don Smith	Randy Huckaby		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Don Smith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	June 10 Online	June 17 Rafe Smith	June 24 Don Smith	July 1 Prayer Night

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 7, 2020

Sunday Class **1 Corinthians 10:12**
 Wed. Class **Let the Peace of God Rule in Your Hearts**

The Authority of the Elders

How much authority do the elders have? What does the Bible say?

I. Do elders have any authority whatsoever?

A. Some people say, "No."

1. Some congregations believe that the elders are only figureheads.
2. If so, what purpose do they serve?
3. Congregations who fit this mold are rarely sound in the faith, and are unscriptural in their approach to the eldership.

B. The Bible says that the elders do have authority in the local congregation.

1. 1 Timothy 5:17 – elders are to "rule well."
2. The congregation is to "obey" those who "rule" in the congregation.

II. What authority do the elders have?

A. Are the elders the absolute authority in every section of the members' lives?

1. Some say, "Yes." (Boston/Crossroads Movement)
2. The Bible says, "No."

B. Do elders have absolute authority in matters of doctrine in the local church?

1. More and more frequently, congregations are saying, "Yes."
 - a. This inherently means is that whatever the elders decide is what the congregation will do, regardless of what the Bible says on the subject.
 - b. This makes man the authority in all matters of faith and practice, instead of letting God be the authority!
2. The Bible says, "No."
 - a. If the apostles did not have absolute authority in the church (which they did not), elders cannot either.
 - b. The elders who "rule well" were ones who also labored "in the word" and in "doctrine".

C. What authority do the elders have then?

1. The elders have the authority to teach the word of God (1 Tim. 5:17).
2. They have the authority to oversee the work of the local congregation.
3. They have the authority to watch for the souls of the congregation (1 Pet. 2:25).

It is important that we not take away from the authority of the elders, but also that we do not give them more authority than permitted by God.

Paul's Request for Prayer and Statement of Confidence (2 Thess. 3:1-5)

I. Request to Pray for Paul and His Coworkers (3:1-2).

A. Having prayed for the Thessalonians (2:16-17), Paul asked that they pray for him and his coworkers.

1. The word "finally" indicates that Paul was moving towards the
2. Paul often requested the prayers of his brethren on his behalf; he obviously felt that Christians' prayers were effective (Jas. 5:16).
 - a. The object of their prayers was to be "that the word of the Lord may run swiftly" [spread rapidly].
 - b. He also asked that it "be glorified, just as it is with you" [Thessalonians].

B. Paul also asked them to pray that he might be "delivered" through God's power "from unreasonable [perverse] and wicked [evil] men."

C. Paul explained why some opposed his preaching: "for not all have faith."
 D. Paul's request for prayer in v. 1 is in the present tense: The Thessalonians were already praying for him, and he was asking them to keep on doing it.

II. Statement of Confidence in the Lord and in the Thessalonians (3:3-5).

A. As Paul considered unreasonable and wicked men (v. 2) and the powers to oppose God's servants, he was reminded that "the Lord" is more powerful than wicked men and their leaders, Satan.

B. The Lord is "faithful"; He is faithful to His promises.

1. Men may not keep their promises, but God always does.
2. Since He "is faithful," He will help the Thessalonians.
 - a. Specifically, this "faithful" Lord would "establish" [strengthen] them.
 - b. Also, the "faithful" Lord would "guard" [protect] them.
 - c. Who/what were they being "establish[ed]" against and "guard[ed]" from? "The evil one."

C. In v. 4, Paul expressed his "confidence" in the Thessalonians that they "both ... do [currently] and will do [in the future] the things we command you."

1. He had every confidence that the Thessalonians would obey his teaching are remain faithful to the Lord.
2. The verse is also an indirect admonition with reference to the command he was about give them (v. 6).

D. In v. 5, Paul uttered a brief prayer that "the Lord [might] direct" the Thessalonians' "hearts into the love of God" and "the patience of Christ."