

July 14, 2019



Kennewick Church of Christ

A Restoration Plea

The Restoration movement of the 1800s grew out of disgust for religious division and a love for the truth of the Gospel of Christ. Men longed for the day when all would wear only the name “Christian” and pledge allegiance to the New Testament as the sole standard of faith and practice.

From this movement, many slogans came forth. The slogans were designed to implant crucial truths into the hearts of the listeners. “Speak where the Bible speaks, and remain silent where the Bible is silent” was one of these slogans. This was an amplification of Peter’s words found in First Peter 4:11. “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God.” Another slogan of the Restoration Movement was: In matters of doctrine, unity. In matters of opinion, liberty. In all things, love.”

The preachers of the Restoration Movement recognized two major areas: doctrine and opinion. Doctrine involves the teaching of the New Testament. Paul wrote: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine...” (2 Tim 3:16-17). Doctrine cannot be compromised. It must be adhered to at all times. If all would commit to this teaching, unity would prevail. It is wrong to transform these teaching of the Gospel into matters of opinion.

However, the leaders of the Restoration Movement realized that matters of opinion exists as well. In these, they ask for liberty. The practice of “circumcision” was a matter of opinion (option) in the New Testament church. “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature” (Gal 6:15). The “eating of meat” was also a matter of opinion. “But meat neither commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse” (1Cor 8:8). Again, these matters were optional. In these things, “liberty” needed to prevail. It was wrong to take matters that were “optional” and make them matters of “doctrine.” Some did this in the first century. Paul declared that those who “bound” (made a law) where God has not “bound” (did not make a law) had departed from the faith. “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy having their conscience seared with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.” (1 Tim. 4:13-15)

The last section of the slogan under consideration is: “In all things, love.” This love is one that seeks the best interest of another. First Corinthians 13:1-3 reveals the importance of love. Without it, nothing else matters. “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and have all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.”

In doctrine, unity. In option, liberty. In all things, love. This plea is just as valid today as it was when it was first penned. May every member of the body of Christ give diligence to distinguish between doctrine and opinion. In doctrine, let us hold fast thereto with unity in mind. In option, let’s grant liberty to our brethren. Then, Let’s allow love to prevail in all things.~Victor M. Eskew

Football and Shepherds

An intriguing element of English football is the team anthem sung by the fans at the start of each match. These songs range from the fun (“Glad All Over”) to the whimsical (“I’m Forever Blowing Bubbles”) to the surprising. “Psalm 23,” for instance, is the anthem of the club from West Bromwich Albion. The words of that psalm appear on the façade inside the team’s stadium, declaring to everyone who comes to watch the “West Brom Baggies” the care of the good, great, and chief Shepherd.

In Psalm 23, David made his timeless statement, “The Lord is my shepherd” (v. 1). Later, the gospel writer Matthew would tell us, “When [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (Matthew 9:36). And in John 10, Jesus declared His love and concern for the human “sheep” of His generation. “I am the good shepherd,” He said. “The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” (v. 11). Jesus’s compassion drove His interactions with the crowds, His responses to their needs, and, ultimately, His sacrifice on their (and our) behalf.

“The Lord is my shepherd” is far more than an ancient lyric or a clever slogan. It’s the confident statement of what it means to be known and loved by our great God—and what it means to be rescued by His Son. ~Bill Crowder

*No headquarters but heaven,
no creed but Christ,
no book but the Bible.*

Kennewick Church of Christ

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Website: www.Kennewickcofc.com Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ

Church Email: kencoc@gmail.com

Meeting times:

Sunday:

Wednesday:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm am

Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

Elders:

Clarence Botts: 509-521-3344; ccbotts@hotmail.com
LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; vern.engelke@gmail.com

Minister:

Dustin McCrickard 509-579-9068

Open Congregational meeting – 2nd Sunday at 5:00 pm. All are welcome

Attendance 07/14 63 | Budget \$2400.33 | Contribution 07/14 NA

Keep These Dates in Mind	July Birthdays and Anniversaries		
07/13 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 07/14 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00 07/21 Teen Camp 08/04 First Sunday Potluck 08/10 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 08/11 Open Congregation Meeting 500p	Kael Botts 7/3 Mailey McCrickard 7/11 Kaleb McCrickard 7/12 Marilyn Davis 7/15 Danny & Shannon Mendoza 7/22 Alec Minor 7/22 Jim & Holly Preston 7/22 Dorothy Bryan 7/27	Sarah Mendoza 7/28 Ila Stephens 7/28 Shaylin Smith 7/29	
	Bible Studies		
<i>Do Bible things in Bible ways. Call Bible things by Bible names.</i>	Adult Bible Classes Sunday am.–Genesis Wed pm – Shadows of the church from the O.T	Youth Classes Classroom Wing Teen Class - Teen Room	Ladies Class Recessed for Summer



Issues (ongoing): Karen McBurney, Shirley Childers, Kaleb McCrickard, Marji Lindholm, Marilyn Davis, Eunice Petros, Tami Pennington, Amanda McCrickard's parents, Karen McBurney's father, Leland, Marilyn's daughter, Don and Sherri Blackwell.

- After considering, the elders have decided to cancel VBS for this year.
- Keep those who will be away at teen camp this week in your prayers.
- Due to busy summer schedules, the Friday afternoon study will be discontinued until the 2nd Friday in September. Thanks to all who have been such good participants for the past several months.

Our Ministries

Mountain States Children's Home

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (James 1:27)

Peru Ministry – Oscar and Anna Maria in Peru

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and of the Holy Spirit

Food Pantry - Our food pantry is located in the small room next to the library.

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed." (Proverbs 19:17)

Austin and Kennadie McCrickard – Bear Valley Bible Institute

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

Enmity Against God

The scripture reads, "Because the carnal mind (worldly mind) is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom.8:7). The word "enmity" means "hostility"; by implication a reason for opposition (Strongs Greek/Hebrew Definitions). It is the opposite of agape love. One who "minds the flesh" (worldly things) is one who refuses to subject himself to the will of God. A person who is living a worldly life cannot be "walking in the light" (2 John 1:7).

The "mind of the flesh" (carnal, worldly mind) demonstrates such by practicing the "works of the flesh" (Gal. 5:19-21). To continue to possess a carnal mind is to invite spiritual death (eternal separation from God.)

The carnal mind or "mind of the flesh" shows its "enmity against God" in many ways. Please consider:

The carnal mind ignores the Word of God. Man is not capable of directing his own steps (Jer. 10:23) and needs the Word of God for his guide (Ps. 119:105). Yet, countless millions prefer never to consult God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15) while indulging in "...the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride (vain glory) of life..." (1 John 2:16).

Paul told the Galatian brethren, "Be not deceived, God is not mocked: for whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Gal. 6:7-8). In choosing to live a fleshly/worldly life, the carnal man places himself at enmity with God.

The carnal mind scoffs at the godly. We live in an age where it is more popular to be ungodly than godly. To be "politically correct" one must align himself with the voice of the world and beckon to its call! However, the Word of God instructs, "thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil" (Ex. 23:2). It doesn't matter that everyone is doing it – if it's wrong (sinful) then everyone who engages therein is wrong! Jesus said "If the world hateth you, ye know that it hath hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love its own: but because ye are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" (Jn. 15:18-19).

The carnal mind ridicules the work of God. The very first words of Holy Writ declare, "in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). The apostle Paul told those at Rome, "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Rom. 1:20). Yet, the atheist has enmity for God as he denies His existence and the evolutionist has enmity for God as he denies his creation of the world and all that is therein. It is as Paul said, "the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men" (1 Cor. 1:25).

The carnal mind rejects the plea of Christ. Jesus said, "If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). The Lord pleads for folks to come to Him (Matt. 11:28-30), but the majority refuses the tender invitation. So very many claim to love Christ while refusing to comply with His will. It is impossible, however, to love Christ while rejecting His laws! One who dishonors and disrespects the Word of God has no love for the Son or the Father (2 John 9).

Romans 8:7 does not teach the impossibility of repentance. Paul simply stresses that while living a fleshly, carnal, worldly life one cannot be devoted to doing God's will. A person cannot travel the strait way and the broad way at the same time (Matt. 7:13-14). It is as Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other..." (Matt 6:24).

Those who desire to go to Heaven will not demonstrate enmity against God. Let us always strive to obey, honor, and glorify the true and living God! In doing so, we can save our souls by laying claim to eternal life.

~Marvin L. Weir