

# Contending FOR THE Faith™

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE THE TRUTH AND HATE ERROR

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The Lord willing, we intend to make the **2013 July/August edition** of *Contending for the Faith* the issue that formally changes *CFTF* from a paper edition to an electronic PDF format, emailed free to all who desire it.

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*CFTF* is unencumbered by any entangling alliances. Thus, we owe allegiance to no one but our Lord. Please help us reach as many brethren as possible with the news and articles that deal to a great extent with what certain brethren refuse to print.

We continue to covet your prayers. If you have any comments or questions please feel free to contact us.

—David P. Brown, Editor

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# Contending FOR THE Faith™

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**Ira Y. Rice, Jr., Founder**  
**August 3, 1917-October 10, 2001**

## **Editorial...**

# **“IS ANYONE FAMILIAR WITH DUB McCLISH?”**

The above title comes from a 2008 post on *The Preacher's Files Forum* Internet site (<http://forum.preachersfiles.com/viewtopic.php?f=16&t=965>). According to the information on the site's home page, *The Preacher's Files (TPF)* deals in sermon outlines, “Bible lessons, bulletin articles, Bible Questions Answered, church of Christ songs, and Bookstore” (<http://preachersfiles.com/the-purpose-of-the-preachers-files/>). Furthermore, ...

The authors of this site are all members of the church of Christ. We believe in neither binding where God has not bound nor loosing where God has not loosed. We want to learn and teach just what the Bible says, no more, no less. We are:

- ♦G. E. Watkins, formerly the preacher for the Strickland Grove church of Christ, Georgetown, Texas. Now a member at the Dripping Springs church of Christ in Dripping Springs, TX
- ♦Kevin Cauley, instructor at the Southwest School of Bible Studies
- ♦Mike Riley, member of the Montana St. church of Christ, El Paso, Texas.
- ♦David Hersey, member and webmaster for Granby church of Christ, Granby, Missouri.
- ♦Tom Moore, preacher for the Park Heights church of Christ in Hamilton, Texas.
- ♦Dick Sztanyo, preacher for the church of Christ in Pelham, Alabama.
- ♦W. N. “Bill” Jackson, deceased. Once preacher for the Southwest church of Christ, Austin, Texas.

In addition to this there are dozens more who give their time to teaching and fellowshiping on the forum.

*(W. N. “Bill” Jackson died in early April 1991. Thus, he has not commented on any thing since that time. However, in the time he lived bro. Bill did more to combat error in and out of the church than all of the afore listed men combined. Moreover, many of his articles continue to be reprinted regularly in various publications. He certainly did not hold the view expressed in the next quotation from TPF web site. Frankly, since his death not one of the preachers that have filled Southwest's pulpit have manifested the spirit of the faithful New Testament gospel preacher in preaching the whole counsel of God and in contending for the faith as he did. I am glad he did not live to see this day in the church in general and in the Southwest congregation in particular. —Editor)*

When one clicks on the “About” button on *TPF* home page under the heading “Its Character” the following is found. It reads in part:

I must also say that this site is not interested in the controversy of the day. While we will not hesitate in speaking the truth or in calling names if there is a wolf among the sheep, our greater interest is in the slow and steady process of teaching (<http://preachersfiles.com/about-2/>).

Thus is revealed a mistake in the thinking of those who guide *TPF Forum*. Notice, they are “not interested in con-  
**(Continued on page 15)**

**2013 SPRING CHURCH OF CHRIST CFTF LECTURESHIP**  
***CHRIST—THE GREAT CONTROVERSIALIST***

*Wednesday, February 20—Sunday, February 24*

**David P. Brown, Lectureship Director**

***Lectures can be viewed live via internet on our website: [www.churchesofchrist.com](http://www.churchesofchrist.com).***

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

6:30 PM CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

7:00 PM *Christ—The Great Controversialist*

8:00 PM *Christ Confronted Satan*

**David P. Brown**

**Gary Summers**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

9:00 AM *Christ Confronted Religious Traditions*

10:00 AM *Christ Confronted Error About Truth*

11:00 AM *Christ Confronted Error About Repentance*

*Lunch Break*

1:30 PM *Christ Confronted Error About the End of Time*

2:30 PM *Christ Confronted Errors About Miracles*

3:30 PM *Open Forum*

*Dinner Break*

6:30 PM CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

7:00 PM *Christ Confronted Error About Unity and Fellowship*

8:00 PM *Christ Confronted Error About Himself*

**Michael Hatcher**

**Ken Chumbley**

**Don Tarbet**

**Gene Hill**

**Daniel Denham**

**Charles Pogue**

**Lester Kamp**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

9:00 AM *Christ Confronted Error About Materialism and Money*

10:00 AM *Christ Confronted His Disciples' Errors*

11:00 AM *Christ Confronted Worry*

*Lunch Break*

1:30 PM *Christ Confronted Error About the New Birth*

2:30 PM *Christ Confronted Pride*

3:30 PM *Open Forum*

*Dinner Break*

6:30 PM CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

7:00 PM *Christ Confronted Error About Worship*

8:00 PM *Christ Confronted Error About Forgiveness*

**Skip Francis**

**Geoff Litke**

**Wayne Blake**

**Daniel Denham**

**Charles Pogue**

**Danny Douglas**

**Don Tarbet**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

9:00 AM *Christ Confronted Error About Civil Government*

10:00 AM *Christ Confronted Error About Love*

10:00 AM *Christ Confronted Error About Women #1—LADIES ONLY*

*Lunch Break*

1:30 PM *Christ Confronted Hypocrisy*

1:30 PM *Christ Confronted Error About Women, #2—LADIES ONLY*

2:30 PM *Christ Confronted Error about His Kingdom*

3:30 PM *Christ Confronted Error About Salvation*

4:30 PM *Christ Confronted Error About the Nature of Man*

**Terry Hightower**

**Ken Chumbley**

**Rheba Stancliff**

**Danny Douglas**

**Rheba Stancliff**

**John West**

**Bruce Stulting**

**Lynn Parker**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

9:30 AM *Christ Confronted Error About Faith and Knowledge*

10:30 AM *Christ Confronted Error About Heaven and Hell*

*Lunch Break*

1:30 PM *Christ Confronted Error About the Father*

2:30 PM *Christ Confronted Error About the Holy Spirit*

3:30 PM *Christ Confronted Error About Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage*

**Lester Kamp**

**Gary Summers**

**Terry Hightower**

**Michael Hatcher**

**Dub McClish**

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# WHICH STD FACTORY ARE YOU DATING?

**Devy Kidd**

January 19, 2013

*NewsWithViews.com*

Many can remember the ad with the slogan, “*You’ve come a long way, baby.*”

America’s culture has come a long way since the 60s. For decades it has resembled a filthy sewer and shows no signs of returning to decency. Children are being sexualized with markets targeting little girls as young as kindergarten age. Cable television (which includes ABC, CBS, NBC) has become nothing more than a purveyor of soft porn. Sexual imagery is everywhere. The filth used to be confined to porn channels like HBO, Cinemax and others which I have never had in my home. Now, it’s the “big three” (ABC, CBS, NBC) and all the other networks that consistently pump sin and sex into households every night of the week.

I always wonder how any parent can allow their child or teen to watch what’s offered up by the stupid tube? I suppose it’s actually rather simple. Yesterday’s children and teens become parents. They also sat in front of the sex machine (TV) and apparently see nothing wrong with their children being indoctrinated into the world of sex and sin at 10 or 12. Is it any wonder preteens and teens get pregnant? Those teen mothers grow up and have teens that get pregnant. It’s a vicious cycle that has brought horrible consequences for girls and boys right through adulthood.

If it’s not the great programmer (TV), it’s what is referred to as “sex ed” in classrooms across this country. ‘Sexed’ was no where to be found when I was in school. The birds and bees was (and still is) parental responsibility, not public schools. Parents back then didn’t send their grade school sons to school to be taught it’s perfectly normal to [*commit homosexual acts*—**Editor**]. It’s so gay! I wrote a news item about this back in 2004:

## **G.L.S.E.N. to establish homosexual clubs on all school campuses**

According to GLSEN, their mission is “about changing schools and school culture around LGBT issues and people. GLSEN believes that what children learn in our schools is essential to fulfilling this vision for our future. We know that life-shaping lessons are best learned when we are young. Therefore, we are dedicated to bringing positive change to every school in every community.”

Not much of a future dying of AIDS at 14.

## **Most HIV in Youth Caused by Homosexual Behavior (Sponsored by your local school district)**

The most recent government report on HIV (reflecting data from the year 2010) reveals that out of over 12,000 new HIV infections that occurred in the 13-to-24 age group, 72 percent

were in young men who have sex with men (MSM). Did you catch that? Almost three fourths of new HIV infections among teens and young adults result from the involvement of boys in homosexual behavior. It’s not a mystery how these kids’ lives are being radically altered, probably for life.

*“Give us the child for 8 years and it will be a Bolshevik forever.” Vladimir Lenin*

For those unfamiliar with the communist goals exposed so long ago, here is a refresher:

Congressional Record—Appendix, pp. A34-A35—January 10, 1963 Current Communist Goals

Extension of Remarks of Hon. A.S. Herlong, Jr., of the Florida in the House of Representatives

**24.** Eliminate all laws governing obscenity by calling them “censorship” and a violation of free speech and free press.

**25.** Break down cultural standards of morality by promoting pornography and obscenity in books, magazines, motion pictures, radio, and TV.

**26.** Present homosexuality, degeneracy and promiscuity as “normal, natural, healthy.”

Communism cannot flourish in a country where God is of paramount importance in people’s lives. The way it was from the first pilgrims. The Communist International has never wavered in its commitment to bring down these United States of America. From the same list above:

**27.** Infiltrate the churches and replace revealed religion with “social” religion. Discredit the Bible and emphasize the need for intellectual maturity which does not need a “religious crutch.”

**28.** Eliminate prayer or any phase of religious expression in the schools on the ground that it violates the principle of “separation of church and state.”

Let me return to “sex ed” in classrooms. As I said, there was none when I was in school. I can tell you unequivocally that if there was what’s being shown and drummed into young kids heads today, my mother would have pulled me and my brothers and sisters out of that class in a NY second. I could fill a book about emails and conversations I’ve had with parents over the years about the filth being passed off as ‘sex ed’ in classrooms. Very angry parents who pull their child from that particular class because of the soft-porn films shown. And, Christian teachers who are forced to teach such filth or lose their jobs. *How many parents today have ever sat in on a ‘sex ed’ class for their child?*

**School Children Taught About Gay Foreplay, Saran**

## Wrap

### Parents Furious After School Teaches Graphic Sex Class (11 year olds)

### Explicit Sex Ed Class Horrifies Texas Parents (12-year olds)

Judith Reisman is the world renown expert on one of the most evil monsters ever to influence American culture, Alfred Kinsey. Of course, several years ago, the Hollywood bunch tried to glorify that mad man by putting out a sanitized version of Kinsey's perverted life, skipping the destruction he left behind.

#### Like Alfred Kinsey, Obama HHS "Grooming" Children for Sex

"Kinsey, though married to a woman who took part in his many filmed 'scientific' orgies, was a promiscuous homosexual and sadomasochist. He managed to completely upend and twist the world's perception of human sexuality in the 1950s and '60s with his world famous "Kinsey Reports."

"Even today, most are completely unaware that during his tenure at Indiana University, Kinsey facilitated, with stopwatches and ledgers, the systematic sexual abuse of hundreds, if not thousands, of children and infants – all in the name of science.

"Among other things, Kinsey asserted that children are 'sexual from birth.' He further concluded, based upon experiments he directed and documented in his infamous Table 34, that adult-child sex is harmless, even beneficial, and described child 'orgasm' as 'culminating in extreme trembling, collapse, loss of color, and sometimes fainting. ...' Many children suffered 'excruciating pain,' he observed, 'and [would] scream if movement [was] continued.' Some '[would] fight away from the [adult] partner and may make violent attempts to avoid climax, although they derive[d] definite pleasure from the situation.'

"Yeah. Sounds like it. It's little wonder that Dr. Reisman identifies Kinsey as a 'sexual psychopath.' These children were as young as 2 months old."

Are you horrified yet? Raping a two month old baby to see if it can achieve orgasm is glorified by Hollywood and soon to be in your child's school if parents don't step up and say enough is enough.

Continuing:

Disturbing though that may be, what's equally disturbing is that nearly all of today's liberal "comprehensive sex education" curricula – such as that pushed by groups like the *National Education Association (NEA)*, *Planned Parenthood* and the *Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)*—is derived entirely from the criminally fraudulent research of Alfred Kinsey. But even more troubling is a recent discovery by Dr. Reisman. She found that the Obama administration, which fully embraces the debunked Kinsey sex-education model, has begun pushing a curriculum that, in many ways, eerily mirrors the "FBI Molester Grooming Paradigm."

I highly recommend you read the article even if you don't have children in school because we're all paying for it.

Of course, the thieves in the Outlaw Congress have to borrow from the candy store ("FED") since the people's treasury is overdrawn \$16.4 trillion and counting.

Everyone talks about how overloaded our health care system is, but seldom mention the uglier side of why. America is known throughout the world as a fat, obese country. I've written about this before, so I'm not going to spend a lot of time on it here, but everyone by now should know that being fat, obese, or morbidly obese causes a long list of recurring health problems for an individual. That means doctor's appointments for some people in a month that takes me years. But, how about the propaganda being jammed into your child's brain about sodomy being normal, natural, and healthy?

My column, *Wait, Gunny! I have to change my diaper*, shocked a whole lot of people. Some found it horrifying to read the list of 'lavender diseases' that plague men who have sex in each other's feces. Young, vulnerable male children being exposed to such filth in public schools is beyond shameful, it's child abuse. If you didn't read my 'gunny' column, go look at the dozens and dozens of diseases male sexual deviants get—all requiring medical treatment. All preventable, but **promoted by the U.S. government** as normal and healthy because you "can't help it if you're gay." What rot not backed up by any science.

Which STD factory are you dating? is a serious question. I don't believe enough Americans are aware of just how prevalent sexually transmitted diseases are in this country. Honestly, I can tell you some of them I had never heard of until years ago when I was doing research. That world is foreign to "old" people like me. Thank goodness for my mother teaching me that modesty is a virtue, not a curse, and that when you sleep around, you are having sex with every female the guy "you're doing" had before you. Not a pleasant thought, but apparently one that never enters the mind of pre-teens, teens, and adults for the past couple of decades.

Let's look at the numbers because each represents real children and teens—and adults who still don't get it. All the information below is from the Center For Disease Control's (CDC) web site.

Chlamydia is the most frequently reported bacterial sexually transmitted infection in the United States. In 2011, 1,412,791 cases of chlamydia were reported to CDC from 50 states and the District of Columbia, but an estimated 2.8 million infections occur annually. A large number of cases are not reported because most people with chlamydia do not have symptoms and do not seek testing. Chlamydia is most common among young people. It is estimated that 1 in 15 sexually active females aged 14-19 years has chlamydia.

People get chlamydia by having sex with someone who has the infection. 'Having sex' means anal, vaginal, or oral sex. Chlamydia can still be transmitted even if a man does not ejaculate. People who have had chlamydia and have been treated can get infected again if they have sex with an infected

person. Chlamydia can also be spread from an infected woman to her baby during childbirth.

“Genital herpes infection is common in the United States. Nationwide, 16.2%, or about one out of six, people aged 14 to 49 years have genital HSV-2 infection. Over the past decade, the percentage of persons with genital herpes infection in the United States has remained stable. Transmission from an infected male to his female partner is more likely than from an infected female to her male partner. Because of this, genital HSV-2 infection is more common in women (approximately one out of five women aged 14 to 49 years) than in men (about one out of nine men aged 14 to 49 years).

“Gonorrhea is a very common infectious disease. CDC estimates that, annually, more than 700,000 people in the United States get new gonorrhea infections and less than half of these infections are reported to CDC. In 2011, 321,849 cases of gonorrhea were reported to CDC. How do people get gonorrhea? People get gonorrhea by having sex with someone who has the disease. “Having sex” means anal, vaginal, or oral sex. Gonorrhea can still be transmitted via fluids even if a man does not ejaculate. Gonorrhea can also be spread from an untreated mother to her baby during childbirth. Any sexually active person can be infected with gonorrhea. It is a very common STD. In the United States, the highest reported rates of infection are among sexually active teenagers, young adults, and African Americans.

“There were 46,042 new cases of syphilis in 2011, compared to 48,298 estimated new diagnoses of HIV infection and 309,341 cases of gonorrhea in 2010. Of new cases of syphilis, 13,970 cases were of primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis, the earliest and most infectious stages of syphilis. In 2011, 72% of P&S syphilis occurred among men who have sex with men. There were also 360 reports of children with congenital syphilis in 2011.

“Syphilis is transmitted from person to person by direct contact with syphilis sores. Sores occur mainly on the external genitals, vagina, anus, or in the rectum. Sores also can occur on the lips and in the mouth. Syphilis can be transmitted during vaginal, anal, or oral sexual contact. Pregnant women with the disease can pass it to their unborn children.”

That’s just the short list and let’s not forget about HIV/AIDS which has an incubation period of up to ten years. STDs like Chlamydia show no signs and that’s how it ends up being passed around. It’s not uncommon for females or males to have two or three STDs at a time. A teen or adult gets one or two and passes it along. Now, do you think my caption, Which STD factory are you dating? isn’t on point?

For years, smart women have been going online investigating a potential date. Does he have a criminal record? Is he a registered sex offender who only wants to get close to my children? Dating for decades has been a risky proposition for people of all ages. Short of getting a current doctor’s report your date is free of STDs, well, you get the idea. What a sad state of our culture.

I submit to you that the failure of churches in this country (preaching social religion), coupled with the promotion

of sex taught in ‘sex ed’ classes and the failure of mothers and fathers as moral role models has led to what you see above. Parents with no spiritual grounding were once children with no relationship with God. Grooming grade school children to become nothing but sex machines has had horrible consequences from infertility to disease ridden bodies. Look at how many doctor’s appointments and prescriptions there were for the staggering numbers above. Talk about clogging up the healthcare system.

I also submit to you that the immoral behavior that is now normal for sons and dads and daughters and mothers affects their ability to be happy individuals. Think of the stress of preteens and teens having to tell their parent(s) they have one or more STDs. The heartbreak of women who can’t conceive because they’ve had one or more STDs. Telling the man (or woman) you have very strong feelings for that you have genital herpes for which there is no cure? How can people be happy with all that on their plate?

I truly feel for young kids and teenagers today. The pressure to give themselves away at the drop of a hat so cheapens them as individuals and sadly, too many take their destructive behavior and diseases into adulthood.

Preteens and teens are not emotionally equipped to handle the complexities of “sleeping around.” Is it any wonder a large slice of America’s culture is so dysfunctional and emotionally broken?

Let me give one more category because it is also very alarming. The statistics come from the CDC: One quarter of all HIV/AIDS patients are over 50. One site I researched said, “Yale Medical School experts project that by 2017, 50% of all people in the U.S. living with HIV will be over 50.” Think about that. Seniors are no different from “younger folk” who want a relationship. Sometimes it’s just plain loneliness. The bottom line is senior age Americans need to understand they are just as vulnerable as some junkie on the street or sodomites. HIV/AIDS does not discriminate by race, age or any other factor. It’s a terrible but preventable disease.

— devvyk@nnp.net

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*A lion is in the streets—and complacent elders and preachers keep saying, “Let sleeping dogs lie!”*

~~~~~

*“Will somebody please show us in the Bible where anyone EVER demonstrated patience with any wilful false teacher?”*

# CAN A GOD-MARGINALIZED SOCIETY PREVENT EVIL?

Gary W. Summers

Ever since the shootings at Newtown, Connecticut, people have been commenting on the causes of this tragedy. Some immediately began calling for more gun control while, after an appropriate length of time, the head of the NRA, Wayne LaPierre, said (logically): “The only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is with a good guy with a gun.” The alternative is no guns at all, which most Americans do not want, and the only ones who would abide by such laws would be the good guys; bad guys would still have access to them because by definition they do not obey laws. Are there some reforms that might make society safer? Perhaps. Laws vary from state to state. Some of these might be improved, but better laws alone will not solve the problem.

We have laws against Driving Under the Influence, yet a Dallas Cowboys’ player just a few weeks ago was guilty of doing that very thing, which resulted in his friend and teammate being killed. Has anyone called for a ban on alcohol? According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), an estimated 10,228 people in 2010 died from drunk driving accidents. Unfortunately, those deaths are not the only evil results of alcohol, but no one is calling for stricter laws.

In 2010, all traffic deaths amounted to 32,885, which is about the same amount of deaths reported for guns, but who is calling for a ban on automobiles? Most of us see irresponsible drivers every day; they only escape from causing accidents by the fact that careful drivers are watching out for them and can react quickly enough to avoid crashes.

The point is that society is probably not going to fix this problem with laws concerning guns, and indeed it may not be resolved at all, but there is another consideration, and that is trying to restore the moral values that this nation once had and which we have lost over the past five decades—not only with respect to life but Biblical morality as well.

## A Culture of Death

Also getting a share of the blame in the recent shootings is the fact that we live in a society that promotes violence, which is true. The body count in several movies over the past few decades has been extremely high. Some of these are far more graphic than others and certainly may leave indelible impressions upon young people. Add to that the fact that the same actors who play the villains in one movie may also be seen in another and another. We all know that it is only “entertainment” and that no one really gets hurt. Does that mean (for some) that if they shoot someone in real life, he will not really die? It might for a young and immature person, but such an attitude could only rarely be the case.

Video games have likewise been criticized for their violence—and perhaps rightly so. Shooting people and blowing things up could well be a contributing factor for some to go on a shooting rampage. But we ought to remember that, although it is worse now, most of us have grown up with Westerns and War movies, yet we did not feel compelled to shoot others. Of

course, we had a context. Shooting and killing others was in self-defense and for self-preservation. Has that context been lost? Yes, we have many movies and television programs where the killers are portrayed as admirable or likeable, in a perverted sort of way. Discernment is not easy when the bad guys appear as heroes and the good guys are little better than the villains.

But despite all of these influences, it is still the case that, at the beginning of time on earth, Cain killed his brother Abel. He did not use a gun; he had not played video games or been influenced by movies. When people choose to practice evil, there is no safeguard. It goes with the concept of free will. However, if God had eliminated the possibility of evil, He would have at the same time eliminated the opportunity for good.

## The Attitude Toward Morals

As long as the world stands, therefore, evil will dwell among us. Human beings will be shot, knifed, or blown up. Wars will continue, and accidents will happen. Does that mean that nothing can be done? No, it just means that, despite society’s best efforts, evil will never be eradicated. Tragedies shall always be part of the fabric of daily living. But we could do much better than we are. Two things need to be changed, and they both involve the attitudes of the American public.

The first concerns a return to the moral values in which we once stood, with a recognition that these values come from God Himself. As one Christian recently wrote, we ought to be far more concerned over going over the moral cliff than the financial cliff. We will likely not get any support from the ACLU on this issue, but the rest of society needs to quit letting a small minority dictate and bind their philosophy upon the rest of society. Many people will not like these suggestions, either, but the reason is that they are thinking with their emotions rather than using logic.

The fact is that God created us and told us what works and what does not work as far as human relationships go. Think about the two greatest commandments: 1) Love God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength; 2) Love your neighbor as yourself. Those motivated by these two principles will be kind, generous, and helpful to others. Those who are not will be prickly, spiteful, malicious, miserly, and selfish. Anyone can pretty well determine what motivates most people by observing their actions. Now the question to consider is: “Which philosophy causes most of the problems in society?”

The first is based on Biblical values; the second is not. Obviously, the first is preferable for all of our sakes. So, why does the second prevail? Many of our current problems stem from trying to marginalize God in the public forum. Some insist that every time something is public, it must remain totally secular. Prayers cannot be offered practically anywhere in public (except Congress); one must be careful not to mention God or the Bible in graduation speeches. It is clear that God

is to be kept hidden from the public view. If not, someone will face an expensive lawsuit.

Why do people allowed themselves to be bullied and manipulated? The reason may have something to do with the fact that Christianity does not approve of whatever their sin of choice is, and rather than stand up as they should, they remain silent because they are afraid they might be picked on next. It is easier to give into the secularists than it is to take responsibility for one's actions. Many do not want to face up to their own bad behavior; so they are willing to let that of others slide even when it may be far worse than what they are doing. Most sins are committed for selfish reasons; what else is stealing all about? We need to return to the values set forth by God in the Scriptures; all of those points that follow stand or fall together.

1. *God created man and woman, and He designed the sexual relationship for marriage (Gen. 2:18-25).* All who desire the physical benefits of marriage without making the commitment that goes with it are being selfish, and it is time for them to admit it. Those who declare they are “in love” with each other and are just expressing their feelings may be fooling themselves—but probably not anyone else—certainly not God. Anyone who loves another, by definition, does what is in the other person's best interests. It is not in anyone's best interests to be used and cast aside, face an unwanted pregnancy, or violate God's precept of purity (1 Cor. 6:18).

Someone will likely counter by saying, “How does what two people do in private affect society?” For one thing, how many children born out of wedlock are receiving money from the government to pay for the sin committed privately? And then, what chance do those children have for a life outside the boundaries of poverty? Immorality always comes with consequences.

2. *Another flaw of modern life is the high rate of adultery, and its cause is also rooted in selfishness.* Instead of trying to resolve problems within the home, many reach out to someone else for comfort or validation. The idea of an “affair” (which doesn't have nearly the sinful ring of adultery to it) seems exciting and appealing, and it masks the selfishness of the participants and the potential damage that it will probably cause. The results are often clearly seen in the amount of broken homes and those which have remained intact but are still hurting.

3. *The previous subject brings us to this one—divorce, since it is so often related.* First, many choose to marry someone despite warning signs and advice from friends. Christians really ought to consider the character of a prospective mate. Many have ignored warning signs and either had to live in a less-than-ideal situation or have been forced to get a divorce later on due to infidelity. Most divorces involve selfishness on at least one party in the marriage. Frequently, one party refuses to take responsibility for his actions. And what are the results of divorce? Children grow up, being shuffled back and forth between parents and likely hearing evil reports of the father, the mother, or both. This country needs to restore marriage to its proper place of honor and respect. We need to abide by God's plan for a man and a woman.

4. *The idea of two men or two women being “married” is ludicrous and totally foreign to God's plan.* It will cheapen

marriage even more than the first three items on this list and it will open the door to redefining marriage so broadly as to be meaningless. No one will be able to deny polygamy, nor marriage between members of groups of people. God set forth His pattern in Genesis 2, and He has not altered it or authorized anything different under the Christian system. Will society take a stand for God—or not?

5. *These four things alone would make a tremendous difference in today's society, but people need to have the sense that God is our Creator.* If evolution must be taught, then it should only be taught as a theory, and its consequences should also be taught. If mankind is here only as a result of a cosmic accident, then we are nothing special and are no different from apes, bats, or trees. We are all living things, and that about sums it up. Why should we mourn the loss of twenty children more than a forest fire? Some live, and some die; we live in a chance universe. If God does not exist, then how can values exist—or morals, ethics, and logic? When hurricanes or tornadoes destroy human beings, they do not sorrow or experience loss. If we are merely matter in motion, neither have we any basis for pity or sympathy. Concepts such as mercy, love and compassion do not come from nature; they come from God. We see what has happened to society when God and His values are ignored. We see more and more “senseless” crimes and greater selfishness than ever before.

Many accuse those who reject evolution as “unscientific”: so with what scientific breakthroughs has evolution assisted? Did that theory help put a man on the moon? What scientific achievements have advanced humankind that directly relate to the theory of evolution? When has anyone ever heard a scientist say, “We owe this fantastic medical or technological breakthrough directly to the discovery of Nebraska Man” (or even one that was not a hoax)? The theory of evolution deals with the origin of all things—not how things work. Creation is a better explanation, with the added bonus of being correct. Godless societies do not work well (consider the experiment of Liberal, Missouri). People need to be allowed to speak God's name in public and to advocate what is Biblically correct. Many have reached adulthood without knowing much of anything about the true and living God.

### Value Life

*The second attitude to restore is respect for human life—if our culture is to show any improvement.* Many have begun to see the adverse effects of abortion. It aids in desensitizing ourselves to death. How many are upset that in 40 years almost 60,000,000 babies have lost their lives by means of abortion? People get upset over a few thousand Americans who have lost their lives in Afghanistan or maybe 50,000 in Vietnam (which is a legitimate concern), but how many of those same protesters care about a number of deaths which is more than 1,000 times greater? More people become upset when a convicted killer is put to death than an innocent infant. Valuing life does not end with the unborn, but it certainly begins there.

We are told that gang members, as part of initiation, are sometimes called upon to kill someone. It does not matter who; it can be a random shooting. Allegiance to the gang is more important than the value of a human being. How have we become so calloused? The past 100 years have seen a



growing lawlessness in that regard, although a few have probably always been around. It does not help that writers and movie scripts reflect that same attitude.

This writer completed a book by Albert Camus the week of two shootings—the one in Portland, Oregon, at a shopping mall, and the one at the Sandy Hook school. Published first in 1942, *The Stranger* is a story about a man who is described as having no soul (which is accurate). He cares not for his mother. He does not grieve for her when she dies and does not even know her age. He knows a neighbor beats up his girlfriend, but it does not keep him from befriending him. Another man beats his dog, but he cares nothing about that either. He tells his fiancé that he does not love her, although he is willing to marry her, if she thinks they ought to. He kills a man for no particular reason and deems it about the same as if he did not kill him. He does not believe in God or an afterlife. Some of his words prior to his execution include these:

Nothing, nothing had the least importance, and I knew quite well why.... And on its way that breeze had leveled out all the ideas that people tried to foist on me in the equally unreal years I then was living through. What difference could they make to me, the deaths of others, or a mother's love, or his God; or the way a man decides to live, the fate he thinks he chooses, since one and the same fate was bound to "choose" not only me but thousands of millions of privileged people.... All alike would be condemned to die one day... (152).

In other words, it makes no difference if we ourselves live or die because death will take us someday, anyway. There

is no need to feel affection for others; we are just random individuals who live and die, having no particular purpose in existence. We need no ideology or morals by which to live. Whatever anyone else does is similarly irrelevant, for they are in the same position we are. Oddly enough, this book was published during WWII. It is doubtful that it raised the morale of the troops. It would not motivate anyone to do a single kind thing for anyone; it reflects utter selfishness.

This kind of thinking does result from the concept of evolution, and it has become more prevalent since the time this book was written. Many others have adopted the attitude of futility that the philosophy expresses. For that reason, people can shoot others and then kill themselves. They were going to die someday anyway. Why be considerate of anyone else? Only the most callous of individuals could commit such atrocities with no qualms and no conscience. Horrifying and unspeakable things will be done (many already have been).

Evil will always have the opportunity to exist, but we might make inroads against it by re-establishing a society that respects and values God's Word. This is not something about which any of us can afford to be silent. Let culture, for once, do what is logical.

—5410 Lake Howell Road  
Winter Park, FL 32792



# Deviations From The Truth

Roelf Ruffner

**“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived” (2 Tim. 3:13).**

I was a bit taken back the other day when I read the title of a newspaper article, “Unitarian faith growing stronger in Middle Tennessee.” In most communities where I have lived that had a Unitarian-Universalist Church, they were considered a fringe group of agnostics that accepted almost anyone who believed anything. But here in the so-called “Bible Belt?” Apparently so. The article claimed that this group has grown by 20% in our area.

Actually Unitarianism is a perfect match for the growing religious pluralism of our age. People desperately want to be accepted as they are, no questions asked. Forget about the Bible, creation, God, the divinity of Jesus, the resurrection, sin, repentance, baptism, atonement, the Judgment, etc. Just throw all that out and be accepted.

This is nothing new. When you throw God and absolutes out the window, anything and everything is allowed (Jud. 21:25). Back in the 19th Century, some brethren even accepted this putrid bait of unbelief hook, line and sinker.

Today many brethren are accepting the false doctrine of antinomianism (no spiritual law) which logically heads to Universalism and the fires of Hell—**“and there is no new thing under the sun”** (Ecc. 1:11).

(<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20120923/NEWS06/309230062/Unitarian-faith-growing-stronger-Middle-TN- as of October 6, 2012>).



Do you believe in miracles? I do! The miracles of the Bible confirmed it as the Word of God (Mark 16:20; Heb. 2:3, 4). But miracles ended with the completion of the Scriptures; they are no longer needed (1 Cor. 13:8-10; 2 Tim. 3:16,17). Yet millions cling to a false belief in modern day miracles as the foundation of their erroneous faith.

A case in point is the “weeping” icon of Jesus (?) at the Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church in Holladay, Utah. (An icon is a religious painting which is venerated/worshipped. This is idolatry—Ex. 20:4,5). Two years ago drops of oil were found on the painting. A church worker who fills the oil lamps above the painting signed a statement saying

that he had not spilled oil on the painting. He further said that the oil was a miracle. Soon church members claimed to have experienced miracles because of the painting. Others have loudly expressed their doubts. The local priest, Michael Kouremetis has said that those doubting the miracles of the icon have “black souls.” This has created a schism in the church. (<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/lifestyle/55237937-80/icon-oil-wrote-kouremetis.html.csp> as of November 14, 2012).

Throughout its tortured history the Orthodox Church and is apostate sister in heresy, the Roman Catholic Church have polluted their religions with many false claims of miracles. They fall in to the realm of the superstitious and the naïve. Barrels of oil have flowed from icons in their churches over the centuries.

Modern day miracles are not needed for the Christian’s faith today. They are either fakes or explainable acts of nature.

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

**“Little children, keep yourselves from idols”** (1 John 5:21).



### Meeting About Fairfield

Saturday, December 15th I was blest in being able to attend a meeting of 18 congregations at the Nunnelly church of Christ near Centerville, TN. Some 60-70 brothers met to discuss the goings on at the nearby Fairfield church of Christ. For several years questionable sounds have been coming from Fairfield and their minister, brother Devin Pickard. For example, November 18th, Fairfield, along with the Hickman County Ministerial Association, hosted a “Community Service of Thanksgiving.” The message was given by the minister from the Fairfield Baptist Church in the Fairfield building. In the flyer distributed at the service, Pickard is listed as “Reverend” and “Pastor of the Fairfield Church of Christ.”

During the Nunnelly meeting, brother Kevin Beard presented 12 documented errors of the Fairfield brethren. Each of the errors was discussed using the Scriptures by the brothers in attendance. All of this was done with an attitude of humility and brotherly love.

The Nunnelly elders are going to request in writing a meeting with the Fairfield elders. Brother Beard asked those congregations in attendance at the meeting to compose their own letters to Fairfield and include them with the Nunnelly letter. If Fairfield refuses to repent, the Nunnelly elders plan to withdraw all fellowship from them.



### Thank God, we are not a part of a “Movement!”

The night of November 27, 2012, I attended the month-

ly Polk Lectures put on by the President James K. Polk Memorial Association in Columbia. Russ Adcox of the Maury Hills Church spoke on “A Unity Movement Divided: Slavery and the American Restoration Movement.” Out of an audience of 25-30 I believe I was the only non-apostate Christian present.

While the speaker gave a fairly accurate presentation of the early Restoration Movement, his disdain for the Church of Christ and the Gospel soon became evident. His own transition from Christian to denominationalist was obvious.

The speaker’s followers were in the audience chuckling and giggling at his attempts at sarcasm. Of course I was seething but controlled in my indignation and tried to make comments in defense of the Truth. I pray the Lord blest my efforts.

The speaker’s contention was that division in the Restoration Movement was primarily due to the issue of slavery and the Civil War; even though the division took place 30-40 years after the Civil War had ended. I am reminded of examples in the Scriptures of such contempt for the Truth.

**And the next Sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming** (Paul & Barnabas at Antioch of Pisidia— Acts 13:44,45).



### The Battle for the Bible Continues....

Over a century ago our brethren disfellowshipped the Disciples of Christ/Christian Church. The real crux of this spiritual divorce was over the authority and inspiration of the Holy Bible. Does the Bible mean what it says about creation, Jesus, Heaven & Hell, sin and salvation?

Apparently my alma mater, Abilene Christian University (ACU), is having second thoughts about Hell. The Fall 2012 issue of *ACU TODAY* gives two pages promoting a heretical film titled “Hell and Mr. Fudge.” It deals with the antics of an ACU alumnus and false teacher Edward Fudge (‘67).

Fudge was once a believer in the Bible and Hell but no more. He has “studied” himself out of all that. He claims “ever-lasting punishment” (Mat.25:46) is not eternal but a onetime annihilation of the sinner at the judgment. It is kind of like a science fiction disintegrator death ray.

Fudge is a crank and has been rejected by most brethren for years. He has even been publically debated and rebuked. But apparently ACU, the Jehovah Witnesses and the 7th Day Adventists love this apostate. ACU plans to show this heretical film on campus to the young, impressionable minds under its tutelage. Disgusting!

But God has plans for Mr. Fudge and his ilk if they do not

repent. **“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which**

**is the second death”** (Rev.21:8). Mr. Fudge, **“burneth”** is a continuous action verb, not a one time act.

(Thompson, Tamara *“Hell and Mr. Fudge”* explores theological journey of alumnus and his hot topic of study,” *ACU*



## THAT THE FAITHFUL BRETHREN MAY BE WARNED

*Brother Ruffner called our attention to the following web page: [http://www.clarksons.org/spiritleads/gender\\_inclusive\\_churches.htm](http://www.clarksons.org/spiritleads/gender_inclusive_churches.htm). It is the web site for “Gender Inclusive and Egalitarian Churches in the Church of Christ Heritage.” Their introduction is self-explanatory. It reads:*

# Gender Inclusive and Egalitarian Churches in the Church of Christ Heritage

Last update: 11/05/12

Recent changes and additions: Montgomery Church of Christ, Albuquerque, NM

The churches listed below have all become more inclusive to participation by women in the worship, leadership, ministries, and teaching. Each congregation has decided through much study how inclusive they would like to be. Some congregations are inclusive only in the worship and teaching ministries while others have removed all barriers to women being able to use the gifts they have received from God. Some of the churches listed are churches with a strong Church of Christ tradition, who associate with Churches of Christ, but do not have Church of Christ in their name.

The guidelines I developed for listing these churches are as follows:

- a) does this church use women in the worship to help lead worship by leading prayer, giving communion talks, leading singing, etc.?
- b) are women used to their fullest capabilities to teach all age groups regardless of gender in Bible classes?
- c) do women serve in leadership positions such as pulpit minister, worship leader, deacon, and elder?
- d) does the church publish a clear statement of purpose to be an egalitarian church or gender inclusive church on their web site?
- e) Is a woman serving only in the position of Children’s Minister or Women’s Minister and none of the above apply?

If the answer to one or more questions is YES, then I include the church on my list. However, if the only YES answer is selection (e), I do not list that congregation. I have chosen to not list churches where the only position for a female is the children’s or women’s minister because many churches that presently have these staff positions do not allow women to serve or participate in any other part of worship, teaching, or leadership.

I have tried to accurately describe the gender inclusiveness of each church listed with the information I have obtained. The information may or may not be completely accurate and will be updated should better information become available. If you are a member of any of the listed congregations and feel the description is not accurate, please contact me. If you are a member of a gender inclusive Church of Christ as described above and wish to have your congregation listed, please contact me so that I may list your congregation. If you know of a gender inclusive Church of Christ that does not have a web site, I will list it with contact information on my page once I have confirmed the accuracy of the information. Be sure to state in the subject line of your email “Gender Inclusive Church of Christ” or include a brief description of the congregation. The goal of this list is to collect as many links to gender inclusive Churches of Christ as possible so that Christians who consider gender equality and inclusion in the church important can find churches where the Galatians 3:26-28 approach to worship, work in the church, teaching, and leadership is important.

**admin@wherethespiritleads.org**

Italicized sentences with quotations marks are taken directly from the church’s website or excerpted from an email

### United States

#### California

**Camarillo Church of Christ, Camarillo, CA**, Alan Beard, senior minister. From an email received from Alan Beard: “I can verify that Camarillo Church of Christ meets the A, B, and C qualifications.”

**Culver Palms Church of Christ, Los Angeles, CA**, Mark Manassee, senior minister. From their website: “God calls men and women to use their gifts in all aspects of the church’s life.”

**Palo Alto Church of Christ, Palo Alto, CA**, Scott Falkowski, Minister. From their website: “We have a number of men and women

who serve the church in specific leadership roles.” Women serve as deacons, and in other positions.

**Pasadena Church of Christ, Pasadena, CA**, From their website: “We are a more progressive Church of Christ that is gender inclusive. We try to live out our Christian walks without the legalism and fundamentalism that has given so many Churches of Christ a bad name. We want a second chance to live out our calling in a fresh way that is enlivened by God’s Holy Spirit...diligently trying to follow Him.”

**University Church of Christ, Malibu, CA**, Rich Little, preaching minister. From their web site: “Leadership in worship is not limited to those formally recognized as ministers and elders. You will see Christian men and women from various walks of life taking active roles such as reading Scripture, serving communion, and participating in prayers. We are concerned to include all members in our worship in ways that are biblical, orderly and meaningful.”

#### *Connecticut*

**Connecticut Valley Church of Christ, Windsor, CT**, Sam Garner, Minister. “The congregation itself represents a diverse group of servants from a variety of backgrounds; yet as a small congregation, we pursue the integration of each person as an active participant in God’s work in the world. This includes welcoming both men and women to serve. Our belief, after extensive study of scriptures, is that as far as God is concerned there is no distinction between what a man or a woman may do in any gathering of CVCC.”

**Stamford Church of Christ Stamford, CT**, Dale Pauls, Senior Pulpit Minister. Stamford “is a multi-racial, gender-inclusive Church of Christ. We honor as our spiritual heritage those attempts that began in America early in the 19th century to restore the life and spirit of Christianity as envisioned by Jesus and his apostles.” (The following is not a complete sentence—*Editor*) Another early leader in the full equality and inclusion of women in all areas of church service, ministry, and leadership.

#### *Georgia*

**Northlake Church of Christ, Tucker, GA**, Carson Reed, Senior Minister. “Because we believe that every person has gifts to serve the church and the world, we welcome both men and women to participate in all ministries and in our worship assemblies. If you would like to learn more”

#### *Illinois*

**The Lakeview Church of Christ, Chicago, IL**, Sean Wicks, Minister. From an email from Sean Wicks: The Lakeview Church of Christ in Chicago, Illinois transitioned to being a fully gender-inclusive church in 2010. Since the transition, Lakeview has a 5-person leadership team consisting of 2 women and three men; women regularly participate/have access to all elements of our worship service, including leading worship, giving our welcome address, delivering communion thoughts, praying, reading scripture, making announcements, and preaching a sermon. We are trying to be a gift-oriented church, concentrating on putting to work the gifts of each person in our community.

#### *Maryland*

**Church of Christ in Columbia, Maryland**, K. Rex Butts, Preaching Minister. “We are a gender inclusive church which affirms the spiritual gifts of both Christian men and women who serve with our church as ministry leaders as during worship (offering prayer, communion meditations, reading of scripture, and serving on the worship team).”

#### *Massachusetts*

**Brookline Church of Christ, Brookline, MA**, ministers: Chad Smith, Nate Lollar, others. “When worshipping at Brookline you will notice that women participate in public worship more than you may be used to in most Churches of Christ.....Brookline seeks to use the gifts God has given us without regard to gender because we have found two distinct imperatives that compel us to do so. The first imperative is clear in the doctrine of creation. God created humankind as equals—“male and female he created them”.”

**Pittsfield Church of Christ, Pittsfield, MA**, Russell Moody II and Charles Young, ministers. “Our assemblies are intentionally relaxed. Our leadership seeks to utilize the giftedness of all our members. This means that men, women and children may be participating in our worship under the oversight of our elders. We understand the passages in both I Timothy and I Corinthians (often cited to limit women’s participation) to be a corrective of chaotic circumstances. When “decency and order” and “edification” are the norm, everyone is encouraged to participate.”

#### *Michigan*

**Ann Arbor Church of Christ Neighborhood Church, Ann Arbor, MI**, Darryl Canty, minister. From email from Darryl Canty: “At our church we believe that women can do anything except be an elder.”

*Added on 12/28/2012*

**Trenton Church of Christ, Trenton, MI**, Charlton Taylor, Senior Minister. From an email from Charlton Taylor: “women serve communion, give announcements, sing on a standing praise team, read scripture, participate in drama, teach, serve as ministry leader and we also have women serving on our Vision Team, one of our primary leadership teams.

**Troy Church of Christ, Troy, MI**, “After many years of studying and prayerfully reflecting on women’s roles in our public gatherings, our church family concluded that part of being true to Scripture was to include women in various capacities while embracing unity and peace. The result is that both men and women share in the responsibilities of serving during our assembly through Communion, Bible Reading, Prayer and Testimony.”

#### *Missouri*

**East Sunshine Church of Christ, Springfield, MO**, Jay Baker, Coordinating Minister. “Male and Female Participation—While it is

non-traditional in many Churches of Christ for women to participate in public roles in worship, at East Sunshine women participate in a variety of ways that we believe are biblical. We believe that men and women are gifted by the Holy Spirit in a way that builds up the church and brings praise to God. In the New Testament, both men and women used their gifts in the worship assembly for these purposes.”

**Mid-County Church of Christ, Richmond Heights, MO**, Jeff Kryder, Senior Minister. “Mid-County Church is a place where people from the Saint Louis area can learn about and experience a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.” Mid-County is a congregation where women take part in leading worship and teaching adult Bible classes.

*New Jersey*

**Monmouth Church of Christ, Tinton Falls, NJ**, From an email from Ashok Bruno, Elder, Monmouth Church of Christ: “We allow women to serve as deacons, welcome the congregation, read scripture, and make announcements.” The following link is to a MS Word 97 document on their web site regarding the role of women at Monmouth <http://www.monmouthchurch.org/Reference/Misc/Role%20of%20Women.doc>. I have converted the document to html for those who do not have access to MS Word 97: Role of Women.

*New Mexico*

**Los Alamos Church of Christ, Los Alamos, NM**, Tim Stidham, Pulpit Minister. “Service in worship is not limited to those formally recognized as ministers or elders. We believe in the priesthood of all believers. You will see Christian men and women from various walks of life taking active roles such as reading Scripture, preparing us for communion, and participating in prayers. We want to include all members in our worship in ways that are, biblical, orderly and meaningful.”

*New addition on 11-05-12*

**Montgomery Church of Christ, Albuquerque, NM**, Pulpit minister position open at this time. Received from a member: “We only recently enacted a policy to allow women to SERVE communion, deliver messages for the bread and fruit of the vine and the offering message. Today, for the first time, one of our former elders’ wives BAPTIZED a woman with whom she has been studying. The elders are now ALWAYS accompanied by their wives...in encouraging people to come forward at the end of services, in attending training programs for elders, etc..... We have an excellent Praise Team and Worship Leader, our services are wonderful. We also have a female Children’s minister and had a female Administrative minister.....”

*New York*

**Manhattan Church of Christ New York, NY**, Dr. Thomas Robinson, Senior Minister. “A community of people on a spiritual journey together. We are striving to grow in devotion to God and in service to people.” Not fully gender inclusive at leadership level at this time but was one of the leaders in including females in most areas of church service, ministry, worship, and teaching. They have gender equality and inclusive teaching material on their resources page.

**West Islip Church of Christ, West Islip, New York**, Jesse Pettengill, minister. “is dedicated to serving the community and spreading the ministry of Jesus. We praise God joyfully and reflectively in worship services designed to let everyone participate—men and women, young and old.” This congregation is an early leader in the gender equality and gender inclusive movement. It had the first husband and wife preaching team in the churches of Christ. West Islip is fully inclusive at all levels of church involvement and leadership.

*North Carolina*

**Cole Mill Road Church of Christ Durham, NC**, Patrick Messer, pulpit minister. By email from Patrick Messer:

- Lead singing, prayers, communion meditations, and welcome in worship service along with serving communion
- Teach classes of all ages with participants of any gender
- Serve as Youth and Families Minister
- Serve on our Ministry Coordinating Committee (replacement for deacons) to lead various ministries of our church
- Female Ministry leaders listed on website along with rest of MCC members

**Providence Road Church of Christ, Charlotte, NC**. Jeff Walling, Senior Minister. Providence Road has two unique services. The early service is a traditional service. The late service is a contemporary service which includes female participation in the service as noted by an online video on their web site explaining their services.

*Oklahoma*

**Dayspring Church of Christ, Edmond, OK**. This information was received via email from Linda King, Adult Education: “Day-spring Church of Christ in Edmond, Oklahoma, has been practicing gender equality (or as some describe it, full gift inclusivity) for over 15 years. We have no gender-specific offices, roles, or traditions in our congregation’s life and practices.”

*Oregon*

**Agape Church of Christ, Portland, OR**, Ron Clark, preaching minister. By email from Ron Clark: “is fully gender inclusive church that is focused on ouTrae.ch and empowering people, especially women, to do ministry.”

**Westside Church of Christ, Hillsboro, OR**, Aaron Metcalf, minister. Verified by email: “Westside Church of Christ in Hillsboro, Oregon is gender-inclusive in worship, teaching and most leadership (we don’t have women serving in the role of elder at this time). Women do lead worship, pray and read scripture publicly, lead the L. S., teach adult Bible classes and help lead Westside’s overall ministry efforts.”

*Tennessee*

**Maury Hill Church, Columbia, TN**, Russ Adcox, senior minister. Published on their website: Our belief is that women can participate in any activity of the assembly and serve in any capacity of the church with the exception of serving as an elder or senior minister.

*Texas*

**Bering Drive Church of Christ Houston, TX**, Dr. Jeff Christian, Preaching Minister. A fully gender inclusive church with “a mission to bring people into a relationship with God, in a community of Jesus’ disciples, seeking Biblical, nondenominational Christianity, and serving others in the compassion and power of the Holy Spirit.”

**Burke Road Church, Pasadena, TX**, Ken Boggs, preaching minister. This church has male and female deacons listed on their website.

**Highland Church of Christ Abilene, TX**, Jonathan Storment, preaching minister, Highland Church of Christ is not totally inclusive at this time but it does have several women ministers on staff and women are utilized in the worship.

**Heights Church of Christ Houston, TX**, Dr. Lynn Mitchell, preacher and Ann Bayliss, co-preacher. “We welcome Ann Bayliss, our new co-preacher, to Heights Church of Christ!” This is a fully egalitarian Church of Christ.

**Mercy Street Church of Christ Abilene, TX**, Stan Baldwin, minister. The Mercy Street Church of Christ is a new church planting that is a multi-racial, multi-cultural, gender-inclusive Church of Christ. Read about this Church of Christ in an article published by theReporterNews.com, an online news site for Abilene, Texas.

**Plymouth Park Church of Christ Irving, TX**, John Ketchersid, minister. By personal conversation with John Ketchersid. An ecumenical, gender-inclusive, kingdom-centered body of Christians serving the city of Irving, TX. This congregation is fully gender inclusive at all levels of service, ministry, and leadership.

**Southwest Central Church of Christ, Houston, TX**, Steve Sandifer—Pastoral Care Minister. From their website: “Another tradition we have here at SWC is the participation of women in our worship services in prayer, reading or serving the Lord’s Supper. After years of study, we have come to see God leading us to this practice as a way of declaring that in Christ ‘there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus’ (Gal. 3:28).”

**Southwind Church, Mansfield, TX**, Lonnie Gentry, Minister. Southwind is a fully egalitarian church. From an email from Lonnie Gentry: “We are a young and small church, but we are fully committed to gender inclusiveness. At Southwind, a woman can do anything a man can do. Women serve on our board, as shepherds, lead worship, have preached, etc.” From the website: “Many (but certainly not all) of our members have backgrounds in Churches of Christ and/or Christian Churches. As a result, we participate in some activities associated with these churches (like Leadership Training for Christ). In belief and practice we are at the more progressive end of this fellowship (compare The Hills Church of Christ or Compass Christian Church).”

**Sunset Ridge Church of Christ, San Antonio, TX**, John Harp, Senior Minister. From their website: “We are a gift-inclusive church, meaning leadership in worship is not limited to men or those formally recognized as ministers or elders. You will see both men and women taking an active role using their gifts such as leading singing, reading Scripture, presiding over and serving communion, and participating in prayers. We strive to include all members in our worship in ways that we believe are biblical, orderly and meaningful.”

**Tahoka Church of Christ, Tahoka, TX**, Steve Bonner, Minister. By email: “Women have been included in the worship by serving communion, making announcements, and reading Scripture.” Conversation with three members on 04/28/2012: “Two women will be installed as deacons on Sunday, May 6, 2012.”

**The Hills Church Church of Christ (formerly Richland Hills Church of Christ), North Richland Hills, TX**, Rick Atchely, Minister. The following information is supplied by a member: “we have women leading prayers in worship, also on occasion, little girls leading prayers in worship and reading Scripture in worship, also women leading worship. We are working toward getting women to serve communion and to usher”; **The Hills Church of Christ West Ft. Worth Campus Ft. Worth, TX**, Kyle Kiser, Campus Minister. The West Ft. Worth Campus of the Hills Church of Christ is about one year old and is located in far west Ft. Worth on I-30. Women presently lead prayer, worship, and participate in other worship activities. According to a member of this campus of The Hills Church of Christ, over the next year, there are plans to move steadily to a much stronger egalitarian position at all levels of church involvement and worship.

**The Vine Church, a church of Christ fellowship, Temple, TX**. Sean Palmer, minister, “We have women ministry leaders, women teach mixed adult classes, women have made announcements, women sing solos and sing on our praise team, voice prayers in small groups, lead prayer on Wednesday nights, and make Wednesday night devotional talks. We sing both accapella and instrumental, but more instrumental. We have long been considered the more progressive and non-traditional church of Christ in our area.”

**University Avenue Church of Christ, Austin, TX**, Eddie Sharp, Minister. From their website: “Thank you for your interest in University Avenue Church of Christ. In our worship services, women are asked to sing, read Scripture, offer prayers, make announcements, and help with the Lord’s Supper.”

*Virginia*

*Added on 01/05/2013*

**Springfield Church of Christ, Springfield, VA**. From their website, “Everyone is invited to participate in our worship services. On any given Sunday, we may have men, women, the young and the old singing, reading scripture, serving communion and leading prayer. For

some in our tradition, this is unusual. You are invited to read our thoughts on this here.”

*Wisconsin*

**Mandrake Road Church of Christ, Madison, WI**, Roy Ratcliff, minister & elder. By email: “We use women in the worship to help lead worship by leading prayer and Bible reading, we use women to teach adult Bible classes, and we have a woman deacon.”

#### Canada

*Ontario*

**Followers of Christ, Brantford, Ontario**, Rick Gamble, minister; from an email from Rick: “Women participate in every aspect of our worship, including leading communion and preaching, and Susan is our worship leader. It’s truly remarkable what God can do and how he can bless his people when you unshackle more than 50 per cent of his people to attain their full potential. Unlike most churches from our heritage, we also involve women in congregational leadership. Our leaders are identified through an extensive Spiritual Gifts investigation we do every three years or so, and gender is not used to exclude anyone.”

(Followers of Christ is a Restoration Movement church with roots in the Churches of Christ. Also, Rick publishes an email titled *Cross Current*, which is a true, historical story with a Christian application. The archive for *Cross Current* is on my personal web site at <http://www.clarksons.org/CrossCurrent/crosscurrent.html>)

**Stoney Creek Church of Christ Ontario**, From an email: “women serve by being worship leaders, leading prayers, and serving communion...Women teach at all levels, including adult classes...One woman on our Servant Leaders team.”

*British Columbia*

**Shelbourne Street Church of Christ, Victoria**, Daniel Patstone, associate minister. Women serve as deacons and are identified on their web site.

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Columbia, TN 76209

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(Continued from page 2)

trovery” and they will only call “names if there is a wolf among the sheep.” *How does one call the name of wolves in sheep’s clothing and “engage in the slow and steady process of teaching” the truth but escape being controversial?* Our Lord, His apostles, and the faithful evangelists of the First Century church did not hesitate to address, confront, engage, refute, and expose false doctrine. Furthermore, they marked false teachers, and specified sins and issues of that day. And, they did it by adhering to the inspired teaching of, “**Prove all things, hold fast that which is good**” (1 The. 5:21; Also see Jude 3; 1 Pet. 4:11; Gal. 2:4, 5, etc.). Every one of them was controversial. There would be little left of the New Testament if one removed the issues addressed in it and the controversies in which it was involved. They are at least wrong on that point and need to correct their error.

However, someone called our attention to a brief discussion that transpired on the *TPF Forum* in 2008. **QUESTION:** *How does their previously noted position harmonize with the following exchange taken from their Forum archives ([preachersfiles.com/viewtopic.php?f=16&t=965](http://preachersfiles.com/viewtopic.php?f=16&t=965))?*

**Is anyone familiar with Bro. Dub McClish?** (Bold mine, Editor)

**by Trae Webb » Thu May 22, 2008 3:55 pm**

Just curious if anyone on here actually knows him. I’ve ran across his name a few times, most recently when I was looking up information on Bro. Frank Chesser. Bro. Chesser is preaching the Gospel Meeting at the Avondale congregation in Decatur starting this coming Sunday. Anyhow, as before, when I ran across Dub McClish’s name it is in regards to him indicting another preacher or preachers, elders and congregations. I haven’t read anything from him or seen anything from him in which he wasn’t “marking” someone else, so I just wanted to

know if anyone else has seen him in another light. The image I have of him is that of a big scary monster.

I don’t mean for this to turn into a “let’s talk about this guy” session. I’m just curious about some of his work and other things he may have been involved in.

Thanks,  
Trae

**by Merlin » Thu May 22, 2008 4:07 pm**

Kevin and I know him. Like you said, I don’t want to turn this into a “let’s talk about this guy” session, but.... Yeah, he’s somewhat of a big scary monster, cuz he’s kind of tall and not someone to be reckoned with. That’s all I will say.

In Christ’s Love,  
Mary Lynn Cauley

**by Dick Sztanyo » Thu May 22, 2008 4:29 pm**

Trae,

I’ve known Dub for many years, and my best advice to you is to stay away from him AND from his influence. Frank Chesser is a good man and sound in the faith. He’ll do a very good job for you in your meeting.

Dick Sztanyo  
Teacher

Posts: 947

Joined: Tue Aug 21, 2007 2:07 pm

**by Jim Wiely » Thu May 22, 2008 4:40 pm**

I knew his father real well, and I know Dub very well. I would agree with Brother Sztanyo....Dub is not his father.

**by Trae Webb » Thu May 22, 2008 7:48 pm**

Nuff said...I’m going to go ahead and close this thread.

(Continued On Page 16)

## Denying the Allegations and Charging the “Allegators”

By the preceding comments in the thread concerning brother McClish on the *TPF Forum* we must conclude that the most serious charge made against him is that made by Trae Webb and Mary Lynn Cauley. According to them, Dub is “somewhat of a big scary monster.” And, Mary Lynn tells us why—“cuz he’s kind of tall and not someone to be reckoned with”. (Mary Lynn is Kevin Cauley’s wife. Kevin is a faculty member with the Southwest School of Bible Studies and editor of *The Christian Worker*. His father is one of the Southwest Church of Christ elders. Kevin needs to be the head of his house and teach his wife about the golden rule, loving one’s neighbor as himself, proof, logic, logical arguments, witnesses, gossip, tale bearing, and backbiting.) But, knowing the truth on the aforesaid topics does not necessarily mean one will apply it correctly without bias or prejudice.

Now that we have read Trae and Mary Lynn’s “astute and learned” opinions of brother McClish, please remember that *TPF* “is not interested in the controversy of the day.” Thus, are we to conclude from this thread that...

1. It expresses no interest in any kind of “controversy of the day”? Or,
2. It is an example of “not hesitating” to speak “the truth” or call “names if there is a wolf among the sheep”? Or,
3. It is an expression of “interest...in the slow and steady process of teaching”? Or,
4. It is an expression of all three points in the previous questions? Or,
5. None of the above?

What we actually have in the aforequoted thread concerning Dub is a prime example of what is typical of false teachers—an *attempt at character assassination*. As brother Kent Bailey commented concerning Dub’s *TPF Forum* critics:

...They realize that they cannot adequately respond to the reasoning of those who differ with them. Their approach is typical of both false teachers and politicians—attack the man and destroy him personally, and then hang out the yellow tag of quarantine and dare any of their number to have anything to do with him. After all, one wouldn’t want to be uninvited to speak in any lectureships or meetings.

But what about a comment from the “big scary monster” himself? Of his *TBF Forum* slanderers Dub wrote in part:

It has been “interesting” (in fact, almost amusing) to read The Preachers’ Files comments regarding yours truly and then see the thread so summarily shut down after the desired attempted character assassination was completed. I’m content to observe that who one’s critics are [is] as revealing as who one’s friends are. I must follow up on Jim Wiely’s comment. He claims to have known my father (who died in 1975) “well.” Wiely also claims to know me “very well,” yet I have no recollection of having even met him (I think I would remember that unusual name). I shall follow up on his claim.

I appreciate the kind comments and the observations of some grand examples of typical liberal bias and hypocrisy.

We do not want to leave out brother Dick Sztanyo who also tells us that Dub is a very bad man? He says to Trae. that he has known Dub for a long time and “my best advice to you is to stay away from him AND from his influence.” Trae. replied: “Nuff said.” So, the gospel according to Sz-

tanyo concerning Dub is that he is a bad man. If sister Cauley said he is bad, and brother Sztanyo said he is bad, and brother Wiley said he is bad, what need we more? But, what have these “credible” witnesses given us that *proves conclusively* that Dub is a bad man?

Does Dick know anything about what constitutes proof? Does he know anything about logic? Does he know anything about logical fallacies? Has Dick ever heard of *an appeal to authority fallacy*? It is an argument from the fact that a person judged to be an authority affirms a proposition to the claim that the proposition is true.

Would Dick like to claim that he does not know that appeals to authority are always deductively fallacious? Does he not know that even a legitimate authority speaking on his area of expertise may affirm a falsehood, so no testimony of any authority is *guaranteed* to be true.

However, the informal fallacy occurs only when the authority cited either (a) is not an authority, or (b) is not an authority on the subject on which he is being cited. If someone either is not an authority at all, or is not an authority on the subject about which they are speaking, then that undermines the value of their testimony.

### Example

(1) Dick Sztanyo says to Trae that, “I’ve known Dub for many years, and my best advice to you is to stay away from him AND from his influence.”

### Therefore:

(2) Because Dick’s *knowing* Dub “for many years” makes him an authority on Dub, his “best advice” to Trae is “stay away from him AND from his influence.”

This argument is fallacious because Dick Sztanyo, though we suppose he is an authority on something, offers no evidence that he is an authority on Dub McClish. His judgment concerning Dub, that one must “stay away from him AND from his influence”, carries little to no evidential weight. His statement concerning Dub is therefore insufficient to establish the conclusion of the argument.

The same is true for Mary Lynn Cauley and Jim Wiely as is true of Dick Sztanyo. All three are saying to Trae., “We know Dub McClish and you should “stay away from him AND his influence” because “we said so.” They do not tell us *what* they know about Dub that would make them think he is a bad fellow. By that kind of “evidence” we can prove Cauley, Sztanyo, and Wiely to be bad too. *But an assertion does not constitute evidence*. And, Trae. was content to draw his conclusion about Dub based on all three *asserting* that “Dub McClish is bad.” And, as Trae. concluded, “Nuff said.” *Would Trae. say “Nuff sad” if the same kind of “proof” was offered to “prove” he was a bad brother?*

Among the things learned from this *TPF Forum* thread is this, Cauley, Sztanyo, and Wiely do not mind slandering a brother. Trae. is glad to accept it with the comment, “Nuff said” and then effectively stop anyone from defending Dub on the thread by closing it. And, yes, that particular thread on *TPF Forum* was nothing more or less than a “let’s talk about this guy’ session.” If it was not, what would it take to have such a “session”?

—David P. Brown, Editor



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*Dub McClish, Gospel preacher*



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# Time and the Gospel

John Rose

The well worn axiom, “*All things change with time,*” is applicable to many things in life: the physical aspects of the lives of human beings; the temporal configuration of the terrain, weather, etc., of the earth; countries, kings, and customs; even the emotional dispositions of men.

However, change is not relevant to all things that exist. To the point—God does not change, “**For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed**” (Mal. 3:6). James also speaks of God immutability, “**Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning**” (Jam. 1:17).

To be more precise, God does not change in His Divine attributes. God does not vary or change concerning His omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, or immutability. Change is, however, involved in God’s circumstantial will. Hence, the record of Genesis chapter six.

A circumstance of Biblical history that vividly illustrates the type of change which exists with God (His circumstantial will) is found recorded in the book of Jonah. The barbaric Assyrian people were hideously wicked. Their great evil brought the wrathful justice of God against their capital city of Nineveh (Jon. 1:2). Consequently, God determined to destroy Nineveh (Jon. 3:4). When God’s message of destruction was delivered by the prophet Jonah, the Ninevites heard the Word of God and repented (Jon. 3:4-9). The repentance, or change of mind, of Nineveh changed the mind of God, “**And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not**” (Jon. 3:10). God had determined to destroy Nineveh—but that determination was based upon the reaction of the Ninevites to God’s Word: God’s will was circumstantial or conditional, in that, if Nineveh repented they would be saved—if not, they would be destroyed.

One should notice what did not change: God’s Word. His Word was the standard of determination. God’s decree went forth to Nineveh, “**Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown,**” and the Ninevites’ reaction to that Word determined God’s further actions.

At the dedication of Solomon’s temple, God said,

**And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments: Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel** (1 Kin. 9:4-5).

If Israel remained obedient to God’s Word they would prosper—if not; they would perish:

**But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them: Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people** (1 Kin. 9:6-7).

Israel sinned greatly and God turned from blessing Israel, as He had before, and brought great wrath upon them (cf. 2 Kin. 17:1-23; 2 Kin. 24:1-4).

Throughout the times of the kings of Israel, God’s Word was the standard by which Israel was judged (such is also true of all of man’s history).

**Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets. Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God** (2 Kin. 17:13-14).

When men rejected God’s Word, God rejected them (2 Kin. 17:18). God’s Word remained constant, unchanging. Man changed—God did not (His attributes and His Word which is a product of His attributes). So it has always been with God’s Word. Jesus said, “**Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away**” (Mat. 24:35). The immutability of the Word of God qualifies it to be the basis for God’s judgment on that final day, “**He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day**” (John 12:48). The final conclusion, therefore, is: times change and men change but every man’s obligation to be obedient to God’s unchanging Word remains the same.

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# THE OLD PATHS PULPIT

Sermon Outline

by

Danny Douglas



## THE LOST SHEEP

(Mat. 18:11-14; cf. Luke 15:3-7)

### Introduction:

1. The story is told of a family who had a valuable vase, that was an heirloom. It was the “family treasure.” One day the mother heard her little girl crying and she rushed into the room and asked her child what was wrong, and she said: “I broke the family treasure.” The mother replied, “Yes, but you are alright.” When the girl grew up she said that after that day she realized that: “I was the family treasure.”

a. Jesus tells the parable of the lost sheep (Mat. 18:11-14; cf. Luke 15:3-7).

**For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish”** (Mat. 18:11-14).

- b. The parable illustrates the fact that we are valuable to God.
- c. Jesus asked: **“How much more then is a man better than a sheep?”** (Mat. 12:12a).
- d. Each individual person is valuable to God. It was by His grace that Christ tasted death for every man (Heb. 2:9).

2. The lost sheep are those who are lost in sin, either because:

- a. They have not obeyed the gospel (2 The. 1:7-9).
- b. Or, having obeyed, they have turned away from Christ (2 Pet. 2:20-22; Jam. 5:19-20).

3. The greatest proof of the love of God for man is the giving of His only begotten Son (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; 1 John 3:16).

4. Christ’s love for us is so great that He gave Himself for us: “the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Gal. 2:20; cf. Gal. 1:4; Rev. 1:5).

*Now, let us consider more things that we can learn from the parable of the lost sheep!* (Continued On Next Page)

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## Discussion.

### I. Why was the Sheep Lost?

- A. Did he want to be lost? Did he intend on being lost? Perhaps he became involved in something along the path. He may have grazed along the way, became distracted, and stopped being attentive to the sheep herd.
- B. Why do the Lord's sheep become lost? Do they intend to do so? They become distracted by the world; are careless; neglect spiritual growth; and stop listening to the Good Shepherd (John 10:14, 27; Jam. 1:22; Col. 3:16).
- C. Many become careless and neglectful (Jam. 4:17; Heb. 2:3; 10:25) and think they cannot fall (1Cor.10:12). Let us: "beware" of danger & grow in Christ! (2 Pet. 3:17-18).

### II. The Concern of the Shepherd.

- A. He left the ninety and nine and went to seek the one lost sheep (Mat. 18:12; Luke 15:4). Did he not care for the others? Of course, he did (Mat. 18:14).
- B. How do we know he cared? His actions proved it. One is known by his fruit (Mat. 7:20; Acts 26:20).
- C. He did not say: "It's not my fault." "He should not have wandered away." "Good enough for him." "I still have ninety-nine, why bother with one?" "He was of little value to the flock anyway."
- D. What if you lost your child for 1 hour, 1 day, etc. (In Nashville, TN, on NY's Eve, 12/31/2012, a woman stopped at BP & went inside to pay for gas. In the meantime, her car was stolen, with her infant child in the backseat. Thanks be to God the infant was found safe 30 minutes later, in the car, but that 30 minutes must have been horrifying!)
- E. The Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, cares for one lost sheep! (John 10:10-11; 2 Pet. 3:9—Mat. 18:14—1 Tim. 2:4; Luke 19:10). God cares (Rom. 8:32; Eze. 33:11).
- F. The Lord cares for man's soul (Mark 8:36-37).
- G. He expects us to have concern over the soul of man:
  1. Our own (Phi. 2:12; Acts 2:40).
  2. The souls of others (Mat. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Jam. 5:19-20). The gospel of Christ is that which God has provided for the soul of man (Rom. 1:16; Jam. 1:21).
    - a. Preachers (Acts 8:4; 20:20, 25, 27).
    - b. Elders (Acts 20:28).
    - c. All Christians (Acts 2:42-47).
  3. There is great joy and reward for the soul winner (Pro. 11:30; Dan. 12:3; Psa. 126:5, 6—Luke 8:11; 1 Pet. 1:23).
  4. Christ endured the cross for the joy set before Him (Heb. 12:2).

5. We are to be like Him and follow His steps (Phi. 2:5; Luke 19:10; 1 Peter 2:21).

### III. Why Such Rejoicing?

- A. The parable is applied to the salvation of one soul (Mat. 18:13-14; Luke 15:7, 10).
- B. When souls obey the gospel, there is rejoicing:
  1. In Heaven (Luke 15:7, 10, 21-24).
  2. Among God's people (Acts 15:3).
  3. For those who are saved (Acts 8:35-39; 16:29-34).
- C. The dead become alive and the lost are found (Luke 15:21-24; Eph. 2:1, 13).
- D. When one is in Christ, he should rejoice! (Phi. 3:3; 4:4).
- E. Joy over a saved soul implies that there is grief over a lost soul (Eph. 4:30; Gen. 6:5, 6; Luke 19:41). God's love is for even one soul & we should do the same (Heb. 2:9)!

### Conclusion:

1. Years ago in Moses Lake, WA, 4 young adults were killed trying to outrun a train at a railroad crossing. One observed: "It was a foolish gamble. They had so little to gain and so much to lose." True of the person who forfeits his soul for the world (Jam. 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Mat. 16:26).
2. Why not bring rejoicing to God and Christ; the Lord's church; and to your own soul, by obeying the gospel? Hear (Rom. 10:17); Believe (Rom. 1:16); Repent (Acts 2:38); Confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God (Acts 8:37); Be Baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16). Having put on Christ (Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3-4), be faithful & grow in Christ (1 John 1:7; 2:3; 2 Pet. 3:18).
3. Those who refuse will go away sorrowful (Mat. 19:22; Mark 10:22).
4. One who has become unfaithful to Christ, can be restored to Christ, by repentance, confession of sin, and prayer (Acts 8:22-24; 1 John 1:9; Jam. 5:16). You may not have intended to be lost again (Heb. 2:3; Jam. 4:17).
5. Why not come to Him now? (Mat. 11:28-30; Luke 9:23; Rev. 22:17).

—704 Azalia Dr.  
Mt. Pleasant, TN



*"History will prove that the majority of elders and churches of this generation looked around to see which way the majority of the church went—and then went that way without regard for the truth."*—Guy N. Woods (CFTF, Vol. 4, No. 1, January, 1973) p. 4.

# HOW IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS?

Charles Pogue

An important part of Christian living is treating others the way they should be treated (Rom. 12:18; Gal. 6:10). Most mistreatment of others can be put into one of five major categories. These are: stinginess, vengeance, jealousy, lack of forgiveness, and dishonesty. The New Testament deals with all of these in very plain and forceful words.

One of the very first acts of which we read concerning the early church is one of benevolence (Acts 2:45). We read about it again in Acts 4:34, the occasion which led up to the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira. The apostle John wrote in 1 John 3:17 that the love of God does not dwell in someone who has this world's goods and refuses to help the brother who is in need. When the people asked John the baptizer what they should do (Luke 3:10), He answered that one who had two coats should give one of them to someone who did not have one (v. 11). They were to do the same thing regarding meat. Jesus said to expect nothing in return when we give to help others (Luke 6:35). How do we cope with that instruction? Some probably do not deal with it very well around the end of December each year!

If all men lived by the Golden Rule (Mat. 7:12), this world would be an appreciably better place. Instead of treating people the way they should treat us, we are often guilty of the horrible practice of getting even. Paul instructs us that we "**Recompense no man evil for evil**" (Rom. 12:17). Mind you, it is not just in action where vengeance shows its ugly face, it first shows up in the heart. It is just as bad to harbor ill feelings, a grudge, vindictiveness, and the wish that it was okay to get even, as it is to actually act upon those thoughts.

The next improper treatment of others we will describe with three words. These are jealousy, envy, and covetousness. These go hand in hand. They are either synonyms or else one leads to the other. The covetous, which may be a good word to describe all three conditions, will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 6:10). The word translated *covetous* in your *King James Version*, means eagerness to have more, especially that which belongs to another. To ascribe an accurate modern word to it, the jealous, envious, covetous person is greedy. Greed of course, leads to many another sin, even to murder. It was for envy that Christ was delivered up (Mat. 27:18; Mark 15:10).

Often found hand in hand with the above three, is dishonesty. Dishonesty can involve either or both of lying (including bearing false witness), and stealing. We are to provide for things honest in the sight of all men (2 Cor. 8:21). Paul commanded the Ephesians to put away lying and speak the truth, and to not steal, but work with the hands to have to give to those who have need (Eph. 5:25, 28). Paul sums up

this charge very simply in Romans 12:18. "**If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.**" Admittedly there are individuals who are hard, if not impossible, to get along with, but a dishonest person doesn't get along peaceably with anyone. And, that includes not getting along with himself.

Christ commanded that we be forgiving. It is interesting that the very first words from the Lord's lips after He taught the model prayer in Matthew 6 was that if we do not forgive others their trespasses our heavenly Father will not forgive ours (v. 14). After instructing them to put away things such as anger, bitterness, envy and evil speaking, Paul wrote this to the Ephesians: "**And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you**" (Eph. 4:32). Perhaps the two most miserable people in the world are those against whom a real offense has been committed, but will not forgive it, and those who imagine one has been committed against them. These are miserable people, not because someone has done them wrong, but because they have a heart problem that arises out of pettiness and caring more about themselves than they do for others. Truly there are many things involved in proper treatment of others. How do we measure up to them?

—P. O. Box 592  
Grandby, MO 64844

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# 2012 SPRING CHURCH OF CHRIST *CFTF* LECTURESHIP

## *The New Testament Church and Counterfeit Churches*

The lectureship was presented from Wednesday, February 22—Sunday, February 26 in the facilities of the Spring Church of Christ. The congregation is superintended by elders: Kenneth D. Cohn, Buddy Roth, and Jack Stephens. David P. Brown is the evangelist working full time with the church. He is also the director of the annual lectureship, and editor of the book.

Secretary: Sonya West ♦ E-mail: [sonyacwest@gmail.com](mailto:sonyacwest@gmail.com) ♦ Office Phone: (281) 353-2707

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The book's chapters in chronological order are:

David P. Brown: *What is the New Testament Church?*

Terry Hightower: *The Apostasy of the First Century Church*

Terry Hightower: *The Emergence of Catholicism from the Apostate Church*

Dub McClish: *What is the Restoration Principle and is it Scriptural?*

Dub McClish: *Has the New Testament Church Been Restored?*

Roelf Ruffner: *One Can Know One Is a Member of the Lord's Church (Identifying Marks of the Church)*

Wayne Blake: *What is the Organization and Work of the New Testament Church?*

Johnny Oxendine: *What is the Worship of the New Testament Church?*

Geoff Litke: *Are Pious Unimmersed Persons Christians?*

Roelf Ruffner: *Is the New Testament Church a Denomination?*

Bruce Stulting: *Are Faithful Children of God Found in the Denominations?*

John West: *What is the Independent Christian Church?*

Michael Hatcher: *What is the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)?*

Daniel Denham wrote the chapter in the book. Skip Francis delivered the lecture, *What is Dispensationalism?*

Bruce Stulting: *Does the N. T. Authorize the Church Revealed on its Pages to Fellowship Denominational Churches?*

John Rose: *What is the Lutheran Church?*

Gene Hill wrote the chapter in the book. Ken Chumbley delivered the lecture: *What is the Presbyterian Church?*

Danny Douglas: *What is the Baptist Church?*

Gene Hill wrote the chapter in the book. Ken Chumbley delivered the lecture: *What is the Methodist Church?*

Johnny Oxendine: *What is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons)?*

Jess Whitlock: *What is Christian Science?*

Jess Whitlock: *What Makes JW's, Mormons, Christian Sci., and 7th Day Adventists Different from Other Denominations?*

John West: *What are the Pentecostal/Charismatic Churches?*

Michael Hatcher: *What is the Salvation Army?*

John Rose: *What is the Unitarian/Universalist Church?*

Danny Douglas: *What is the Community Church?*

Daniel Denham wrote the chapter in the book. David P. Brown delivered the lecture, *What is the Emerging Church?*

Sonya West: *Give Your Daughters To Husbands (Choosing a Husband)*

Sonya West: *Thy Desire Shall be to Thy Husband (Having a Successful Marriage)*

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# *What The Bible Says About:* 37th Annual Bellview Lectures Held June 9-13, 2012

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### -Colorado-

**Denver**—Piedmont Church of Christ, 1602 S. Parker Rd. Ste. 109, Denver, CO 80231, Sunday: 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 6 p.m., Wed. 7 p.m. www.piedmontcoc.net, Lester Kamp, evangelist. (720) 535-5807.

### -England-

**Cambridgeshire**—Cambridge City Church of Christ, meeting at The Manor Community College, Arbury Rd., Cambridge, CB4 2JF. Sun., Bible Study--10:30 a.m., Worship-- 11:30 a.m.; Tue. Bible Study--7:30 p.m. www.CambridgeCityCoC.org.uk. Keith Sisman, Gospel Preacher. Contacts: Keith Sisman [By phone inside USA (281) 475-8247]; Inside the U.K.: Cambridge (England): 01223-911243]; Alternative Cambridge contacts: Joan Moulton - 01223-210101; Postal/ mailing Address - PO BOX 1, Ramsey Huntingdon, PE26 2YZ United Kingdom

### -Florida-

**Ocoee**—Ocoee Church of Christ, 2 East Magnolia Street, Ocoee, FL 34761. Sun. 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. Wed. 7:00 p.m. David Hartbarger, Evangelist, (407) 656-2516,

**Pensacola**—Bellview Church of Christ, 4850 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, FL 32526, Sun. 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m. Michael Hatcher, evangelist, (850) 455-7595.

### -North Carolina-

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### -Texas-

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