

Character (good or bad) is not something that God has programmed into us; but rather, it is developed by the choices that we make. Everyone is free to choose which road we will walk on –The Narrow Road that leads to life or the Broad Road that leads to death! (Matt. 7:13-14). No one can force us against our will! Thus, we believe that "good" character is also developed by the choices that we make in our lifetime. The way that God has made us, we are able to determine good from evil (Rom. 1:32; 2:13.15). So, we make a choice as to which road we will walk on. (Isa. 7:14-16; 66:3).

It is obvious that God does not force Himself on us, nor does He force us to choose to do right. But, He does and wants to influence our decisions for good. He has given us His inspired Word to guide us into the right paths that lead to life eternal – but we have to read it, learn it, and put it into practice before it can bring about a "good" character ~Paul E. Cantrell

**Good character is not formed in a week or a month.  
It is created, little by little, day by day.  
Protracted and patient effort  
is needed to develop good character  
~Heraclitus**

**Kennewick Church of Christ**

3926 W. Kennewick Ave. Kennewick, WA 99336

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Website: [www.kennewickcoc.com](http://www.kennewickcoc.com)

Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ

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**Meeting times:**

Sunday:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday:

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

**Elders:**

Clarence Botts: 509-521-3344; [ccbotts@hotmail.com](mailto:ccbotts@hotmail.com)

LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; [vern.engelke@gmail.com](mailto:vern.engelke@gmail.com)

**Minister:**

Dustin McCrickard 509-579-9068

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

Attendance 01/27: 59

Budget \$2400.33

Contribution 01/27 \$2879.00

February 03, 2019

**Kennewick  
Church of Christ**

**God's Gift of Friendship**

King Solomon, whom God said was the wisest man on earth, wrote the following:

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work. If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Though one may be over powered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. (Eccl. 4:9-10, 12)

Can you imagine seeing a co-worker under tough pressure, trying to meet a deadline. And no one stops by to offer help or advise? He watches the clock roll on, 4 O'clock soon turning to 6 O'clock and the office turns into a ghost town. Imagine day after day carrying a seemingly impossible load and having no one to turn to for support or guidance. No one who will listen. That's hard.

There are many pressures that people face in the work place and in life in general. It's easy to see these days how loneliness can lead to despair. God never intended us to bear these burdens alone. However, it's hard to realize this when we are in the midst of temptations and trials.

Once I heard a person in our department saying that he was overloaded with work and could not possibly make the pre-determined deadline. He was very concerned because this could potentially hold up the entire job. Rather than give the man encouragement and or assistance his manager who happened to be standing near by said no one was as busy as he was and he didn't want to hear it. Instead of lifting him up in his time of need the manager seemed to bury him with his own problems. In showing support and offering friendship where appropriate we reflect the nature of God.

"A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother " (Proverbs 18:24).

Helen Steiner Rice wrote a beautiful poem titled "The Gift of Friendship".

Friendship is a Priceless Gift that cannot be bought or sold,  
But its value is far greater than a mountain made of gold –  
For gold is cold and lifeless, it can neither see nor hear,  
And in the time of trouble it is powerless to cheer –

It has no ears to listen, no heart to understand,  
It cannot bring you comfort or reach out a helping hand –  
So when you ask God for a gift, be thankful if HE sends  
Not diamonds, pearls or riches, but the love of real true friends.

True friendship is a gift from God. As the poem says, it can't be bought or sold. It's not something we can hold in our hand but only in our heart. I suggest to you that the greatest friend anyone could ever have is Jesus Christ. If you are looking for a real true friend, one that will never leave you or forsake you it's Jesus. His door is always open. The scripture says, "Knock and the door will open, seek and you shall find."

~H. Hewgley

<b>Keep These Dates in Mind</b>	<b>February Birthdays and Anniversaries</b>		
<b>02/03</b> First Sunday Potluck 02/09 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 02/10 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p 02/15 Family Fun Night 6:00p <b>03/03</b> First Sunday Potluck 03/09 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 03/10 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p 03/20 Wed. Night Soup Night 5:00p 03/31 Fifth Sunday Singing	Wanda Danley 2/16 Gary Koci 2/1 Curtis Mohr 2/1 Frank Shaw 2/1 Leland & Marilyn Davis 2/8 Linda Bills 2/14 Eric & Jeffra Slagle 2/14 Ron Stephens 2/14	Joe Botts 2/15 Buzz & Cathy Heston 2/15 Wanda Danley 2/16 Al Lindsay 2/16 Rick Freitag 2/18 Jim Preston 2/22 Josh Mendoza 2/27	
	<b>Bible Studies</b>		
Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength! Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him all the earth. (1 Chronicles 16:28-30a)	<b>Adult Bible Classes</b> Sunday am.—Ephesians Wed pm – Acts 1-12	<b>Youth Classes</b> Classroom Wing <b>Teen Class</b> - Teen Room	<b>Ladies Class</b> Thursday 10:00a.m – 11:30a.m.



**Issues (ongoing):** Karen McBurney, Bob Childers, Shirley Childers, Kaleb McCrickard, Vern Mast, Sue Aldrich, Marji Lindholm, The Johnson family, Marilyn Davis, Randy Hargus, Eunice Petros, Shawna Stephens, Tami Pennington

**Vern Mast** is now in hospice care.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the Spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (Eph. 6:10-12)

### **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)

### **Coming Together for Worship**

Whatever man of the house of Israel who kills an ox or lamb or goat in the camp, or who kills it outside the camp, and does not bring it to the door of the tabernacle of meeting to offer an offering to the Lord before the tabernacle of the Lord, the guilt of bloodshed shall be imputed to that man. He has shed blood; and that man shall be cut off from among his people" (Leviticus 17:3-4).

Where should I go to worship God? Does it matter whether or not I go on a regular basis to church to worship God or can I just worship Him in the place I choose?

The verses above shed some light on this question. These verses are not speaking about the killing of an animal for food purposes, but the killing of an animal as a sacrifice to God. God did not want such animal sacrifices to be made just anywhere, but insisted that such animal sacrifices be brought to the tabernacle of meeting (Leviticus 17:4). The end result God wanted was: "to the end that the children of Israel may bring their sacrifices which they offer in the open field, that they may bring them to the Lord at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, to the priest, and offer them as peace offerings to the Lord" (Leviticus 17:5). Notice what God would impute to the person who failed to obey this command of God: God would impute to them the "guilt of bloodshed!" (Leviticus 17:4)

Why was this? First, God considered the death of an animal as a sacrifice to Him as a solemn matter: "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul" (Leviticus 17:11). Second, God was also concerned that His people would also begin practicing false worship if each of them worshipped in the place of their choice. He was concerned that they would be tempted to sacrifice to demons (Leviticus 17:7) and eat the blood of the animal (Leviticus 17:10).

The Old Testament law was taken away when Jesus died on the cross (Ephesians 2:14-16; Hebrews 8:6-8; 9:15-17). As Christians, we do not offer animal sacrifices today or have to assemble together at the Old Testament tabernacle of meeting. This is because the blood of God's Son Jesus Christ was shed for our sins to make atonement for our souls (1 Peter 1:18-19; Romans 5:11).

However, just as God was concerned in Moses' day that His people would be tempted to falsely practice worshipping Him in the place of their choice (Leviticus 17:3-4), He is also concerned about Christians today being tempted not to assemble with their fellow saints to worship Him. The Hebrew writer states: "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25). It is interesting to note in the context of the same passage he speaks about not appreciating the significance of the blood of Christ: "Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace" (Hebrews 10:29)?

~Susquehanna C of C Daily Devotional

*"Praise the Lord! I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation" (Psalm III:1a)*