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SPECIAL EDITION

Build Strong Homes

For Strong Churches and a Strong Nation



BUILD STRONG HOMES

MIKE WILLIS



I need to express appreciation to Mark Mayberry for his help in putting together this issue of *Truth Magazine*. This issue is designed to address home and family in a very practical way. Our lecture program with the same title addresses in more detail some important doctrinal messages about the home that you will want to read. This 360+ page book provides valuable information about what is happening to American homes, the evolution of the meaning of home, and the state's role in defining home. It addresses the problems absentee fathers create for children, the father's role as provider for the home, the danger of unfaithful husbands, and exhorts men to assume their rightful place as leaders in the home. Several godly women address some problems faced by women in the home – can I be a Supermom?, mother's role in training her children, and adjusting to widowhood. Good chapters on childrearing are also included. This is a book well worth one's time to read.

However, this issue of the magazine is designed to complement the book. Some practical suggestions are made about being a leader in the home, using wisdom in making career decisions, how the husband and wife should individually address whether or not each is meeting the other's deepest needs and what to do when they are not. A lesson on corporal punishment and the need for teaching children the meaning of "no" are included. Linda Riley gives some very practical advice about how to conduct home Bible studies with your toddlers and young children and there is also an article on the danger of losing touch with one's teenager. This is an issue that young families in any church will benefit from reading. And both the book and the magazine would be profitably read and studied by American families in general.

In the early 1960s a cultural shift in America came to head when a segment of our society led a moral revolution against Christian values. The sexual revolution advocated any form of sexual relationship between consenting adults and

couples began openly cohabiting with each other outside the bonds of marriage. The homosexuals "came out of the closet" and have now become one of the strongest political advocate groups in America. An athlete who declares himself homosexual immediately becomes a media hero and may even receive presidential commendation for his courage to declare himself. Anyone who has the moral courage to express his Christian belief about the sinful practice of homosexuality is characterized as a hate-filled bigot. If he is employed in the national media, he may never appear on screen again. He sacrifices his lucrative career for his faith!

Easy divorce and remarriage is creating a new class of poverty: mothers raising their children by themselves. Absentee fathers create many social problems – the numbers receiving aid for dependent children skyrockets faster than the national purses can pay. Crime, premature sexual activity, etc. are the fruit of broken homes.

We are only now beginning to reap the harvest of a society that throws God out of its knowledge. Paul wrote,

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. **Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness**, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather

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Should be sent to: Mike Willis, 6567 Kings Ct., Avon, IN 46123, (317) 370-1940.

Email: tmmikewillis@gmail.com

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KMCimage@gmail.com

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How Can I Be The Leader in My Family?

STEVEN J. WALLACE

"So

should not destroy it; but I found no one" (Ezek. 22:30¹).

How can a society deteriorate to where "a man" is not only an endangered species, but is altogether extinct? When Jehovah scanned the human landscape of Israel, He found prophets who were of no benefit to the people, but rather they were like a lion tearing prey. They spoke lies and perpetuated falsehoods in the name of God. He also found priests who were profane and could not distinguish between holy and unholy things—they even hid their eyes from the Sabbath-day's duty. When Jehovah looked at the rulers, He saw much of the same —men as wolves, tearing their prey to get personal gain. When He looked at people, He saw oppressors, robbers, as well as a people who abused the poor (Ezek. 22:23-29). Jehovah found all kinds of sin and sinners, but could not find a real man in the prophets, priests, rulers, or the populace. How could this be? Fundamentally, men had stopped leading their children in paths of righteousness; righteousness continued to shrink away from the people and sin, like a cancerous tumor, continued to grow.

We should recognize the sobering thought that our children will inherit everything we have. They will inherit our world, our trades, our positions, our name, and our reputation. Everything we have, every position of authority, every skill will be turned over to the next generation. What then of our faith? Will a time come when Jehovah scans the American landscape and will have no success in finding a man who will stand in the gap before the land? If fathers fail to lead families, such can easily happen, even in one single generation.

"Children's children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is their father" (Prov. 17:6). God designed man for glory. He created him to represent the glory of God on earth. "For a man

I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I

indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man" (1 Cor. 11:7). Unlike "Hollywood's" depiction of man as a weak, confused, sex-crazed, imbecilic covenant-breaker, the "Holy Word" identifies man as the "glory of God." Nothing Jehovah created on earth has greater glory than man. Hence the Creator expects the man to be the leader of his tribe.

So, "How can I be the leader in my family as God wants?" If you are a father and reading this article, please note carefully that no one else is given the unique role of leading your family *except you*. Should a man fail that responsibility, he has failed a very large part of his reason for living and having a family (see Mal. 2:15).

A. The man can lead his family by developing a sound work-ethic. We live in a time where laziness seems to be rewarded in certain circles. But true success of any man cannot come without a good work-ethic. God built within us the ability to "rule" and "tend" (Gen. 1:28; 2:15). Hence we were created to work. Solomon stated it this way, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might..." (Eccl. 9:10). The man teaches his sons and daughters in developing this quality when he first lives it. Further, the father should place a burden of responsibility and accountability on his children when they are of age to bear it (Lam. 3:27-29). From Jeremiah's tear-stained lamentation, we can see a ray of hope when the youth are made to bear a *yoke*. Besides learning responsibility, such enables them to learn the important trait of *endurance* in suffering and adversity which will only help them in the more difficult years that lie ahead. What will the youth do when, in life's earthquakes, they have only lived on Easy Street? A generation without a work-ethic only creates a hole for the family, society, and the church (1 Tim. 5:8).

B. The man can lead his family in educational endeavors. Children should receive an education that makes them fit for work, life, and God. Perusing the first seven chapters of Proverbs gives us an example of a father imparting secular, spiritual, and sensible knowledge. He addresses peer pressure, seeking God's wisdom, honoring the Lord with

HOW CAN I BE THE LEADER IN MY FAMILY?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

wealth, avoiding human traps of wicked men and seducing women, retaining calm during times of terror, sound business practices, sexual advice, peril of envy, and the danger of debt. Fathers can lead their families in attaining a sound education by teaching the things Solomon taught in the book of Proverbs. Make no mistake; the education which our children receive is something that we are going to be held accountable for. We should be actively engaged with what our children are learning as such will either bring joy or grief in later years. The Scriptures teach that both parents should be actively involved in training their children. God, however, places the oversight and accountability of it on the father. "The living, the living man, he shall praise You, As I do this day; The father shall make known Your truth to the children" (Is. 38:19; cf. Ps. 78:3-8; Eph. 6:4; etc.).

C. The man can lead his family in providing discipline to his children. With education comes *application* and *discipline*. Discipline is a friend to education and without such, education is merely academic. "The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother. . . . Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul" (Prov. 29:15, 17). The rod coupled with rebuke imparts wisdom. Both are needed. The permissive father is actually a curse to his children (1 Sam. 3:13).

There is a time when children are pliable and teachable. When that time is spurned by parents, a great evil has been done—a *child left to himself brings shame on his mother*. "Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction" (Prov. 19:18). The idea is that a worse penalty is going to come upon those who do not learn from the temporary chastening in the home. Likewise, it should weigh heavily upon the father's mind how long his children are left alone without parental influence, example, and training. Some parents rarely invest time with their children. They spend it on the pursuit of riches and entertainment, on various and vain "activities" and "things" which clutter up life. In its wake exists not only a strained relationship between the husband and wife, but also with the children. Sadly, these young souls are growing up with essentially other people and activities raising them. As a father, how much time

do you spend with your children each day and week?

D. The man can lead his family in a spiritual walk. Fundamentally, man is to lead his family to God; he is God's representative on earth. God spoke of Abraham, "For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD. . ." (Gen. 18:19). Abraham is an example of a man who was lacking in Israel in the time of Ezekiel 22:30. Abraham was one who sought to lead his family in the way of the Lord. He did not shirk his responsibility to Sarah, but rather fulfilled it. Here are some ways that men can be leaders of their family in walking today:

- Having good conduct (1 Tim. 3:2).
- Teaching the commandments and ways of God to their children (1 Tim. 3:2; Eph. 6:4; etc.).
- Taking the oversight in ruling his house (1 Tim. 3:4, 5, 12). Passing this *rule* on the wife is sinful. Can he control his house? The man who stands in the gap is a man who *rules his house well*.
- Leading the family in prayer (1 Tim. 2:8). Children learn to communicate with God by observing their father. If he is a man of prayer, they can learn to trust God. If he rarely prays or if it seems superficial, then they will also neglect this blessing. All the great men in Scripture have in common that they were men of prayer.
- Bringing the family to worship. It seems that it is a temptation for tired fathers to neglect worship. This sows seeds of inconsistency when children see their father active in secular pursuits, but too tired for worship. The man who stands in the gap will be like Joshua, ". . . But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Josh. 24:15).

ENDNOTES

¹ All verses are from the New King James Version.

Steven J. Wallace, serves as evangelist for the Indiana Ave. church of Christ, Lubbock, Texas.



MAKING WISE CAREER DECISIONS

JAKE LOCKLEAR

When making any decision, we should be guided by priorities, core principles, and a proper perspective. Jesus taught that “the whole Law and Prophets” depended upon two commandments. First, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” Second, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:36-40). Similarly, let us consider our priorities, our principles, and our perspective when making wise career decisions.

We choose to serve God before all else.

Jesus taught, “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth” (Matt. 6:24). We can fool ourselves into believing we can serve both, i.e., we can serve God and we can serve our career without conflict. But there will be moments in our career in which we must make a choice between service to one and service to the other. Which is your priority? Which will you choose? We should know the answer, expect the conflict, and be resolved to stand firm before the conflict ever arises.

We understand that our career has a purpose. We work to lead a quiet, disciplined life and provide for our physical needs (2 Thess. 3:10-12). We work to provide for our family (1 Tim. 5:8). We work to have an opportunity to do good to all men, especially our brethren (Gal. 6:10). Paul worked as a tentmaker while also preaching so he could provide for his needs and the needs of his companions, have an opportunity to help the weak, and to set an example for other believers (Acts 18:1-3; 20:33-35; 1 Thess. 2:9; 2 Thess. 3:7-10). We can easily confuse the purpose of our career to the point that our goal is our career. Rather, our career is a means to have opportunity to provide for ourselves, our family, our brethren, and all men.

We learn to be content. Paul learned to be content no matter the circumstances (Phil. 4:11). Even in the most dire conditions, the apostle was content when his basic physical needs were met

(2 Cor. 12:10; 1 Tim. 6:8). Jesus taught us to pray for “our daily bread” (Matt. 6:11). There is danger when we fail to be content with God’s provision for our basic physical needs. The wise man wrote about the wisdom that comes with being content with the basic physical needs. “Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is my portion, that I not be full and deny You and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’ or that I not be in want and steal, and profane the name of my God” (Prov. 30:8-9).

We understand that the gift of wealth brings both responsibility and danger. Our work and the blessings that flow from such are gifts from God to be enjoyed. The wise preacher wrote, “There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good. This also I have seen that it is from the hand of God” (Eccl. 2:24). In discussing service and stewardship, Jesus said, “From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more” (Luke 12:48). Wealth is a gift from God, and He expects us to be good stewards with the blessings we receive from His hand. However, Paul warned those who desired to be rich that many temptations follow that lure men into ruin and destruction; that those who loved money would be faced with all sorts of evil, some wandering from the faith and suffering many griefs (1 Tim. 6:9-10). Wealth is a gift, but if sought for the wrong reasons, it can quickly become a curse.

We understand that making wise career decisions is a daily test. When the masses were coming to see John the Baptist, he challenged them to “bear fruits worthy of repentance ... bear good fruit.” In response they asked, “Then what shall we do?” John answered, “The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise.” To the tax collectors he said, “Collect no more than what you have been ordered to.” To the soldiers he said, “Do not take money from anyone by force, or accuse anyone falsely, and be content with your wages” (Luke 3:8-14). John provides us with practical wisdom for every day career decisions – not just the big decisions, but the daily decisions upon which a career is built: Do not abuse your power or authority. Be content with the blessings of your work. Share with those who have less than you. Maintain your humility, your empathy, and your integrity.

We develop the vision to see God's providence in our career. Not every career decision or move involves divine providence. However, there may be moments in our career when God's providence is active. When Esther became queen in Persia, she feared approaching the king on behalf of her people. Her uncle Mordecai encouraged her, saying, "Who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?" Mordecai did not unequivocally point to God's providence in Esther's position of royalty. But he did raise God's providence as a likely factor – Esther, you may have been brought to this position at this time for this moment, to deliver God's people (Esth. 4:13-15). Similarly, Paul wrote to the slave owner (presumed wealthy) Philemon, a faithful brother in Christ. When Philemon's slave, Onesimus, ran away, he met Paul and was converted to Christ. Paul sent Onesimus back to Philemon with this plea: "For perhaps he was for this reason separated from you for a while, that you would have him back forever, no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord" (Phile. 15-16). Again, Paul did not unequivocally point to God's providence in Philemon's position as a master and Onesimus' position as a slave. But Paul does raise God's providence in setting forth an opportunity for master Philemon to serve God by receiving slave Onesimus, not as a runaway slave but as a fellow brother in Christ. Are there moments in your career where God's providence may be actively working? Do you have the spiritual vision to see those moments and make wise decisions?

We remember who our boss is. Let us also recognize for whom we really work. "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve" (Col. 3:23-24). We have a daily opportunity in our career to show others Christ, our master, living in us. May our "light shine before men . . . that they may see [our] good works" and glorify God (Matt. 5:16).

We remember where our treasure is and thus our heart is there also. We can easily lose sight of the true wealth that lies before us in heaven. Chasing wealth here on earth will ultimately end. Those treasures will be lost or destroyed. Our true treasure, which is safe and secure, is laid up in heaven (Matt. 6:19-21). Therefore we "seek first His kingdom and His righteousness," trusting that our Father in heaven will provide for us (Matt. 6:25-34).

Finally, I encourage you to begin now thinking about the career decisions you are or will be making. As I began writing this article, I thought of all the career decisions my family and I have made. And it occurred to me that many of those decisions were made or influenced before I had a career. Priorities were developed in my youth during my first "career" of football. I was introduced to an order of priority – God, Family, School, Football – and learned both the strength to be loyal to those priorities and the many temptations that can lead one to be disloyal. I remember my family discussing whether my career path, potentially as a professional football player or an attorney, would lead to too many temptations or would provide a unique opportunity to display my faith, to let my light shine. When choosing which university to attend, while I was focused on football, fun, and academics, my mother interjected into the discussion the value of a sound church in the community. These moments and these lessons learned gave me the foundation to make wise decisions once I began my career as an attorney. "Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6).

I have not always made wise career decisions, but through time and experience I have learned to trust in God's word to set my priorities, principles, and perspective. Hopefully you will find these priorities, principles, and perspective to be based in God's word and include wisdom that will help you also make wise career decisions.

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Richard "Jake" Locklear (jakelocklear@att.net) is Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary to the Board of Directors for Atlantic Plant Maintenance, Inc. (APM). Jake joined APM in 2005 as its first General Counsel. Jake is responsible for the legal, human resources, risk management, and communications functions of APM.

In 2010, Jake joined TAUC's Labor Committee. Jake currently is engaged in TAUC's Fitness-For-Duty Task Force and serves as TAUC's Representative to the National Coordinating Committee for Multiemployer Plans' (NCCMP) Retirement Security Review Commission. In 2012, he was named to TAUC's Board of Directors.

Jake attended Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and History in 1999. He then attended the University of Texas School of Law in Austin, Texas and graduated in 2003. Jake is a lawyer admitted to the State Bar of Texas. In 2003, Jake joined the Locke, Liddell, & Sapp Law Firm and worked in the Labor and Employment department.

Jake lives in Pearland, Texas with his wife, Missy, their two daughters, Maddie (6) and Maren (3), and their son, Doak (1). Jake enjoys watching princess movies with his girls, delivering cakes / cupcakes / cakeballs for his wife, coaching little league football in the Fall, and being active in the church.



WHAT IF SHE IS NOT MEETING MY DEEPEST NEEDS?

JERRY KING

Marriage was designed by God to meet certain needs in man. In Genesis 2:18 God said, “It is not good for man to be alone.” God designed man to be a social creature; He gave to man needs that he could not fulfill for himself. And so, God determined to “make him a helper comparable to him.” Note that God specially and exclusively designed and designated the woman as the comparable helper of man (Gen. 2:21-23), and He specially and exclusively designed and designated marriage to be the place wherein the helpmate relationship would be fulfilled (Gen. 2:24). That is why it is a foolish and sinful thing for society to tamper with the principle of “one man, one woman, for life,” a law which Moses clearly laid down in Genesis 2 and Jesus clearly confirmed in Matthew 19:4-6.

In 1 Corinthians 7:1-5 Paul acknowledged the importance of both parties in a marriage being aware of, and working to meet the needs of, their mates in the area of sexual relations. “Do not deprive one another” is the basic principle, “except with consent for a time” is the exception to that principle. Sexual relations might be important in a marriage, but they are not all-important. In describing the virtuous, priceless wife in Proverbs 31:10-31, the wise man lists a slew of characteristics that make a woman an ideal helpmate – she provides food (vv. 14-15), she makes wise investments (v. 16), she helps in the responsibility of benevolence (v. 20), she provides clothing (vv. 21-22), she teaches (v. 26) – but “great sexual partner” does not even merit a mention. Keep that in mind as you progress through this article.

Ideally, every one of a man’s needs will be met by his wife, and vice-versa. But the ideal is very rarely (if ever) the reality. No doubt there are occasions in every marriage when some felt need of one partner is not being fully met by the other, and there might be occasions when that felt need is a deep-felt need. And so, the question for most men is not whether deep-felt needs will ever go unmet, but rather, what

should a man do when his wife is not meeting his deepest-felt needs? We must be careful how we answer that, for 1 Peter 3:7 lays down a heavy penalty for the man who does wrong to his wife.

The first thing a man should do is take a good, honest look at himself. Analyzing a problem in any relationship should always begin with self-analysis. “First remove the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye,” is how Jesus said it in Matthew 7:5. “Examine yourselves” (2 Cor. 13:5) is always good counsel, including in the marriage relationship.

So, what about you? Are your deep-felt needs righteous? You have no right to expect from your wife things that God’s word forbids her to do. Are your deep-felt needs wholesome? You have no right to expect from your wife things that violate her sense of decency. Are your deep-felt needs attainable? You have no right to expect from your wife things that are impossible for her to accomplish. Love for your wife demands that you rejoice in her righteousness, that you not behave rudely toward her, and that you not seek your own (1 Cor. 13:4-7). Be sure you are being fair to your wife.

Second, a man should commit himself to obedience to God’s laws about marriage and divorce, no matter what the cost. After a man analyzes his marital expectations, he might find that his deepest needs are in fact righteous, wholesome, and attainable. What then? He must determine to remain committed to God’s command to love his wife sacrificially, just as Christ did the church (Eph. 5:24). He must remain committed to God’s command to dwell with his wife with understanding and honor (1 Pet. 3:7). He must remain committed to God’s command to not put her away.

Paul commanded, “And a husband is not to divorce his wife” (1 Cor. 7:11). That command was a reflection of what Jesus said in Matthew 5:32, “Whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery,” which in turn was a reflection of what God had determined from the beginning ➤

WHAT IF SHE IS NOT MEETING MY DEEPEST NEEDS?

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(Mat. 19:3-9). Notice that Jesus' rule is to not divorce; the lone exception to that rule being divorce for sexual immorality. Although the pain of being in a marriage where one's deepest needs are not being met might be severe, not having one's deepest needs met is *not* sexual immorality.



"But doesn't God want me to be happy?"

Someone might ask, "But doesn't God want me to be happy?" God wants you to be holy (1 Pet. 1:15-16). God wants you to be faithful (Col. 1:23). Often faithfulness will result in happiness (Prov. 16:20), but sometimes faithfulness will require suffering through a difficult situation (Rev. 2:10). Faithful men throughout history have found that their faith has led them to torture, mocking, scourging, imprisonment, stoning, destitution, homelessness, and even gruesome death (Heb. 11:35-38). One Man's perfect faithfulness led him to the agony of death on a cross (1 Pet. 2:21-24). Can any man really think that Jesus will exempt him from faithfulness to God's marriage law simply because he has found obedience to that law to result in his deep-felt needs not being met? Love for God demands that one remain faithful to His marriage commands no matter the cost.

Third, a man should never seek in another woman what he cannot find in his wife. In a society where barriers in male/female relations are almost nonexistent, it is easy for men to find women who are more than willing to take the place of their wives as confidants and emotional supports. Many men work long hours in close association with women. Exercise and recreation are often co-ed. And the internet allows a man to invite thousands of women into his private life. Good men must be especially cautious in these situations, that they do not give up on their wives and emotionally "check out" of their marriages. Remember, Satan is looking for the instant of

weakness to devour (1 Pet. 5:8); sin is looking for its opportune moment to kill (Rom. 7:8-11).

Finally, a man should seek godly solutions to help both him and his wife meet each other's deepest needs. Healthy communication is vital to a husband and wife understanding one another. I know that opening up can be tough for men to do; it is much easier for me to counsel others to do it than it is to do it myself. But how can a man's wife meet his deepest needs if she does not know what his deepest needs are? As much as we would like for them to be, human beings (including wives) are not mind readers (1 Cor. 2:11). Is something important to you missing from your marriage? Your wife may be totally in the dark. Talk to her about it.

And talk to God about it. "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray" (Jas. 5:13). Pray for your wife, that her heart might be open to your needs. Pray for yourself, that God will give you the patience to endure with grace those times when deep-felt needs are not being met. Pray for your marriage, that God will give you and your wife the wisdom to apply His word to your relationship so that your marriage will be all that God designed it to be.

And, if need be, talk to someone else about it. Seek the counsel of a faithful Christian you both trust, and listen with an open mind to what they say (1 Cor. 6:5).

Your deepest marital need is a companion who will encourage you to be faithful to God and help you to go to heaven. Every other need pales in importance. Is your wife meeting that deepest need? Then count yourself blessed, even if some lesser needs are being neglected. Does your wife refuse to meet that deepest need? That is sad. But Job remained faithful despite having such a negligent wife (Job 2:9-10), and so can you.

Jerry King has preached for congregations in Tennessee and Texas. He and his wife, Amy, currently live in McKinney, Texas, and work with the West Allen church in Allen.



AM I MEETING HER NEEDS?

DANNY LINDEN

God has always been concerned with the way that husbands treat their wives. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth" (Mal. 2:15). In fact, there are many places throughout the Bible that deal with the responsibilities that husbands have toward their wives. Often, husbands fail to carefully consider these responsibilities and instead become lazy, demanding, and self-centered, not remembering that the biblical plan for marriage is for it to be an honorable and giving relationship. Instead of asking what his wife is doing for him, it is well worth the time of every husband to consider – "Am I meeting *her* needs?"

A. A wife needs a husband who will honor and love her. Husbands are given the responsibility by God to honor and love their wives. "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them in understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered" (1 Pet. 3:7). The "likewise" in this verse points back to the previous command that was given to wives – to be submissive and give honor to their husbands. Both of these commands possess the same level of grave importance and necessity. We often focus on how a godly wife should submit to her husband and not attempt to subvert his authority. However, this same passage shows that a godly husband should understand and empathize with his wife, as this is one way that he honors her. Ephesians 5:22-33 also shows that it is the husband's duty to love his wife as his own body. This shows a high level of care and concern for the wife that is absent in our society's view of the average husband – a selfish man who does not care about or even know what his wife needs. The example given in Ephesians 5 is that of Christ's love for the church. What higher bar could be set? Christ's love for His bride was so complete that He offered up Himself as a sacrifice for her. Does the kind of love and honor I give my wife live up to the example that Christ gave me?

B. A wife needs a husband who will provide for her. It is the husband's job to physically provide for his wife. In Ephesians 5:28, 29, husbands are told to love their wives as their own bodies. The point is that men do not naturally neglect or hate their own bodies; they nourish and cherish them. Likewise, in marriage, such qualities are now to be directed toward the wife as Christ did toward the church. While much of this passage is addressing the emotional and spiritual care that husbands give their wives, physical provision is important and included here as well. 1 Timothy 5:8 tells us that "if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." God does not look kindly on the man who is lazy and refuses to work especially when his family suffers as a result (2 Cor. 3:10-12; Prov. 10:4-5). Do I take seriously my responsibility to provide for my wife?

C. A wife needs a husband who will be faithful to her. God has always viewed sexual immorality of all kinds as an abomination (1 Cor. 10:8; Rom. 1:28-32; 2 Sam. 12:9-13). It should be no surprise, then, that He expects the husband to be faithful to his wife (and vice versa). "Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For 'the two,' He says, 'shall become one flesh.' . . . Flee sexual immorality . . . he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body" (1 Cor. 6:16-18). The sexual relationship was designed by God to make two people into one flesh – something that is so special that it cannot be shared with just anybody. It is an abomination before God when a man betrays his wife in this manner, and the adulterer can be certain that he will not escape judgment. "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge" (Heb. 13:4). Avoiding adultery requires more than merely avoiding the physical act itself. The Bible also warns against the behaviors and thoughts that lead to it. 2 Peter 2:14 speaks of those "having eyes full of adultery." It isn't hard to understand what type of man Peter is talking about here. It's the ➤

AM I MEETING HER NEEDS?

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kind of man who chooses to let his eyes linger on a scantly-clad woman, who devotes his thoughts and passions to a woman who is not his wife, and who refuses to “drink water from [his] own cistern” (Prov. 5:15). Job had the right attitude when he made a covenant with his eyes (Job 31:1). This all men need to learn well – being faithful means digging adultery up from the root and not allowing impure thoughts or actions to compromise purity in any way. If I as a husband choose to have eyes full of adultery and betray my wife, I do not “possess [my] own vessel in sanctification and honor” but instead “in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God” (1 Thess. 4:3-5). It’s clear that God takes this seriously. Do I?

D. A wife needs a husband who will bring happiness to her. “When a man has taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war or be charged with any business; he shall be free at home one year, and bring happiness to his wife whom he has taken” (Deut. 24:5). While this is an Old Testament command and doesn’t have the same specific application to us today, there is an important principle that does hold true. A man must take the time to bring happiness to his wife and guard against defrauding her of what is rightfully hers (1 Cor. 7:1-5). Under the old law, the man was required to take a year to focus specifically on building up his new marriage and finding out how he can make his wife happy. Likewise, the husband today must be invested in the success of his marriage and needs to take time, especially early on, to construct a firm foundation for his family to rest on. This is the fundamental part of learning to bring happiness to his wife. “He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord” (Prov. 18:22). Does the way I treat my wife reflect that she is a gift from the Lord?

E. A wife needs a husband who will help her reach Heaven. Most importantly, a husband and wife need to have the same goal in mind – to get to Heaven. There are too many examples in the church of godly and devout women married to indifferent men. As mentioned above, Ephesians 5:22-33 gives us the example of Christ’s love and care for the church as a challenge to husbands. As a man tries to imitate

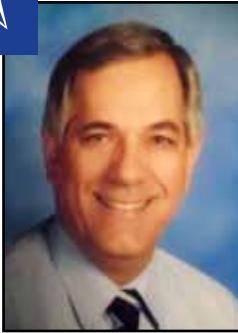
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May you and I as husbands carefully consider God’s expectations of us in our marriages.



the love of Christ, he should naturally lead his family closer to God and provide an example of submission and obedience to God. As Joshua asserted in Joshua 24:15, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” My actions should encourage faithful service in my wife rather than hinder it. Will my presence in her life be an encouragement or a hindrance in meeting her most fundamental need – the need to be united with God in Heaven one day? May you and I as husbands carefully consider God’s expectations of us in our marriages.

Daniel Linden is currently in a year-long preacher training program at the Indiana Ave. church of Christ in Lubbock, TX.



ARE HOMES PATRIARCHAL OR EGALITARIAN?

STEVE KLEIN

If you are like me, when you see the word *patriarch*, you immediately think of the great fathers of the Old Testament, particularly Abraham. Hebrews 7:4 refers to him as “the patriarch Abraham.” By definition, “a *patriarch* is the father and ruler of a family; one who governs by paternal right” (*Webster’s Dictionary*).

In reference to the home, the adjective *patriarchal* describes a family with a male at its head. Abraham’s home epitomized this definition of patriarchal. In obedience to his heavenly Father, Abraham “took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan” (Gen. 12:5). The word translated “took” implies leadership and initiation on the part of Abraham. Later, the Lord says of Abraham, “For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD. . . .” (Gen. 18:19). From these brief Biblical glimpses of Abraham’s home life, it appears that the Lord expected Abraham’s home to be patriarchal to the core.

But what does this have to do with homes today? What could the structure of family life for an early nomad like Abraham have to do with God’s expectations for homes in the modern world? For that matter, what bearing would it have had in the relatively advanced Greco-Roman civilization of the first century into which Christianity was born? The inspired apostle Peter explains. In 1 Peter 3:1, he commands wives to “be submissive to your own husbands.” Why? “For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror” (1 Pet. 3:5-6). Abraham’s patriarchal home is the model for the homes of Christians. Wives are to be submissive and respectful to their husbands, just like Sarah was to Abraham.

The word “submissive” here is translated from a Greek word (*hypotasso*) which was “primarily a military term” meaning “to rank under” (*Vine’s Dictionary*). It is a term that refers to an individual’s placement in a hierarchy, or what we might call a chain of command. It is important to note that one’s place in God’s chain of command is not necessarily determined by ability, intelligence or worth. In the word “submissive,” “the issue is keeping a divinely willed order” (*Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, VIII: 41, 43). Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, was submissive to His earthly parents, not because He was an inferior being, but because that was the way God ordered the home (cf. Luke 2:51). Wives must see their submission to the male rule of the home as compliance to God’s orderly design for the home. The key is to trust God and have faith that His way is best.

Peter explains that the “meek and quiet spirit” with which women are to adorn themselves empowers wives to choose to be submissive and respectful to their husbands like Sarah (1 Pet. 3:4). In his work *Synonyms of the New Testament*, R.C. Trench defines “meekness” as “that temper of spirit in which we accept His [God’s] dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting.” A meek person *could* resist or dispute, but when confronted with God’s will, he or she chooses not to. As Peter says, this is what “holy women who trusted in God” did. The overall message of 1 Peter 3:1-6 is that wives who have adorned themselves with meekness will be able to submit to good husbands and to bad ones – to those who are obedient to the word of God and to those who are not – because they trust that God’s way is best.

EQUALITY OR UNITY?

Egalitarian is a word that suggests equality. When used in reference to social relationships, it indicates that everyone has an equal say. Now the Bible teaches that men and women are equal in several important respects. Both were Created by God in His image as morally responsible beings (Gen. 1:27). But that is not to say that ➤

ARE HOMES PATRIARCHAL OR EQUITY?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

men and women have equal or interchangeable roles in the home.

Many would object to that last statement. Even some who believe the Bible might ask, "Doesn't Galatians 3:28 teach that men and women are equal in Christ?" No. It doesn't. It teaches that men and women are *one* in Christ. It says, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28). Unity and equality are two very different concepts, as we'll explain momentarily.

God designed the home as a unit. After the woman is created for the man, Genesis 2:24 declares, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." In Matthew 19:4-6, Jesus refers to this original design for marriage as something that is still applicable. The word "one" in these passages identifies the home as a unit. A unit is something made up of component parts that fit together and complement one another so that they function as a single entity. The two parties in the marriage unit have been joined together by God Himself, and no man is given permission to separate their union for any reason except the cause of fornication (Matt. 19:6, 9). Each part must do its job in order for the unit to work properly. Neither part exists solely for its own benefit, but for its contribution to the unit's purpose.

A critical point to grasp here is that God purposely designed the component parts of a marriage so that they would fit together to form a seamless unit. Notice in Genesis 2:18 that God's intention in creating woman was to make for man "a helper comparable to him" or as other translations say "an help meet for him" (KJV) or "a helper suitable for him" (NIV, NASB). Strong's Hebrew Dictionary defines the word translated "comparable" as the "*part opposite, specifically a counterpart or mate.*" Woman is the "part opposite" man; she was precisely fashioned to complete the human unit.

The fact that man and woman were *designed* from the beginning to be complimentary parts of a single unit is of far reaching significance. It requires both men and women to respect the

uniqueness of their God-given roles and the necessity of fulfilling them. And it also explains why homosexual marriages are just wrong. To illustrate, an automobile has hundreds of component parts, but for sake of simplification let us view it as having only two main parts – the engine and the body. Each of these parts was designed for the other. Both parts must be united to have a functional automobile. Two bodies with one engine won't work. Two engines or two bodies together won't work. Even so, the marriage is composed of one man and one woman each doing what God designed them to do.

We are living in an age in which it is increasingly denied that there is one best blueprint for the home. Homes with single parents, matriarchs, homosexual parents, or temporary living arrangements are all viewed as equally legitimate and worthwhile designs. God has only *one ideal* plan. In Malachi 2:11, Judah was condemned for profaning marriage "The Lord's holy institution which He loves." God planned the home the way He wanted it and His plan is the best. It is the only one that provides for complete human happiness. Nothing else will work as well. Psalm 127:1 affirms, "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it."

Steve Klein has been preaching the gospel in North Alabama since 1983. He is currently working with the Eastside church of Christ in Athens, Alabama.



WHAT IF HE IS NOT MEETING MY EMOTIONAL NEEDS?

BOBBY ADAMS

We all are probably aware that we are living in a "ME" generation. From the time the children are very small, parents are asking them what they want to eat, wear, etc. which teaches them that what they want is more important than the wisdom of the parents. When I was small my mother cooked what ever we had (lots of beans and potatoes) and we ate it gladly. It never occurred to her to ask me what I wanted. I fear the "ME" generation has become very selfish and has probably been the cause of most divorces. Do we all have importance? Of course we do. We are all made by God in His image and that gives us importance.

Jesus is our perfect example of who and what we must become. He left Heaven to come to this earth, be laid in a manger, to live as a peasant, and to spend his life working and teaching us how He wants us to live. Do you really believe that was what He would have preferred to do? We know how He felt about going to the cross. His prayers in Matthew 26:38-39 tell us how he felt. "Then He said to them, 'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with me.' He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, *not as I will, but as You will.*'"

For many years I have been teaching ladies classes and much of the time I chose to teach from Titus 2:3-5 – "The older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things – that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

I focused primarily on "love your husband" because we see so many marriages fail. However, I know that good communication is necessary for a happy marriage. I generally tell newly-wed couples that if each one will try to make the other happy they will have a good

marriage. It is necessary that we *tell* each other what our needs are. I suggest to ladies that they *do not* do it the way I did as a very young wife. You do not get angry and say things you will regret, whine, pout, or try to get even. You will get better results if you think about it awhile and ask yourself, "Will this damage our marriage?" If so, learn to live with it. If it will help your marriage, bring the subject up when he is rested and well fed with a good dinner. The nature of men is not to tell others how they "feel." However, we ladies tell them . . . and tell them, and tell them. That becomes nagging and they tune us out.

Let's look at some passages that will help us in talking with our husbands. In 1 Corinthians 13 we learn what love is. Without that kind of love our marriage will not be happy or successful. *Agapē* love is "an act of the will rather than emotion." We have as much control over love as we do of faith. When I hear someone say, "I just don't love him anymore," I say, "Then stop sinning and get busy learning to love him." Love suffers long. That is defined as self restraint, that which does not hastily retaliate a wrong.

Love is kind, it is not caustic or sharp-tongued; it is good and gentle. Love does not envy, is not jealous and bitterly resentful of another person's good. Love is not puffed up. It does not have an inflated concept of one's own importance and is not arrogant. Love does not behave disgracefully, dishonorably, indecently, or rudely but behaves with proper decorum. Love seeks not his own but considers the wants and needs of others. Love is not easily provoked but is one who will not allow an offense to cause bitterness and resentment to fill his life.

Love does not rejoice in any sinful actions because God's word is violated and God is grieved. Love rejoices in truth, righteousness, and holiness. Love is able to bear whatever afflictions or persecutions come upon it.

"Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise the wife also to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does.

WHAT IF HE IS NOT MEETING MY EMOTIONAL NEEDS?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body but the wife does" (1 Cor. 7:3-4).

"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Eph. 4:31-32).

"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord for the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. *So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies, he who love his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church*" (Eph. 5:22-29).

"Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she reverence (KJV) her husband" (Eph. 5:33).

"Wives, submit to your own husbands as it is fitting in the Lord. Husbands love your wives and do not be bitter toward them" (Col. 3:18).

Ladies, after you have thoroughly studied these passages, ask yourself, "Am I honestly doing my best to obey these commands (and they are commands)?" Perhaps you need to pull the log out of your eye before you work on his eye, but if you are truly working to please him then you need to have a talk with your husband about your needs. God made man and woman different in every way and He said, "It is good." Your husband may have no idea that he is not meeting your needs. Remember, he is not a mind reader and you have to be specific. If he is not a Christian he may not have the knowledge or desire to take care of your needs. Gently ask him to study these passages with you and pray fervently for God's help. If he chooses to

refuse, just remember, you chose him and you are obligated to fulfill your promise before God to love and reverence him. If he is a Christian and is not aware of your needs then you must gently and lovingly discuss your needs with him. Also, ask him to study the passages with you. Don't let it fester until you are angry and use the words "You always . . ." or "You never . . ."

May I speak to the young unmarried girls a moment? What ever you do, marry a Christian who wants to go to Heaven and wants to help you to go. That is the first step to a happy marriage. Know the man *well* that you plan to marry. If he has a problem that you feel you cannot live with, don't marry him. I know, you plan to change him. It cannot be done. He may decide to change, but you can't change him and he may never change the thing you do not like. My husband told me before we were married that I would never be first in his life. God would be first and I came in second. Because he is a genuine Christian he treats me exactly as God has told him to do and I am blessed with the best man in the world. May God grant that blessing to each of you.

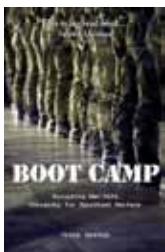
Remember Philippians 4:13 "I CAN do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Bobby Adams, P. O. Box 91346, Louisville, Kentucky 40291. Bobby was born on May 15, 1928 in Hopewell, (Ohio County) Kentucky. In 1947 she was married to Thomas Hughes of Cleveland, Ohio. To them were born three daughters and three sons. Tom was both teacher and elder in the church in Berea, Ohio until they moved to Louisville, Kentucky in 1974. He died in 1982 and she married Connie W. Adams in 1986. She has taught children's classes of all ages. She travels with Connie in his full time meeting work. She has taught classes for ladies in many states, Canada, Norway, Spain, Germany, South Africa, and the Philippines.

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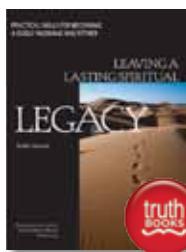
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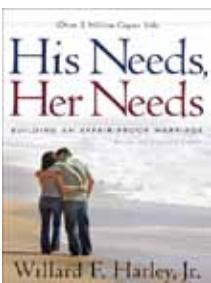
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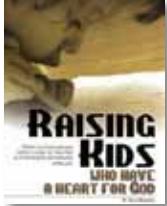
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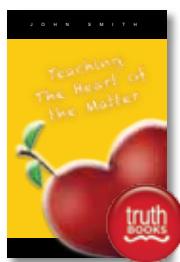
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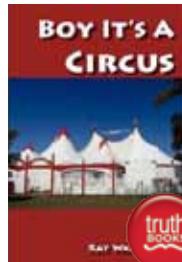
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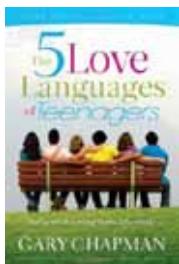
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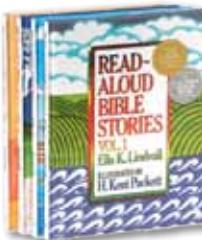
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Is SHE MEETING HIS NEEDS?

MARK MAYBERRY

INTRODUCTION

In an uplifting admonition from Ecclesiastes, Solomon said, "Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given to you under the sun; for this is your reward in life and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun" (Eccles. 9:9).

Nevertheless, the prospect of marital happiness is dependent upon two factors: finding the right person, and being the right person. A carnally-minded man will not attract (or be attracted to) a spiritually-minded woman, or vice versa. The proverbial saying, "Birds of a feather flock together" is ancient and accurate. If you want to find the right woman, be the right man! Domestic happiness and harmony belong to those who fear the Lord and walk in His ways (Psa. 128:1-4).

A good and godly wife is a great blessing while a woman who shames her husband is a pestilent curse: "An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who shames him is like rottenness in his bones" (Prov. 12:4). Solomon also said, "I discovered more bitter than death [is] the woman whose heart is snares and nets, whose hands are chains. One who is pleasing to God will escape from her, but the sinner will be captured by her" (Eccl. 7:26).

A GODLY WOMAN WILL SEEK TO BE A BLESSING

Marriage is a physical and spiritual blessing: he who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord (Prov. 18:22). An excellent wife is a rare treasure: her worth is far above jewels (Prov. 31:10). After describing the many ways in which a godly wife blesses her family, this memorable chapter concludes: "Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her the product of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates" (Prov. 31:30-31).

What qualities does such a woman possess? She will manifest discernment and discretion (Prov. 11:22; Psa. 119:66). She will exhibit

graciousness in speech and conduct (Prov. 11:16; 22:11). She will demonstrate prudence in all her behavior (Prov. 19:14; 1:1-4). She will have a constructive influence on her husband and children, wisely building up her house (Prov. 14:1; 24:3-4).

A GODLY WOMAN WILL AVOID BEING A CURSE

Additionally, a godly woman will avoid self-destructive behavior (Prov. 14:1). How so?

She will avoid being unfaithful. The adulteress is cunning and callous, flattering with her lips, using her powers of seduction to entrap her victim; afterwards, she wipes her mouth, saying "I have done no wrong" (Prov. 2:16; 6:24, 29, 32; 7:10; 23:27; 27:13; 30:20)

She will avoid being contentious. It is better to live in a corner of a roof (or in a desert land) than in a house shared with a contentious and vexing woman. A constant dripping on a day of steady rain and a contentious woman are alike; he who would restrain her restrains the wind, and grasps oil with his right hand (Prov. 19:13; 21:9, 19; 25:24; 27:15).

She will avoid being dictatorial and domineering (Prov. 30:21-23). Instead, she will be chaste and respectful, cultivating a gentle and quiet spirit, being obedient and submissive to her own husband (Eph. 5:25-33; 1 Pet. 3:1-6).

She will avoid being foolish, ignorant and naïve. The woman of folly is boisterous; she is undiscerning, knowing nothing. She does not ponder the path of life; her ways are unstable, yet she knows it not (Prov. 5:6; 9:13). In contrast, the godly woman guards the path of her feet, walking in the ways of righteousness, not turning aside to the right or the left (Prov. 4:26-27; 11:19).

A GODLY WOMAN WILL MEET THE NEEDS OF HER HUSBAND

Man needs companionship. In Genesis 2:18, the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." Accordingly, the Lord fashioned Eve from the rib He had taken from the side of

IS SHE MEETING HIS NEEDS?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Adam. Presenting her to the man, He said, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh" (vs. 24). A godly woman will walk beside her husband, working together, playing together, worshipping together, and raising their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

“Talk so your husband will listen, and listen so your husband will talk.”

Husbands and wives need to be fully committed to the marital union. Many consider divorce an easy way out of a troubled relationship. Malachi condemned the Israelites for dealing treacherously with their wives: "I hate divorce," says the Lord, the God of Israel (Mal. 2:13-16). In like manner, Jesus imposed strict limitations upon those who could scripturally divorce and remarry (Matt. 19:3-9). A godly woman will manifest the same attitude as did Ruth toward Naomi: "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the Lord do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me" (Ruth 1:16-17).

Husbands and wives need to effectively communicate. The admonition, "be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger," has obvious application to marriage (James 1:19-20). Someone once said, "Talk so your husband will listen, and listen so your husband will talk." Both parties need to be cautious in speech, restraining the lips and bridling the tongue (Prov. 10:19;

17:27; James 3:2-12).

Husbands and wives must love one another, with every shade of meaning communicated by the relevant Greek words for love. A godly wife will strive to fulfill the sexual needs of her husband (Greek: *eros*; Prov. 5:15-23; Heb. 13:4). She will manifest natural affection toward her family (Greek: *storgē*; Rom. 1:28-32; 12:10-13). She will evidence the love of friendship toward her husband and children (Greek: *philos*; Titus 2:3-5; John 15:12-15). She will also exhibit Christian love, i.e., the self-sacrificial love of faith which seeks the highest good of another. She will love God with all her heart, while loving her husband and children as herself (Greek: *agapē*; Rom. 13:8-10; 1 Cor. 13:4-7).

CONCLUSION

Much more could be said on this subject. Many good resources are available for further study. Elsewhere this special issue challenges husbands by asking, "Am I Meeting Her Needs?" In conclusion, each individual must ask (and honestly answer), "Am I a blessing or a curse to my family?" A godly wife will develop those spiritual attributes that will cause her to be a blessing. She will avoid those carnal deficiencies that will cause her to be a curse. She will seek, in every way, to meet the scripturally-defined physical and spiritual needs of her husband.



Is CORPORAL PUNISHMENT CHILD ABUSE?

WILSON ADAMS

No.

differences and where we stand as a society of parental enablers, here goes. I have to give you fair warning, some may not like what I say.

The Publix supermarket where we shop is usually a quiet and tranquil place. The other day it became a miniature war zone. Two siblings shattered the silence with such yelling and screaming that clerks and customers came running to the rescue. What they found were two out-of-control kids and a completely oblivious mother who was too distracted by reading food labels. I've seen it multiple times and in multiple venues (including church assemblies). Of course, if anyone dares speak up or out, watch as the Pollyanna parents of this generation come to the rescue of . . . *the non-responsible parent*. "Maybe her children have A.D.D. . . ." "Maybe she was having a bad day. . . ." "Maybe you shouldn't judge. . . ." Okay. I get all of that. But here's some tough truth to chew on: "Maybe . . . she is a lousy and irresponsible parent who happens to be raising brats that will all-too-soon become part of society." If you don't believe that, then ask a teacher, an employer, or a police officer. They see it.

Look around. America's kids are a mess! They are overweight (childhood diabetes is skyrocketing!), overmedicated, overindulged, under-disciplined, and living with a sense of entitlement. Okay, whose fault is that? Our kids can't read, write, or speak respectfully to an adult. They can, however, text with their thumbs. Wonderful. So, they grow up thinking their parents owe them a living. Or the government does. Sure, there are exceptions. If your kids qualify as such, I will hug your neck.

It's time we place the blame exactly where it needs to be: the lack of parental love and discipline. Too many parents think it's their job to be their boy's buddy or their daughter's girl-

If you want a simple answer to a simple question, that's it. If you want a more detailed explanation of the

friend. Uh, no. Your #1 God-given duty is to . . . *parent*. I know what some are thinking . . . "What if they won't like me . . . ?" Here it is in a nutshell: They won't like you! But they will grow up and respect you—and then they will like you. So don't get the cart before the horse or in this case the respect before the discipline.

“

"For those whom the Lord loves, He disciplines"

I've met some new-generation parents who have bought into the silly idea that if you reason with your two-year-old you will never need to spank him. Have you ever tried to "reason" with a two-year-old? I'm assuming it takes one to know one. I've also noticed a pattern in those households—the general rule is this: the children rule the roost . . . and the rooster!

GOD LINKS LOVE AND DISCIPLINE

"For those whom the Lord loves, He disciplines" (Heb. 12:6a). God declares an inseparable link between love and discipline. Even though initially unpleasant, love recognizes the long-term good (12:11). We understand this truth when we take our children to the doctor to get a shot. Even though painful, we realize the benefits outweigh the immediate discomfort. Scripture is blunt: if you fail to correct and discipline your child, you are withholding the very thing he needs (Prov. 29:15, 17).

When discipline is fair, boundaries are clear, and the rules made plain, children grow up with a sense of calm and peace. Like the police-officer turning the doorknobs of businesses at night, even though he tries to open the door, he is relieved to find it locked and secure. So it is when your child tests your authority. And he/she will test it.

Is CORPORAL PUNISHMENT CHILD ABUSE?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Child Abuse

Unfair and unexpected
Degrading and demoralizing
Extremely harsh and brutal
Tortuous and leaves scars
Promoted by hatred
Causes emotional damage

Godly Discipline

Fair and expected
Upholds dignity
Balanced and within limits
Painful—but leaves no scars
Promoted by love
Strengthens self-esteem

NECESSARY DISTINCTIONS

1. The distinction between child abuse and godly discipline. The stories of child abuse are sickening. However, because some parents go to the extreme of brutality doesn't mean the solution lies in the other extreme.

"He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently" (Prov.13:24). That verse used to scare me to death. Maybe it was supposed to. The term "rod" is the idea of a "switch." A timely "switch" to the backside of a rebellious child works wonders. I've known parents who made the child go to the bush and choose the switch (some of you are smiling). Wise move. For one thing, the "switch approach" lets *both* parent and child give some thought to the situation. It allows upset parents to calm down and take a measured response. It avoids crossing the line. My parents believed in the "Board of Education" (their switch) and liked to say it works best when applied "to the seat of learning." I can attest to that. My wife's "rod" is a spatula. If you don't think it works, ask the grandchildren.

2. The distinction between crushing the spirit and shaping the will. "When the heart is sad, the spirit is broken" (Prov.15:13). We have all seen children who have lost their sparkle. Contrast that with godly discipline that seeks to build within a child a sense of responsibility, direction, and self-confidence that will take them successfully through life. "And fathers, do not provoke your children. . ." (Eph. 6:4a). Why does he call *us* out? Maybe it's because dads have a greater tendency to become overbearing. It's a warning we must take to heart.

3. The distinction between natural childishness and willful defiance. We must give our kids room to be . . . *kids*. – To discover. – To learn. – To make mistakes. Children will naturally forget things, spill things, lose things, and break things. In so doing, they aren't being malicious or defiant. However, when he/she sticks their little hairy toe across the line you have drawn or speaks a defiant, "No!" or "You shut up!" –it's a call to battle. And it is a battle of the wills that you must conquer and win. Unknowingly, your child is asking you if you are in charge. Sadly, many parents aren't.

It's not enough to "think positive" when it comes to parenting. It takes "hands on" discipline and a willingness to roll up your sleeves, push aside passivity, and get to work. "Discipline your son while there is hope . . ." (Prov. 19:18a). Implied . . . there will come a time when it is beyond hope. You don't want to go there or your child to go there.

Okay, no more excuses. It's time for Christians to step up to the plate and parent. And if you don't see the problem, I'm not sure what world you're living in. Our society is messed up. Our parenting is messed up. Do you think there is a connection between the two?

Murfreesboro, TN • adams.w@juno.com

Wilson works with the Veterans Parkway church in Murfreesboro and has authored the Courageous Living series of books. His book, "Co-Parenting with God" contains much more information than this article will allow. It is available through CEI Bookstore.



THE VALUE OF LEARNING “No”

BRUCE REEVES

We have all had that infamous experience in Wal-Mart as we were waiting to check out. There was a young mother literally negotiating with her three year old and begging for him to behave. Each of us has had the same thought, “She has a long road ahead of her.” The fact is that it does not have to be this way! There is great value in learning the wisdom of saying “no.” Parenting biblically requires us to understand that love is not necessarily acceptance. Our responsibility as parents is to wisely lead, affirm, protect, and instruct and in doing so to follow the example of our Heavenly Father. Yet, if we are to raise godly children in an ungodly world we must be willing to swim against the current of our culture’s hostile attack against God and our families.

SAYING “NO” REQUIRES CHARACTER AND CONSISTENCY

If you are devoid of character, you lose the moral standing to say “no” to your children and expect a significant influence to have been exerted on their hearts. When we are inconsistent in upholding scriptural values, we are guilty of sending mixed messages to our children. The old phrase, “Do as I say and not as I do” is not effective in the home and does not work in reality. While parents are not perfect, we can be faithful.

Take heed to yourself and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren (Deut. 4:9-10).

The discipline of our children includes training, correction and wise counsel. If we are emotionally invested in the lives of our children our encouragement and love will have greater impact. The emotionally absentee father has little ground to stand on when it is time to offer reproof and loving correction. The instructive correction of our children includes certain critical elements, which engaged parents most effectively express. The loving parent must be honest, consistent,

patient, loving, communicative, and must model the correct behavior.

How do we do so? We must educate with truth, explain spiritual principles, and make it relevant! Loving parents will accept responsibility, care enough to correct, pray for wisdom, study and apply God’s word, listen, and be there for their family. When a loving father and mother of this caliber correct their children it is truly a proactive expression of love. Paul wrote, *“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord”* (Eph. 6:4).

SAYING “NO” DEMANDS SPIRITUAL STRENGTH

The convenient and passive approach is characteristic of a weak and foolish parent. In reality, it is not evidence of love, but of selfishness. The Scriptures emphasize the need for the courage of correction. Solomon wrote, *“He who withholds his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently”* (Prov. 13:24). Parenting without boundaries is parenting without love. We have a short time to offer correction. Solomon again wrote, *“Discipline your son while there is hope, and do not desire his death”* (Prov. 19:18). The consequences of parents who have not learned the value of saying “no” is the raising of children without self-control, which inevitably ends in eternal destruction in hell. The Scriptures warn us of this tragedy, *“Do not hold back discipline from the child, although you strike him with the rod, he will not die. You shall strike him with the rod and rescue his soul from Sheol”* (Prov. 23:13-14). Saying “no” provides us with a teaching opportunity to explain to our children not only why we are saying “no” but also why God says “no.”

THE CONSEQUENCES OF PARENTS WHO REFUSE TO SAY “NO”

I have no desire to stereotypically categorize young Christians today. I have heard such done on many occasions. I have been blessed to see young Christians graciously share their faith in Christ and passionately worship God. However, we cannot turn a blind eye to ➤

THE VALUE OF LEARNING “No”

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

the generational trends of our culture and the impact of such trends upon the spiritual condition of our families and the Lord’s church. The consequences of parents who have not seen the value of saying “no” is evident in our society today as we consider what has been called the “me-generation” or the “entitlement generation.”

Jean Twenge, author of *Generation Me: Why Today’s Young Americans are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled and More Miserable Than Ever* and of San Diego State University, documents the problems we are experiencing today, “*As the worldwide economic downturn begins to hit home, parents who are used to paying for everything from private music lessons to soccer team fees to cell phone bills to college tuition may have to explain to their children — some for the first time — why they can’t continue doing so. . . .*” Dr. Twenge continues her evaluation, “*I see no evidence that today’s young people feel much attachment to duty or to group cohesion. Instead . . . young people have been consistently taught to put their own needs first and to focus on feeling good about themselves. This is not an attitude conducive to following social rules or favoring the group’s needs over the individual’s.*” Florida State University business professor, Wayne Horchwarter, agrees with Twenge when it comes to the root cause of the entitled mentality. His recent study shows “*much of it has to do with society and the way parents raise their special little angels, the pace of life with MTV and video games. Young people have a bit of a struggle with delayed gratification,*” not because they were born that way, but “*because their parents conditioned them,*” he said. Materialism is the most visible manifestation of entitlement, “*These kids did not raise themselves; they didn’t make this stuff up. Sometimes people think I’m blaming young people. That’s not the way it happened,*” Twenge said.

The consequence of parents raising the entitlement-generation is that such a spirit is in total antagonism to “*the mind of Christ*” (Phil. 2:5-8; Matt. 16:24). This disposition prevents true discipleship, genuine surrender to the Lord, fruitful work in the local church, and a healthy

marriage and family life. It is the heart of sin and is self-destructive. What happens when the “me generation” is parenting – this is what we are seeing today. The long-term results is a negative impact on our country, local churches, marriages, and families. Demands for the market-driven approach to the work of the church, the social gospel, and the dilution of the truth only fuel the problem. Paul wrote of those who are the “*enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things*” (Phil. 3:18-19).

THE SOLUTION IS THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

The solution to this problem is found in the pure gospel of Christ. There are godly parents who refuse to allow a sinful culture to mold their parenting approach. The gospel of grace demands the abdication of pride – there goes “I am entitled.” While the vernacular of modern day preachers who speak of one’s “Best Life Now” or “Being Born To Be A Champion” may be attractive to the entitlement generation, it is foreign to the preaching of the cross. As parents, let us teach our children that life is not about what they can get out of it, but what they can give in the work of their Lord. The greatest joy is in fellowship, sharing, encouraging, submitting, and serving. May God help us to learn the value of “no”!



TM



TELLING BIBLE STORIES TO YOUNG HEARTS

LINDA RILEY

"We will tell about His power and the miracles He has done" (Psa. 78:4, ICB).

A four-year old boy races across the playground to tell me something very important.

"Mrs. Linda! Guess what?" He swallows hard, catching his breath. I bend down for William to tell me about a new special event in his life. Did he see the recent comet streaking across our northwestern sky? No. "God made the world!" he exclaims.

"God made the world!"

I look at him, amazed. So this is the power of a Bible story. William knows me only as a Bible storyteller who comes to his pre-school once a week. Not too many months before, I had told William and his classmates the story about creation from the first pages of the Bible. And now this! A young seedling already expressing his faith. Not a celestial event, exactly, but a spiritual one, even more marvelous. I hug my little friend and water his new roots. "That's right, William, God made our wonderful world."

William, like any child of four or five, has a heart poised for belief. He likes to hear about God; he wants his faith built with one Bible story after another. He eagerly anticipates every story's climax; he delights in all the details (golden earrings to make a calf?!). He openly declares every theme ("God made the world!"). To such a heart, the Author of the Universe speaks. No wonder my part seems so easy; I need only tell God's stories and the children will

come? Yes. The little children will come. God has designed them to do so. Appreciating His creation of the open and receptive child is my most important "work" as a mother, teacher, and friend of the preschooler. The rest becomes play.

PLAY MAKES THE BIBLE STORY REAL

When I tell a Bible story, I play. God invites *me* to become a child again. This means that when I tell about Moses, I reach for my rod; and when Moses sees the burning bush, I take off my shoes and so do my children. We are on holy ground. We all bow before a life-sized "bush" painted fiery red and listen to the voice of God. We stutter together, "I don't speak well," trying to excuse ourselves from the dreadful trip to King Pharaoh. But our Father answers, "I will go with you. . . . I will tell you what to say." His reassurance means everything to us. We can now pick up our staff and go forward. Though our brief play is over, our fearful hearts have been changed to courageous ones. Faith has been acted out.

Every home needs a burning bush; if you do not see yours, find a picture of one in a Bible storybook and ask your child to take you to it. You may be taken to a chair, a cushion, a box. Whatever it is, play along. You are re-creating God's Story and the holy time for your child to become a part inside of it. Memory verses are a cinch here. "Let my people go!" aren't words spoken from afar. They come from the child's own beating heart where they are felt and understood.

PROPS INVITE US INTO THE BIBLE STORY

In the classroom, I use props just as God did, to get His children's attention. I have a four-foot tall yellow "portfolio box" with warm purple lettering on the outside cover. It reads, MY HOLY BIBLE. Brightly decorated, it stands as a tabletop background for all our stories, reminding us of their HOLY source, the Bible. It is filled with objects that transport the children from one story to the next. Imagine pulling from it a life-size

TELLING BIBLE STORIES TO YOUNG HEARTS

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snake for the Garden and Exodus stories, or a rainbow for Noah, a lion's face for Daniel, a golden crown for Esther, or a pair of small brown sandals for boy Jesus. After story time, children will rally behind the Holy Bible box to see what else they can find there. At home, a shoe box can hold just as many discoveries when filled with miniature irresistible Bible objects—the talking points are limitless.

When the Bible is made fun for the young heart, it is experienced in delight, and God's truth becomes more to be desired than the sweetest honey.

SHOWING LOVE IS THE BEST STORY

It has been said that "what the heart knows today, the head will understand tomorrow." If this is so, the most important Bible story that I have to tell young people is the one I show. How may I best show the story of God's love? Well, we hug a lot, before and after our story. This is also the time when I listen to their stories, examine their boo-boos, and hear about their families and activities.

Then as I prepare to tell God's story, I ask my young friends to sit on carpet squares in a semi-circle around me. I kneel or sit at their eye level, and try to maintain full eye contact. With my eyes I wish to say, "I love you. You are important to God and to me."

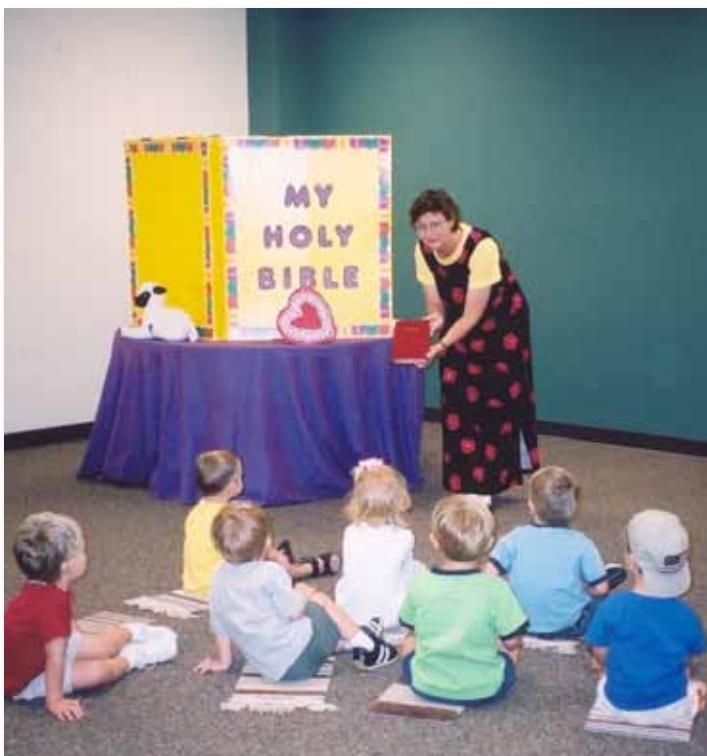
At its best, Bible storytelling is sharing a story from one's whole heart. All of the storyteller's delivery says, "William, I love you enough to tell you this amazing story from the Author of the Universe."

"I love you" is what the heart of a child understands today.

Linda Riley is a community Bible storyteller. For 16 years she has been telling weekly Bible stories to numerous preschools and church groups in Huntsville, Alabama. She is a member of the Jordan Park church of Christ.

PSALM 78: 1-4

My people, listen to my teaching.
Listen to what I say.
I will speak using stories.
I will tell things that have been secret since long ago.
We have heard them and know them.
Our fathers told them to us.
We will not keep them from our children.
We will tell those who come later about the praises of the Lord.
We will tell about his power and the miracles he has done (International Children's Bible).



Linda Riley teaching children's class



AM I LOSING TOUCH WITH MY TEENAGER?

DAVID A. COX

There is usually great anticipation among new parents with the expected arrival of a child, along with hopes and dreams for that child. Once the baby arrives, it is a wonderful thing to see the love that the child has for its parents. Not only do newborn babies love their parents, but they usually choose them first when they are seeking comfort. With few exceptions, as children grow, they hunger for a relationship with their father and mother and yearn for their approval and support. However, as children grow into adolescence or the teen years, sometimes those same children change. This once close relationship between the child and parent becomes almost non-existent and even hostile or antagonistic. It is sad to say that many parents actually begin to lose their children at this point due to not having the patience and perseverance to see this tough time through. Children are not finished growing

“Far too often, parents become preoccupied with the endeavors of life and fail to give their children the time and attention needed to train them.”

up when they become a teenager. A positive parent/child relationship contributes to better academic performance, less behavioral problems, and benefits the mental, social, and emotional well being of teenagers. All of these are worthy achievements that any parent should desire for his child. But above all, a positive parent/child relationship will lead to the child having a godly influence in his life and developing spiritually.

Far too often, parents become preoccupied with the endeavors of life and fail to give their children the time and attention needed to train them. The song made popular years ago by Harry Chapin, “Cats in the Cradle” tells the story of a

father and son and the neglect the father made of the time he had in the life of the son. How sad a song that is, but how often that song is repeated in the lives of parents. We must make time to do what God would have us to do in the training and instruction of our children; at best we only get one opportunity and a few years to get it right. The wise man says to *“hear, my children, the instruction of a father, and give attention to know understanding”* (Prov. 4:1). As we train our children, we must teach them a respect for God, obeying God, and how to walk in life by faith. This is exactly what Moses told the children of Israel, *“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up”* (Deut. 6:6-7).

Below are some suggestions that you might find useful as you raise your children.

1. **Begin early in your child's life.** The relationship between parents and teens should begin twelve years before they become a teen! We do not need to wait until our sons and daughters are 11, 12 or 15 to start building a relationship with them. Demonstrate to your children the love that you have for them. Do not automatically think that they will figure it out. Let them know they are loved.
2. **Impress upon your child God's order of authority.** The point must be impressed that God has an order of headship. God expects parents to rule their children. This is much more easily accomplished when parents begin to rule their children from a young age. Parents, especially fathers, are given the authority in the home (Eph. 5:25; 6:1,4). Let your child know that as parents you are not perfect, but fathers and mothers. Children will go through a period in life of idolizing their parents. But in time this stage changes and as children move into adolescence, they will look to develop more independence and less reliance on parents.
3. **Administer discipline consistently and promptly from an early age.** Effective and consistent discipline will go a long way in

AM I LOSING TOUCH WITH MY TEENAGER?

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the training of the child. Boundaries must be set and enforced without fail if the child is to learn. In other words, "No" means "No." The earlier that is established the better for parents and for children. When a child at an early age shows willful defiance, respond confidently and quickly without personal anger. Through the teenage years, willful defiance still has consequences.

4. Establish only the rules you plan to enforce.

Too many times rules are put in place that are never enforced and were never intended to be enforced. This creates confusion in the minds of children and will escalate in the teenage years if consistency is thrown out the door.

5. Understand your teen is growing up and it is just a natural order and process.

The younger son in Luke 15 is an example of a child who received the best training that he could have received, but he rejected it. In the end he returned to the training he had received. Naturally, children will desire their independence and will need space to make some decisions. Avoid making every decision for your teen. Let them make a few decisions that do not carry devastating consequences; help them in guiding the decision process. When a bad decision is made, let them learn from their mistake. Understand that you will not always be able to make decisions for your teens, so teach them how to make good and proper decisions in accordance with the word of God.

6. Learn about your teen.

As parents, we may say, "I know my teen. I have known him his whole life." But your teen is growing and changing. The friends that you may have known very well yourself in the years of their childhood may not be the same friends in the teen years. These friends may come from quite different backgrounds and thinking processes. With friendship being so important in influencing others, get to know your child's friends. Take the time to talk with your child, and learn about them. James exhorts, "*let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath*" (James 1:19). Listen to them and ask them to explain some things to you. This will help you to really understand what the process of their thinking is about. Encourage them to tell about the activities of the day. This will allow you to have opportunities to help with problems they are

experiencing. Communication is the key to getting to know your teenager.

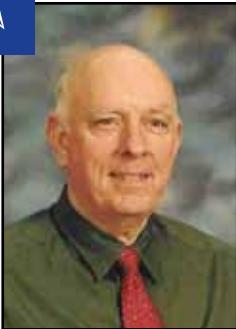
7. Let Your Teen Be Involved with You in Spiritual Work.

As you are involved and active in the Lord's work, let your teens know that you want and desire their help. As you visit the sick, bereaved, or elderly in the congregation let them participate with you. Too often we think of teenagers as not being up to this, but they need to learn how to do the Lord's work and the best way is to learn from their parents and those with a godly influence. Teenagers have much to offer in the service of the Lord. Let us encourage them and give them the example of a follower of Jesus. Let them know that you need them and that they belong.

After all the training a parent can do, teens are still teens and they will sometimes leave parents in bewilderment. The key is to begin working for the relationship early in life and maintain it throughout the years. In addition, pray for your child each day and ask for God's help and guidance. May the Lord help us to train our teens as we journey in this life together.

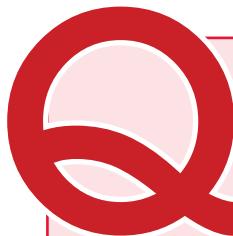
David A. Cox has been preaching for the Market Street church of Christ in Athens, Alabama since 2008.





Q&A

BOBBY GRAHAM



What is behind
the house
churches that seem to have
gained popularity?

used by the Lord to teach under all covenants), He intended for the members to decide their meeting place based on factors which they know best concerning their locale. This involves the matter of general authority (allowing options when none is specified) and specific authority (a divine provision is bound by definite stipulation by the Lord). The kind of assembly hall for a congregation is not bound by the Lord and is, therefore, open to some flexibility of arrangement to be determined by the brethren. An example of this general authority is found in Paul's instruction concerning Corinth's selecting a messenger to travel with him in delivering the contribution (1 Cor. 16:1-4).

Perhaps it is wise to speak briefly about a fairly common objection to the need for New Testament authority, because some have stated that there is no authority for a church building and none is needed; therefore, they conclude that no authority is needed for any other practice. After all, the New Testament is just a love letter containing no restrictions or strictures, just a "feel-good" missive with no authority or pattern for its recipients. A concise answer to this objection lies in Paul's practice of teaching the same thing in all churches, appointing the same things in all churches, and enjoining their obedience in all churches (1 Cor. 4:17; 7:17; 11:1). Likewise Paul's reproofs and corrections administered in his epistles presuppose a pattern with authority inherent in it (1 Cor. 11:17-34; 2 Tim. 1:13-14). Such objections arise from rebellious hearts desiring the independence to "chart their own course" on the sea of life. The problem with this attitude is that the destination port is not heaven, but eternal destruction.

Not only is this attitude seen in the objection to the need for authority for a church building, but it is also common in house-church groups. As noted earlier, my current response to the original question heading this article is quite different from earlier answers that I would have given. The reason for my change in answering is that I have seen a change in attitude toward

Q&A

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

Bible authority in numerous such groups I have learned about. My current thinking is that most of them began with an unscriptural agenda which they found unacceptable in some established congregations, thus accounting for their departure to meet in a house, a school, or some other facility. These agendas, easily established from the changes implemented in these new groups, include transforming the Lord's Supper into a different kind of meal, the desire to move away from "doctrinal" teaching done in their former congregations, feeling the need to exist without elders to oversee the local group, broader allowance of women in speaking, "testifying," and other functions in the local assembly. These practices are so prevalent in "house churches" that have come to define what "house churches" are and why they begin.

There seems never to be an end to the endeavors of men to alter the divine plan. "Behold, this only have I found: that God made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions." (Eccl 7:29, ASV). Boredom with the old and a fascination with the new seem ever to drive many in their religious professions. As it has been, so will it ever be until the Savior returns to consummate His plan for saving all

who genuinely trust Him. Trust in the Lord is the bedrock upon which all acceptable faith and practice are built.

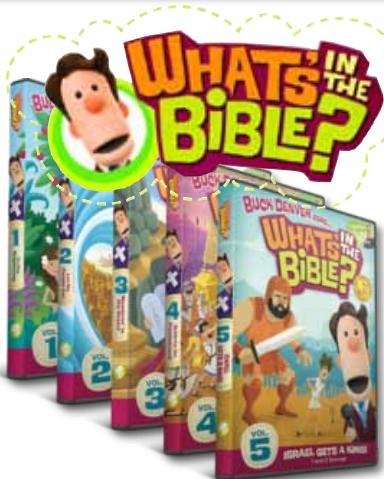
Trust in Jehovah with all thy heart,
And lean not upon thine own understanding:
In all thy ways acknowledge him,
And he will direct thy paths.
Be not wise in thine own eyes;
Fear Jehovah, and depart from evil:
It will be health to thy navel,
And marrow to thy bones (Prov. 3:5-8).

Modern Jeroboams, sometimes styling themselves as "radical restorationists," yet venture into the jurisdiction of the divine and arrogate to themselves rights never intended for humans (Jer. 10:23), frequently approving their decisions by their own reasonings (Isa. 55:8-9). When men exclude God and the influence of His word of truth, their vain reasonings are prompted by their own selfish desires, rooted in their own idle speculations, and validated by their own human standards (Rom. 1:21).

*Bobby L. Graham
bobbylgraham@pclnet.net*

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THE PRECIOUS WORD OF GOD

STEVE WALLACE

Words often bring relief or rejoicing. A doctor's words bring the wonderful news that the patient is going to be alright in spite of a seemingly life-threatening problem. A rescue team calls a father and mother with the news that they have found their lost child safe. Medical science reports that they have discovered a cure for some sickness, bringing joy to many who suffer from it. How precious words can be!

This writer was not alone in his assessment of the word of God. Many have found it to be "more to be desired than gold." Let us note some examples of this.

preached by Philip, the Ethiopian Eunuch "went on his way rejoicing" (Acts 8:39). Those who responded to the good news of God's word at Antioch of Pisidia "were filled with joy" (Acts 13:52). Especially precious was the word to the Philippian jailer. One can only imagine his misery as the account of his conversion begins. Paul had to persuade him not to kill himself before he could preach the saving Gospel to him. He believed and responded to God's word. The account of his conversion closes by saying that he "rejoiced greatly, with all his house, having believed in God" (Acts 16:27-34). As we meet lost people from day to day let us remember how precious the Gospel can be to those that will hear and obey it.

PLEASE READ THE WORDS OF THE PSALMIST IN THIS LIGHT:

The law of Jehovah is perfect, restoring the soul: The testimony of Jehovah is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of Jehovah are right, rejoicing the heart: The commandment of Jehovah is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of Jehovah is clean, enduring for ever: The ordinances of Jehovah are true, *and* righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the droppings of the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: In keeping them there is great reward (Ps. 19:7-11)

GOD'S WORD IS PRECIOUS TO THE LOST

After hearing that Jesus, whom they had crucified, is Lord and Christ, Peter's audience in Acts 2 "were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Brethren, what shall we do?" (v. 37). What good news it was to them when "Peter said unto them, 'Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'" (v. 38). We can well understand when it says they "gladly received" the word and were baptized. God's word was precious to them and they were anxious to comply with it.

As the history of the early church recorded in Acts unfolds we are treated with one example after another of the preciousness of the word of God. After hearing and obeying the word

GOD'S WORD IS PRECIOUS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHILD OF GOD

This is true in ways that all Christians must recognize if they are to persevere unto eternal salvation. The promises of God contained in the Bible gender and nurture the *hope* of heaven (Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18). One purpose of studying the Old Testament is "that through patience and through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope" (Rom. 15:4). All Christians will go through difficult times where the devil tempts them to give up. The word of God is the answer as it builds the Christian up and renews him (Acts 20:32; Eph. 4:23-24). God's people sometimes fall into sin. Again, God's word responds to this need as it restores or converts the soul (Ps. 19:7, ASV, KJV). More could be said under this point but what we have said suffices to add emphasis to Paul's words in 2 Timothy 3:16-17,

THE PRECIOUS WORD OF GOD
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness. That the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work.

CHRISTIAN THINKS ABOUT DEATH

"Our Saviour Christ Jesus" has "abolished

death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Tim. 1:10). The gospel is unmatched in its explanation of the details of the afterlife. It describes the hadean realm and heaven (Luke 16:19-26; John 14:1-3; 2 Cor. 5:1-10; Rev. 21-22). It gives a detailed explanation of the resurrection of the dead (1 Cor. 15:35-54). It gives God's people a victorious picture of the

faithful who have gone before (Rev. 7:9-17; 20:1). One searches the bookstores in vain for books similar to the Bible. Indeed, no book's words can hold a candle to the "precious and exceeding great promises" contained in God's word (2 Pet. 1:4).

May we all reme

have reviewed in this brief article. The word of God is not only important to the lost and erring around us, it is important to every Christian. Let us continue to read it, study it, and hold fast to its teaching! “For, All flesh is as grass, And all the glory thereof as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower falleth: But the word of the Lord abideth for ever” (1 Pet. 1:24-25). TM

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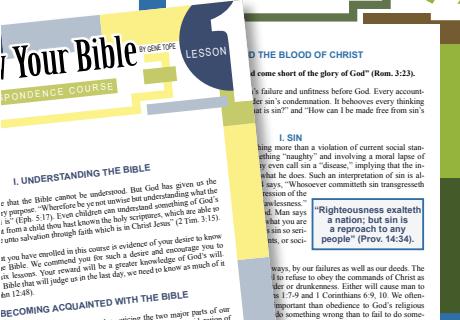


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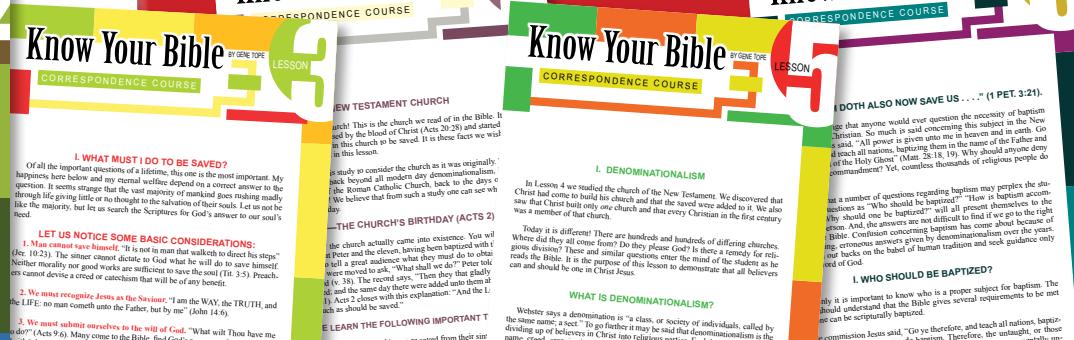
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¹ Studied the church of the New Testament.

come to build his church and that the saved were added to it. We also saw that Christ built only one church and that every Christian was a member of that church.

Today it is different! There is no longer any Christian in the first century

Where did they all come from? Do they please God? Is there a reason for religious division? These and similar questions have been asked by many.

These and similar questions enter the mind of the student as he reads the Bible. It is the purpose of this lesson to demonstrate that man and should be one in Christ.

... should be one in Christ Jesus. ... to demonstrate that all believers

WHAT IS DENOMINATIONALISM?

Webster says a denomination is "a class, or society of individuals, bearing the same name; a sect." The word "denomination" is derived from the Latin word *denominatio*, which means "a giving a name to."

erroneous answers given by denominationalism. Let us leave the babel of human tradition and seek guidance only

APRIL 2002

I. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

is important to know who is a proper subject for baptism. It should be noted that the Bible gives several requirements to be met.

... in all nations, baptiz-



BUILD STRONG HOMES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason **God gave them up to vile passions**. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over to a debased mind**, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, malice; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them (Rom. 1:18-32).

Three times God's judgment is pronounced: God gave them up to uncleanness . . . to vile passions . . . to a debased mind. The self-destructive force of sin is in its own seed. When men reject God, He backs away and lets them reap the harvest of their own sowing. Hosea wrote, "They sow the wind, And reap the whirlwind" (8:7). As America's harvest begins to ripen, it is not a pretty sight!

In a world so filled with moral decay, the light of the Christian message shines. We forget how debased a society can become. Suetonius'

description of the ungodliness of Nero, Rome's emperor, illustrates for us how immoral a people can become. He wrote the following about Nero:

XXVI. Petulance, lewdness, luxury, avarice, and cruelty, he practised at first with reserve and in private, as if prompted to them only by the folly of youth; but, even then, the world was of opinion that they were the faults of his nature, and not of his age. After it was dark, he used to enter the taverns disguised in a cap or a wig, and ramble about the streets in sport, which was not void of mischief. He used to beat those he met coming home from supper; and, if they made any resistance, would wound them, and throw them into the common sewer. He broke open and robbed shops; establishing an auction at home for selling his booty. In the scuffles which took place on those occasions, he often ran the hazard of losing his eyes, and even his life; being beaten almost to death by a senator, for handling his wife indecently. After this adventure, he never again ventured abroad at that time of night, without some tribunes following him at a little distance. In the day-time he would be carried to the theatre incognito in a litter, placing himself upon the upper part of the proscenium, where he not only witnessed the quarrels which arose on account of the performances, but also encouraged them. When they came to blows, and stones and pieces of broken benches began to fly about, he threw them plentifully amongst the people, and once even broke a praetor's head.

XXVII. His vices gaining strength by degrees, he laid aside his jocular amusements, and all disguise; breaking out into enormous crimes, without the least attempt to conceal them.



BUILD STRONG HOMES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

His revels were prolonged from mid-day to midnight, while he was frequently refreshed by warm baths, and, in the summer time, by such as were cooled with snow. He often supped in public, in the Naumachia, with the sluices shut, or in the Campus Martius, or the Circus Maximus, being waited upon at table by common prostitutes of the town, and Syrian strumpets and glee-girls. As often as he went down the Tiber to Ostia, or coasted through the gulf of Baiae, booths furnished as brothels and eating-houses, were erected along the shore and river banks; before which stood matrons, who, like bawds and hostesses, allured him to land. It was also his custom to invite himself to supper with his friends; at one of which was expended no less than four millions of sesterces in chaplets, and at another something more in roses.

XXVIII. Besides the abuse of free-born lads, and the debauch of married women, he committed a rape upon Rubria, a Vestal Virgin. He was upon the point of marrying Acte, his freedwoman, having suborned some men of consular rank to swear that she was of royal descent. He gelded the boy Sporus, and endeavoured to transform him into a woman. He even went so far as to marry him, with all the usual formalities of a marriage settlement, the rose-coloured nuptial veil, and a numerous company at the wedding. When the ceremony was over, he had him conducted like a bride to his own house, and treated him as his wife. It was jocularly observed by some person, "that it would have been well for mankind, had such a wife fallen to the lot of his father Domitius." This Sporus he carried about with

him in a litter round the solemn assemblies and fairs of Greece, and afterwards at Rome through the Sigillaria, dressed in the rich attire of an empress; kissing him from time to time as they rode together. That he entertained an incestuous passion for his mother, but was deterred by her enemies, for fear that this haughty and overbearing woman should, by her compliance, get him entirely into her power, and govern in every thing, was universally believed; especially after he had introduced amongst his concubines a strumpet, who was reported to have a strong resemblance to Agrippina (*The Twelve Caesars*, 227-228).

Roman Emperor Nero's immoral conduct reminds us of how bad a culture can become. During the same period of time that Nero was guilty of such blatant ungodliness, he was executing Christians because of their faithfulness to the Lord! Early church traditions tell us that Paul was beheaded on the Ostesian Road and Peter was crucified upside down (*Acts of Peter and Paul*). This apocryphal book is not inspired revelation, but it may be recounting accurate historical facts.

This issue of *Truth Magazine* is designed to remind us how important it is for us to keep our families faithful to the Lord. Irven Lee reminded us that, even as Lois and Eunice could raise a godly son (Timothy) in the midst of such an immoral society, so also can we. Let us not lose heart, give up, and throw up our hands and quit! Rather, let us face the strong head winds of immorality with our faith intact and hold up the light of the gospel to a world that has lost its way.

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AD SPACE AVAILABLE PLACE YOURS TODAY! tmmikewillis@gmail.com	FORT MYERS, FL Church of Christ 200 Pine Island Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Vernon E. Ford (239) 567-0819	To make changes to your ad, contact us at tmmikewillis@gmail.com	CENTERVILLE, GA Centerville Church of Christ 250 Collins Ave. (Near Robins AFB) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: J. Wiley Adams (478) 922-1158	Shop online @ ceibooks.com	
MILTON, DE Lighthouse Church of Christ 14574 Coastal Hwy. Rt. 1 Worship 9:30 A.M. Sunday School 10:45 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (302) 644-7379	FORT MYERS, FL Southside Church of Christ 13641 Learning Ct. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: David P. Schmidt (433-2838 or 482-2158)	MIAMI, FL Flagler Grove Church of Christ (Nearest to Airport) 500 N.W. 53rd Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: John Buttrick (305) 634-5924	PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL Beach Church of Christ 8910 Front Beach Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Ben Liggin (850) 234-2521 or 234-1368	CONYERS, GA Rockdale Church of Christ East Metro Atlanta, 705 Smyrna Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Forrest Bacon, elder (770) 918-1932; Wendell Holland, elder (770) 761-6987; Building (770) 929-3973	CHICAGO, IL Church of Christ 1514 West 74th Street Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: James E. Scott Bldg. (773) 224-9279 (708) 339-6126
MIAMI, FL Church of Christ Eglise du Christ de Miami 8343 NE 3rd Ct. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Minister: Junot Joseph (305) 244-8295	FT. WALTON BEACH, FL 6 Lane Dr. Mary Esther, FL Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joey Rankin (850) 244-9222	MIAMI, FL Church of Christ 12780 Quail Roost Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Clark Pace (305) 233-9590 or (954) 430-1437	PANAMA CITY, FL Church of Christ 3339 Florida Ave. (Between Baldwin Rd. & Hwy. 390) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Marvin Hudson (850) 265-6539	PINE MTN. VALLEY, GA Church of Christ Route 116 (near Callaway Gardens) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Tommy W. Thomas (706) 628-5117 or 628-5229	DOWNTOWN GROVE, IL Church of Christ 1236 63rd St. (1 and 1/2 mile E. of I-355) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:55 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (630) 968-0760 • www.dgcoc.org
SHOP online @ ceibooks.com	FROSTPROOF, FL Church of Christ 40 W. "A" St. Frostproof, FL 33483 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Jimmy Ford, preacher (863) 635-2607 or 635-4278	OCALA, FL Anthony Church of Christ 9778 N.E. Jacksonville Rd. Anthony, FL 32617 Bible Study 9 A.M. Worship 10 A.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: Greg Cruz phone: 352-629-5505 www.anthonycocf.com	PENSACOLA, FL East Hill Church of Christ 2078 E. Nine Mile Rd. at Camberwell Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Hal Hammons (850) 479-2130 and (850) 602-8420	SAVANNAH, GA Coastal Church of Christ 7201 Johnny Mercer Blvd Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ron Nelson ronaldnelson1@gmail.com (912) 306-4631 www.coastalchurchofchrist.com	GLEN ELLYN, IL Church of Christ 796 Prairie, 60137 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Joseph T. Novak (630) 529-2149 (630) 858-2290
BROOKSVILLE, FL Church of Christ 604 W. Fort Dade Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: V.C. McCormick (352) 796-9803	GENEVA, FL Church of Christ Ave. C and 2nd St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. (407) 349-9998	ORLANDO, FL Pine Hills Church of Christ 890 Hastings St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ray West (407) 293-2851 or 290-8650	SEFFNER, FL Church of Christ 621 E. Wheeler Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Bobby Witherington (813) 684-1297 www.seffnercoc.org	VALDOSTA, GA Gonwood Church of Christ 4030 Mulligan Rd.(4 mi. S. of Moody) Next to Fred's Store on Berniss Rd. Valdosta, GA 31605 Sunday Bible Class 10 A.M. Sunday Morn. Worship 11 A.M. Sunday Eve. Worship 6 P.M. Wed. Eve. Bible Class 7 P.M. (229) 219-8449 or (229) 300-3739 agospelpreacher@gmail.com	MATTOON, IL Southside Church of Christ 1100 S. 17th St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (217) 234-3702
AD SPACE AVAILABLE PLACE YOURS TODAY! tmmikewillis@gmail.com	HOLLYWOOD, FL Harding St. Church of Christ 5828 Harding St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (954) 961-4112	ORLANDO, FL Azalea Park Church of Christ 6800 Lake Underhill Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: James P. Needham (407) 277-7931 or 628-2995	SUBSCRIBE Today! TRUTH MAGAZINE	VALDOSTA, GA Church of Christ 4313 North Valdosta Rd. (Located 1 mile E. of Exit 22 off I-75) Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. (No evening worship) Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (229) 244-8630	PALATINE, IL Church of Christ (N.W. Chicago Suburb) 1050 N. Deer Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (847) 967-9667
DELAND, FL North Blvd. Church of Christ 823 N. Woodland Blvd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jack Owen (386) 734-6907 or 734-4311	Subscribe Today! Truth Magazine 855-49-BOOKS 855-492-6657	ORLANDO, FL S. Bumby Church of Christ 3940 S. Bumby Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joshua C. Creel (407) 851-8031 or (321) 235-3307	855-49-BOOKS 855-492-6657	HI - ISLAND OF OAHU Leeward Church of Christ 94-1233 Waipahu St. Waipahu, HI 96797 (15 mi. from Honolulu: 18 mi. from Waikiki) Bible Study 9 am Worship 10 am Evening 6 pm Wednesday 7 pm www.leewardchurchofchrist.org Anthony Genton: (808) 671-0239	CLARKSVILLE, IN Clarksville Church of Christ 407 W. Lewis & Clark Pkwy. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Kipp Campbell (502) 593-6868 or (812) 944-2305 www.cvcfc.org 948-9917

Directory of Churches

ELLETTSVILLE, IN
Church of Christ
303 W. Temperance St.
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Paul Adams
(812) 876-2285

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Greenwood Church of Christ
371 W. Main St.
Sun. Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 4:30 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Evangelists: Dan Barker & Steve Niemeier
(317) 888-8288
www.churchofchristatgreenwood.org

HOBART, IN
Church of Christ
300 N. Liberty St.
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Jerry Cleek
(219) 942-2663

SALEM, IN
Westside Church of Christ
2000 West State Rd. 56
Bible Study 10:00 A.M.
Worship 10:45 A.M.
Evening 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Evan Casey
(812) 883-2033
www.westsidechurchofchrist.info

PLAINFIELD, IN
Church of Christ West
2028 Stafford Rd., Suite C
(Marsh Shopping Center)
Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
Worship 9:50 A.M.
Evening 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Johnie Edwards
(317) 964-9404 or (317) 839-1769
www.churchofchristwest.org

INDIANAPOLIS, IN
Castlereagh Church of Christ
7701 East 86th St., 46256
SUNDAY
Worship 9:30 A.M.
Bible Study 10:25 A.M.
Worship 11:15 A.M.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 7:00 P.M.
(317) 710-1204

JAMESTOWN, IN
Church of Christ
Bible Study 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:25 A.M.
Evening 4:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Greg King
(765) 676-6404 or (765) 891-9443
www.jamestownccc.com

MARION, IN
South Marion Church of Christ
3629 S. Washington St.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Alan Jones
(765) 922-7602
www.southmarionchurchofchrist.org

OOLITIC, IN
Church of Christ
400 Lafayette Ave.
P.O. Box 34
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
(812) 279-4332

PEKIN, IN
Church of Christ
(First St. & Karnes Ct.)
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Jeremy Goen
(812) 967-3437 or 967-3520
www.pekinchurchofchrist.com

EL DORADO, KS
Emporia St. Church of Christ
1154 S. Emporia
Bible Study 10:00 A.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M.
Evening 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
(316) 250-7123



DANVILLE, KY
385 E. Lexington Ave.
Worship 10:00 A.M.
Bible Study 11:15 A.M.
Evening 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Scott Vifguain
(859) 236-4204

BOSSIER CITY, LA
Bossier Church of Christ
2917 Foster
Bible Study 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
(318) 747-4308 or 742-4557

CEDAR SPRINGS, MI
Grand Rapids Area
W. Michigan church of Christ
Sr. Citizen Center, 44 Park St.
Worship 11:00 A.M.
Bible Study 12:30 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Joseph Gladwell
(616) 975-2778
westmichcofc10@yahoo.com

FRANKLIN, KY
31-W North Church of Christ
1733 Bowling Green Road
Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
Worship 10:00 A.M.
Evening 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Steve Monts
(270) 586-3978
www.franklinchurch.com

LEESVILLE, LA
White Park Church of Christ
17801 Nolan Trace; 20 mi. from
Fort Polk (5 mi. W. of Leesville)
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:35 A.M.
Evening 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
(337) 239-4614
www.whiteparkchurchofchrist.org

DULUTH, MN
Church of Christ
4401 Glennwood St.
Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
Worship 10:00 A.M.
Bible Study 5:30 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Nick Krumrei
(218) 728-3233

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12095 Texas Hwy. (Hwy. 6 W.)
12 miles west of Many
Bible Study 10:00 A.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M.
Evening 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
(318) 256-9396

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Mill St. Church of Christ
733 Mill Street, Highway 62 E.
Bible Study 10:00 A.M.
Worship 10:55 A.M.
Evening 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Michael Hardin
(270) 259-4968, (270) 300-3239
www.millstreetchurchofchrist.org

STONEWALL, LA
N. DeSoto Church of Christ
2071 Highway 171
(South of Shreveport)
Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
Worship 10:00 A.M.
Evening 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
(318) 925-2733

LOUISVILLE, KY
Valley Station Church of Christ
1803 Dixie Garden Dr.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Dudley Ross Spears
(502) 937-2822

PORTLAND, ME
Church of Christ
856 Brighton Ave.
(Breakwater School)
Leave Maine Turnpike at Exit 48
Bible Study 10:00 A.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M.
Second service immediately following
morning worship. Mid-week Bible
Study—Please call for times & places
(207) 839-3075 or 839-8409

ST. CHARLES, MN
Church of Christ
636 Whitewater Ave.
Bible Study 10:00 A.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M.
Wednesday 7PM, call for location
Bible Study 2:15 P.M.
FREE Bible correspondence studies
Evangelist: Robert Lehnertz
(507) 534-2905



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Southside Church of Christ
2920 New Hartford Rd.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:20 A.M.
Evening 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Charles J. White
(270) 683-5386

SEVERN, MD
Southwest Church of Christ
805 Meadow Rd.
Bible Study 10:00 A.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M.
Evening 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Brandon Trout
(410) 969-1420 or (410) 551-6549
www.swochrist.com

CLINTON, MS
McRaven Rd. Church of Christ
301 McRaven Rd. (I20, exit 36)
Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
Worship 10:00 A.M.
Evening 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Leonard White
(601) 925-9757 or 924-2645

WICHITA, KS
Westside Church of Christ
2626 W. 47th St. South
Bible Study 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Mike O'Neal
(316) 729-9302 or 942-1649
www.cocwestside.com

CAMPBELLSVILLE, KY
Sunny Hill Dr. Church of Christ
(near the Dairy Queen)
AM Worship 9:30 A.M.
AM Bible Study 10:30 A.M.
AM Worship 11:30 A.M.
Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Steve Lee
stevelee4510@windstream.net
(270) 789-1651
www.SUNNYHILLCOC.COM

REGINA, KY
Road Creek Church of Christ
7 miles west of Elkhorn City
on Route 460 & Route 80
Bible Study 10:00 A.M.
Worship 10:50 A.M.
Evening 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
(606) 754-9883, 754-8642
or 754-5398

RIVERDALE, MD
(Washington, D.C. area)
Wildcroft Church of Christ
6330 Auburn Ave.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Antoine Holloway
(301) 474-7460 or (301) 741-0012

COLUMBUS, MS
Woodlawn Church of Christ
359 Sanders Mills Rd. Steen
Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
Worship 9:45 A.M.
Evening 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Willis Logan
(601) 356-6629

GRINNELL, IA
Church of Christ
1402 Third Ave.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
(641) 236-1955
(641) 521-6485
(641) 236-3883

CANEYVILLE, KY
Caneyville Church of Christ
103 N. Main St.
(near the 4 way stop)
Bible Study 10:00 A.M.
Worship 10:45 A.M.
Evening 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Jarrod Jacobs
(270) 589-4167, (270) 274-3065
or (502) 724-2231

BATON ROUGE, LA
Park Forest Church of Christ
9923 Sunny Cline Dr.
Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
Worship 10:00 A.M.
Evening 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Bill Crews
275-4684 or 273-1105

GULFPORT, MS
Morris Rd. Church of Christ
1 blk. N. of Dedeaux Rd. &
3 Rivers Rd. on Morris Rd.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Steven Carmack
(228) 832-5529

Directory of Churches

MISSISSIPPI
THROUGH
OREGON

MERIDIAN, MS Grandview Church of Christ 2820 Grandview Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. (601) 482-0543 or (601) 679-8542 Contacts: Ron Cooper and Jim Young youngins@comcast.net	HALLSVILLE, MO Hallsville Church of Christ 5855 E Hwy 124 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Raymond Breuer (573) 696-0003 Kenneth Shern (573) 442-8475	BEATRICE, NE Church of Christ 7th and Bell Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. 233-4102 or 228-3827 www.churchofchrist7bell.com	HELP VACATIONING CHRISTIANS FIND YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP	DAYTON, OH West Carrollton 28 W. Main Street, 45449 Early Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:25 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Michael Grushon (937) 866-5162, 434-3090 or 848-3779 E-mail: www.wc-coc.org	NEW CARLISLE, OH Church of Christ 235 Funston Ave. (Near Wright-Patterson AFB) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Randy Blackaby (937) 849-1643 or 845-8467 (bldg.)
MERIDIAN, MS 7th St. Church of Christ 2914 7th St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. (601) 483-3101	Shop online @ ceibooks.com	LAS VEGAS, NV Vegas Dr. Church of Christ 3816 Vegas Drive Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (702) 648-4827	CHARLOTTE, NC Charlotte Church of Christ 5327 S. Tyrone St. Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (704) 525-5655	FRANKLIN, OH Franklin Church of Christ 6417 Franklin/Lebanon Rd. Franklin, OH 45005 Sunday Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evangelist: Eston Vandever (937) 746-1249	NEW LEBANON, OH Church of Christ 1973 W. Main St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Marvin L. Eads (937) 236-6521 or 546-8828
SOUTHAVEN, MS (Memphis area) Church of Christ 2110 E State Line Rd. (Exit I-55) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: James A. Brown (662) 342-1132 - Church Building	KENNETH, MO Church of Christ 703 Harrison St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (573) 888-6778 or (870) 650-1648 Nolan Glover, Preacher www.westsidechurchofchrist.us	RESERVE YOUR CHURCHES AD SPACE TODAY! tmmikewillis@gmail.com	FREMONT, OH Church of Christ 3361 W. State St. 1 mi. W. of Fremont on U.S. Rt. 20 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (419) 849-3340 or 849-2980 www.fremontchurchofchrist.com	NEW RICHMOND, OH Church of Christ 550 Washington St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Contact: Dave Wylie (513) 553-6414 www.nrchurchofchrist.com	
BLUE SPRINGS, MO Southside Church of Christ 4000 SW Christiansen Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Brett Hogland (816) 228-9262	LILBOURN, MO P.O. Box 270 211 Benton St. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Shane Williams (573) 688-2234 or 748-5204	RENO, NV Central Church of Christ 2450 Wrondel Way, Ste. A Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (775) 786-2888	HOPE MILLS, NC Gray's Creek Church of Christ Gray's Community Bldg. School Road Worship 10 am Bible Study 11am (910) 321-9023 (910) 424-2372	HAMILTON, OH Westview Church of Christ 1040 Azel Ave. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:45 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: David A. Stansberry (513) 868-9988	NORTHWOOD, OH (Toledo Area) Church of Christ 4110 Frey Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Donald Jarabek 893-3566 or 691-0688
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO North Cape Church of Christ 121 S. Broadview St. Suite 2 Cape Girardeau, MO 63703 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jerry Lee Westbrook (573) 334-9673	RAYTOWN, MO Sterling Ave. Church of Christ 5825 Sterling Ave. (Near Sports Complex) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Norman E. Fultz (816) 358-3096 or 554-0836 www.sterlingavechurchofchrist.org	VAUXHALL, NJ Church of Christ Milbourn Mall Suite 6 2933 Vauxhall Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Harry A. Persaud Home: (908) 964-8570 Church: (908) 964-6356	BEAVERCREEK, OH Knollwood Church of Christ 1031 Welford Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Afternoon 3:00 P.M. Wed. Afternoon 1:00 P.M. Wed. Evening 7:30 P.M. (937) 426-1422 www.knollwoodchurch.org	HILLIARD, OH Church of Christ 4840 Cemetery Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (614) 876-4089	UHRICHSVILLE, OH Church of Christ 638 Parrish Street Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Mid-week 6:30 P.M.
COLUMBIA, MO Eastside Church of Christ 5051 Ponderosa Columbia, MO 65201 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. 445-5497 or 636-0224	ST. JAMES, MO Church of Christ 685 Sidney St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Lynn Huggins (573) 265-8628	Subscribe Today! Truth Magazine 855-49-BOOKS 855-492-6657	CINCINNATI, OH Church of Christ Evergreen Retirement Center 230 West Galbraith Rd. Cincinnati, Oh 45215 Sunday Morning 10:00 A.M. Phone: 513-948-1012 wchea1@yahoo.com	Subscribe Today! Truth Magazine 855-49-BOOKS 855-492-6657	HELP VACATIONING CHRISTIANS FIND YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP
DONIPHAN, MO Southside Church of Christ Hwy. 142 E. ½ mile (P.O. Box 220) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (573) 996-3251 or 996-3513	ST. JOSEPH, MO County Line Church of Christ 2727 County Line Rd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 3:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (816) 279-4737 www.countylinetchurchofchrist.com	ALBUQUERQUE, NM Heights Church of Christ 7801 Zuni Road, S.E. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Darrel Yontz (505) 266-7577 www.heightschurchofchrist.com	CLEVELAND, OH Lorain Ave. Church of Christ 13501 Lorain Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (216) 476-0660 or (330) 725-3960, 723-0111	MANSFIELD, OH Eastside Church of Christ 326 Grace Street Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Russell Dunaway, Jr. 891-3174	OKLAHOMA CITY, OK Seminole Pointe Church of Christ 16300 N. May Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: John M. Duvall (405) 340-3189 or 513-6691 www.seminolepointeconf.org
FAIR GROVE, MO Church of Christ 217 N. Orchard Blvd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Walter Myers (417) 830-8972 or (417) 736-2663	ST. JOSEPH, MO Prairie Hills Church of Christ 14273 County Rd. 307 (.7 mi. E of Intersection I-29 & Hwy. 169) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (816) 233-6485 Evangelist: Erik Smith	AD SPACE AVAILABLE PLACE YOURS TODAY! tmmikewillis@gmail.com	COLUMBUS, OH Laurel Canyon Church of Christ 409 McNaughton Rd. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (614) 868-1375 www.lccoc.net	MARIETTA-RENO, OH Marietta-Reno Church of Christ 80 Sandhill Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (740) 222-9160 (Daniel Ruegg) or 473-9028 (Steve Foutty)	TULSA, OK Woodland Hills Church of Christ 9119 E. 61 St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Ross Oldenkamp (918) 252-1220
					MEDFORD, OR Church of Christ 1850 Spring St. (Roxy Ann Grange Hall) Corner of Spring/Valley View Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Thursday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Dean Blackwell (541) 773-2649

Directory of Churches

SWEET HOME, OR Church of Christ 3702 E. Long St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Building: (541) 367-1599 http://airport-church-of-christ.com	WEST COLUMBIA, SC Airport Church of Christ 4013 Edmund Hwy. (Hwy. 302) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Seth Mauldin Building (803) 834-6978 http://airport-church-of-christ.com	KINGSPORT, TN Kingsport Church of Christ 4938 Fort Henry Drive P.O. Box 554 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Tom Kinzel Bldg. #423-239-3979 or 423-579-2002 www.kptcc.org	PIGEON FORGE, TN King Branch Road Church of Christ 560 King Branch Road Worship 10:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Facilities available for Sunday evening services upon request. Evangelist: Roger Williams (865)430-5980 www.KingBranchRoadChurchOfChrist.org	AUSTIN, TX Schultz Lane Church of Christ Faber Rd. & Schultz Ln. Pflugerville, TX 78660 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 2:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ron Lehde	DICKINSON, TX Church of Christ 2919 FM 517 Rd. E. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 9:45 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (281) 534-4870
To make changes to your ad, contact us at tmmikewillis@gmail.com			AD SPACE AVAILABLE PLACE YOURS TODAY! tmmikewillis@gmail.com		HELP VACATIONING CHRISTIANS FIND YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP
AVONDALE, PA Avondale Church of Christ 1606 Glenn Willow Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (610) 268-2088 Randy Frame (610) 869-4146	COLUMBIA, TN Jackson Hts. Church of Christ 1200 Nashville Hwy., Hwy. 31N Bible Study 9:15 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Mid-week 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Andrew Roberts (931) 388-6811 WWW.THEBIBLEWAY.ORG	MEMPHIS, TN Rocky Pt. Road Church of Christ 516 E. Rocky Point Rd., Cordova Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Contact: 758-4006 WWW.ROCKYPOINTCHURCH.ORG	SHELBYVILLE, TN El Bethel Church of Christ 1801 Hwy. 41-A North Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Donnie V. Rader Phone: (931) 607-9099 email: dvader@live.com	BAYTOWN, TX East Side Church of Christ 3107 N. Highway 146 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jesse Flowers (281) 515-8939 Building (281) 422-5926 Weldon (713) 818-1321	DUNCANVILLE, TX (SOUTH DALLAS) Whispering Hills Church of Christ 2126 S Main Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (972) 298-2522 info@whchurchofchrist.net
PHILADELPHIA, PA Church of Christ 7222 Germantown Ave., 19119 Bible Study 10:15 A.M. Worship 11:15 A.M. Tues. night 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: James H. Baker, Jr. (215) 248-2026 www.mtairychurchofchrist.org	COLUMBIA, TN Mooresville Pike Church of Christ 417 Mooresville Pike (.8 mi. N. of Hwy. 50/Jas. Campbell) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 3:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (931) 388-5828 or (931) 381-7898 www.mooresvillepikecoc.com	MURFREESBORO, TN Cason Lane Church of Christ 1110 Cason Lane Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (615) 896-0090 (Building) www.casonlanecurch.org	SHELBYVILLE, TN Shelbyville Mills Church of Christ 1222 W Jackson St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jeff Curtis Phone: 931-607-9118 djcurtis1963@hotmail.com	BEAUMONT, TX Dowlen Rd. Church of Christ 3060 Dowlen Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Max Dawson & David Banning (409) 866-1996	EDNA, TX 301 Robison Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (361) 782-5506 or 782-2844 Elders: R. Dunham, J. Mercer S. Mercer & G. Nordin
BEAUFORT, SC Church of Christ 2107 King Street Parri's Island: Call for times, services for recruits only. Sunday Morning 10:00 A.M. Sunday Evening 6:30 P.M. Wed. Bible Study 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Bryan Nash (843) 524-4400	DAYTON, TN Rhea Church of Christ 1367 Market Street, Suite 2 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (423) 413-7675 or 332-4604 www.rheachurchofchrist.org www.jesusisnomyth.com	MURFREESBORO, TN Northfield Blvd. Church of Christ 2091 Pitts Ln. at Northfield Blvd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: David Bunting (615) 893-1200	TULLAHOMA, TN Church of Christ 1625 W. Lincoln St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jim Mickells (931) 455-0273 or 563-7312	CONROE, TX Woodland Hills Church of Christ 410 Woodland Hills Dr. (77303) Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:30am Evening 6:00pm Wednesday 7:00pm Evangelist: Kurt G. Jones www.conroechurch.com 936-756-9322	EL PASO, TX Eastridge Church of Christ 3277 Pendleton Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (915) 855-1524
COLUMBIA, SC Lower Richland Church of Christ 3000 Trotter Rd. (Hopkins, SC) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (803) 776-0754 http://lowerrichlandchurch.org	JACKSON, TN Sunset View Church of Christ 3618 Hwy 70 East (Exit 87 off I-40, 7mi. @ Spring Creek) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Wilkerson (731) 967-0590 or 968-9851		ALLEN, TX West Allen Church of Christ 1414 W. Exchange Blvd. (2 miles w. of Hwy. 75) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jerry King (214) 504-0443 (972) 727-5355 (bldg)	CLEVELAND, TX Church of Christ 310 E. Houston Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Robert Davis (281) 592-5676	FORT WORTH, TX Woodmont Church of Christ 6417 Landview (at Altamesa) Worship 9:30 A.M. Bible Study 11:00 A.M. Afternoon 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jeff S. Smith (817) 292-4908 or 426-2242 woodmontchurch.org
ORANGEBURG, SC Southside Church of Christ 1502 Binnicker Bridge Rd. (Grange Building - Hwy 70) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (803) 939-0672 www.southside-church.org	JOHNSTON CITY, TN Brookmead Church of Christ 2428 Lakeview Drive Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Kevin Kay (423) 282-6251 or 426-1836	NASHVILLE, TN Bell Road Church of Christ 1608 Bell Road Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Chris Pace (615) 833-4444	ALVARADO, TX I-35 Church of Christ (E. Service Rd. of I-35, N. of Alvarado) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (817) 295-7277 or 790-7253	CLUTE, TX Church of Christ 343 S. Main Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (979) 265-5283 or 265-2933	FORT WORTH, TX West Side Church of Christ 6110 White Settlement Rd. 76114 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (817) 738-7269
SUMTER, SC Woodland Church of Christ 3370 Broad St. Extension Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: A.A. Granke, Jr. (803) 499-6023	JONESBOROUGH, TN 11-E Church of Christ 240 Headtown Rd. Bible Study 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: David Wheeler 423-557-9119 or 423-948-6464 www.christianadmonisher.jigsy.com	NASHVILLE, TN Hillview Church of Christ 7471 Charlotte Pike Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (615) 952-5458 or (615) 356-7318 Evangelist: Lee Wildman	ALVIN, TX Adoue St. Church of Christ 605 E. Adoue St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Mark Mayberry (281) 331-4953 or (832) 837-9038	AD SPACE AVAILABLE PLACE YOURS TODAY! tmmikewillis@gmail.com	
TAYLORS, SC (Greenville Area) Taylors Church of Christ 400 E. Main St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Luther Pratt (864) 268-5224 or 877-2728 www.taylorschurchofchrist.com	KINGSTON SPRINGS, TN Kingston Springs Church of Christ 350 North Main St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Dan King, Sr. (615) 952-5720 or 797-2280	NASHVILLE, TN Perry Heights Church of Christ 423 Doneelson Pike Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:55 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Johnny Felker (615) 883-3118 http://perryheights.faithweb.com	AD SPACE AVAILABLE PLACE YOURS TODAY! tmmikewillis@gmail.com	CORPUS CHRISTI, TX Hwy. 9 church of Christ Worship 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Worship 12:00 noon Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Call for location: Keith Kalius (361) 776-2304 or Patrick Frazier (361) 235-1990	GRANBURY, TX Old Granbury Rd. Church of Christ 4313 Old Granbury Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (817) 573-6878

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HOUSTON, TX Fry Rd. Church of Christ 2510 Fry Road (77084) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Bob Pulliam (281) 832-4633	MESQUITE, TX (East Dallas) Westlake Church of Christ 427 Gross Rd., 75149 Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ashley Sharkey (972) 285-1610	AD SPACE AVAILABLE PLACE YOURS TODAY! tmmikewillis@gmail.com	NEWPORT NEWS, VA Harpersville Rd. Church of Christ 315 Harpersville Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (757) 595-9564	BELLINGHAM, WA Mt. Baker Church of Christ 1860 Mt. Baker Hwy. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joe Price (360) 752-2692 or 380-2960 www.bibleanswer.com/mtbaker	WELLSBURG, WV Charles St. Church of Christ 836 Charles Street Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jessie Daniels (304) 527-4438 or 737-3124
HOUSTON, TX (Southwest) Murphy Rd. Church of Christ 2025 Murphy Rd., Missouri City Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Gene Mabry (281) 265-8071 or 261-5216	MIDLAND, TX Woodcrest Drive Church of Christ 1401 Woodcrest Drive Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jay Martin (432) 689-0955 or (432) 620-0762	TEMPLE, TX Leon Valley Church of Christ 4404 Twin City Blvd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Warren King (254) 939-0682 or 228-5038 www.biblemoments.org	RICHMOND (Metro), VA Courthouse Church of Christ Courthouse Rd. at Double Creek Ct. (2.2 miles S of Rt. 288) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Gene Tope (804) 790-1629 www.courthousechurchofchrist.com	CHARLESTON, WV Church of Christ 522 Daugherty St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evang: Gene Tope (804) 790-1629 kent.clark@comcast.net	AD SPACE AVAILABLE PLACE YOURS TODAY! tmmikewillis@gmail.com
HOUSTON, TX Spring Woods Church of Christ 9955 Neuens Rd. at Wite Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: (713) 419-1750 WWW.SPRINGWOODCHURCHOFCCHRIST.COM	NACOGDOCHES, TX Stallings Dr. Church of Christ 3831 N.E. Stallings Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Randy Harshbarger & Jay Taylor	TEMPLE, TX Southside Church of Christ 2003 S. 5th Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (254) 773-0931	RICHMOND, VA Forest Hill Church of Christ 1208 W. 41st St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jack Bise, Jr. (804) 233-5959	CHARLESTON, WV Church of Christ 873 Oakwood Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jonathan Chaffin (304) 342-5637 www.oakwoodroadchurchofchrist.com	RANCHESTER, WY Church of Christ Hwy. 14 West Ranch Mart Mall Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Contact: Bob Reich (307) 655-2563
IRVING, TX Westside Church of Christ 2320 Imperial Dr. (closest to D/FW Airport) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Mark Roberts (972) 986-9131 www.JustChristians.com	ODESSA, TX Crescent Park Church of Christ 1415 Royalty Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Kristofer Gordana (432) 366-5071	Subscribe Today! Truth Magazine 855-49-BOOKS 855-492-6657	RICHMOND, VA West End 4909 Patterson Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Stacy Crim (804) 358-7933	CLARKSBURG, WV Westside Church of Christ Davisson Run Road Sunday Morning 9:30 A.M. (304) 622-5433	CANADA Calgary, Alberta Northside Church of Christ 803 - 20 A Ave. N.E. Calgary, Alberta T2E ISI Sunday 10, 11, 6 Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (403) 452-5116
LANCASTER, TX Pleasant Run Church of Christ 831 W. Pleasant Run Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (972) 227-1708 or 227-2598	PLANO, TX (North Dallas Suburb) Spring Creek Church of Christ 2100 W. Spring Creek Pkwy. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (972) 517-5582 www.planochurch.org	WACO, TX Sun Valley Church of Christ 340 E. Warren St. (In Hewitt, a suburb of Waco) 1st Assembly 9:30 A.M. Bible Class 10:25 A.M. Worship (w/ Lord's Supper) 11A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Marc Smith (254) 666-1020 or 420-1484	RIDGEWAY, VA Church of Christ 2970 Old Leakeville Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Robert Byrd (276) 956-6049	FAIRMONT, WV Eastside Church of Christ 1929 Morgantown Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (304) 363-8054	ADVERTISING RATES ON CHURCH AD PAGES
LUBBOCK, TX Indiana Ave. Church of Christ 6111 Indiana Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (806) 795-3377	DALLAS, TX Methodist Street Church of Christ 211 Methodist St. • Red Oak TX, 75154 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (972) 576-3119 or 363-7672 www.methodiststreetchurchofchrist.com Evangelist: D. LeRoy Klince	THE WOODLANDS, TX Woodlands Church of Christ P.O. Box 7664-77380 3987 Wellman Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (281) 367-2099 www.simplychristians.net	ROANOKE, VA Blue Ridge Church of Christ 929 Indiana Ave. N.E. 5 min. from Roanoke Convention Center 1st Lesson 9:15 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (540) 344-2755	GLADESVILLE, WV Gladesville Church of Christ 2906 Gladesville Rd. Independence, WV 26374 Sunday Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Sunday P.M. 7:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (304) 864-3078	Rates are \$25 per quarter or \$95.00 per year (when paid in advance). The ads are run once each month –12 times a year. Help travelers find your place of worship!
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MANSFIELD, TX Northside Church of Christ 1820 Mansfield-Webb Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelists: Tom Roberts (817) 466-3160	SAN ANTONIO, TX Pecan Valley Church of Christ 268 Utopia I-37 S.E. Exit Pecan Valley) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Clyde W. Carter (210) 337-6143	CHESTER, VA Chester Church of Christ 12100 Winfree St. (Central to Richmond, Hopewell, Petersburg, & Colonial Heights) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Church Building: (804) 796-2374 (804) 385-2725 or (804) 271-0877	AD SPACE AVAILABLE PLACE YOURS TODAY! tmmikewillis@gmail.com	PARKERSBURG, WV Marriott Church of Christ 825 Marrott Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 7:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (304) 861-0342 or 422-7458	855 855 49 492 BOOKS 6657
Shop online @ ceibooks.com	SHERMAN, TX Westwood Village Church of Christ 314 N. Tolbert Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jim Smelser	truth BOOKS Shop online @ www.ceibooks.com		SUNNYSIDE, WA Sunnyside Church of Christ (sound) 1312 East Edison Bible Study 2:00 P.M. Worship 3:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Steven J. Wallace (509) 837-2813 www.sunnysidechurchofchrist.com	



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