

Our Christian Example

The story is told of a Christian high school senior who was honored as one of the best and brightest in his community because he provided a forceful demonstration of integrity.

When his school team was given the word “auditorium” in a regional spelling bee, he glanced down to ponder his response and noticed that the word was printed on the microphone stand. He called this to the attention of the judges who responded with a more difficult word. The young man did what he knew was right whether others noticed or not.

We don't know when our actions may become an example to others — we're always on display. But if we live each day to honor Jesus, our behavior will model His righteous life (Gal. 2:20; 1 John 2:5-6), no matter who is watching.

Uprightness and honor should be goals for Christians of every age. Paul told Timothy:

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12 NKJV).

As Christians, one of our goals in life should be to change the world around us for good while never compromising ourselves — one person at a time (Acts 10:38 NKJV; cf. 2 Timothy 2:1-2 NKJV; 1 Timothy 4:16 NKJV).~Tim Riley

O to be like Thee! blessed Redeemer,
This is my constant longing and prayer;
Gladly I'll forfeit all of earth's treasures,
Jesus, Thy perfect likeness to wear.
O to be like Thee! O to be like Thee,
Blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou art;
Come in Thy sweetness, come in Thy fullness;
Stamp Thine own image deep on my heart. —W.J. Kirkpatrick

Kennewick Church of Christ

3926 W. Kennewick Ave. Kennewick, WA 99336
509-783-4013

Website: www.Kennewickcoc.com

Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ

Church Email: kenncoc@gmail.com

Meeting Times:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 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:

Casey Rice: 479-438-2038; crice5523@gmail.com

Attendance 11/21: 39

Budget \$2484.00

Contribution: 11/21:

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KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



Doctrine, It Means Something

Why do so many people have different teachings concerning the Bible? Not just in the areas of opinion but often many groups have different teachings that are directly at odds of one another. One might read a passage and say that God's authoritative word teaches their doctrine. Another might read the same passage and say that it teaches their doctrine that contradicts the aforementioned group. If anything, this highlights the need to “*work out your own salvation with fear and trembling*” (Phil. 2:12). We should not surrender our judgement and reasoning to others. It also should give us pause to think about the nature of doctrine.

The New Testament talks about two types of doctrines. There is doctrine that is deceitful or different. “*As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming*” (Eph. 4:14). There is doctrine that is different. “*If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain*” (1 Tim. 6:3-5). These are doctrines or teachings that are contrary to what has been taught. If the Bible mentions that such doctrines existed, then we must understand that there is a doctrine that we should teach.

The second form of doctrine is sound doctrine. Literally translated it means healthy teaching. We are commanded to “*speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine*” (Tit. 2:1). Also, “*holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict*” (Tit. 1:9). It is plain to see that doctrine matters and one can't teach anything they want. It also means that the Bible was written to teach something specific.

So why are there so many doctrines? Paul told Timothy this was the reason: “*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths*” (2 Tim. 4:3-4). We need to make sure that we are “*constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following*” (1 Tim. 4:6b).~Josh Blackmer

For I delivered to you as of first importance that which I also received; that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:3,4)

Keep These Dates in Mind	November Birthdays and Anniversaries	I will walk with integrity of heart within my house, I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless (Ps. 101:3)	
Nov 12/5 – Fellowship Meal after Sunday morning worship 12/09 - Study of Denominations 7:00p 12/14 - Study of Denominations 7:00p 12/23 - Study of Denominations 7:00p 12/28 - Study of Denominations 7:00p	Bill & Linda Lafferty 12/24 (If you were born in December or have an anniversary in December, please let me know – Lynette Jones)		
Those with ongoing health issues:	Bible Studies		
Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Gerald Funnell, Sandi Gray, Linda Lafferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce, Jim Preston	Adult Bible Classes (Fellowship Hall) Sunday am – 2 Samuel Wed pm – Gospel of John	Young Adult Class (Teen Room) Christian Living (Led by Danny Mendoza)	Ladies Class (Contact Sandi Gray for information)

In Whom I am Well Pleased

When Jesus knew the will of God, He took it upon Himself to “fulfill all righteousness” (Matt. 3:15). He did not reject His need to be baptized; He submitted to it in order to obey the will of God. Immediately, “a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased’” (Matt. 3:17). Later, as Jesus was contemplating “His decease” (Luke 9:31), again He was determined to fulfill the will of God. He did not reject His need to be put to death for mankind; He submitted to it in order to obey the will of God. Immediately, “a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!’” (Matt. 17:5).

The audible voice of God no longer booms from heaven, but are there any words that we would rather hear in eternity than, “This is my beloved child, in whom I am well pleased”? Let us make it the focus of our lives to obey the will of God and be well-pleasing to God here, so that we can hear those words over there! ~David Sproule

**So one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.
(Romans 5:18b)**

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 - If you are in need of food assistance, please contact one of the men of the congregation and they will be able to help you with this need.

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

Setting Aside the Grace of God

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain” (Galatians 2:20-21).

Do you ever get confused about the proper balance between grace, faith and works? If so, you are not alone. Christians throughout the centuries have struggled with keeping this properly balanced.

Jesus expects us to follow His commands. Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15). Again, Jesus says, “You are My friends if you do whatever I command you” (John 15:14). Later, James writes, “You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only” (James 2:24). Then, James adds, “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also” (James 2:26). There are certainly commands of God which we are to follow.

However, there a difference in following the commands which God has given us, contained within God’s system of grace and faith, and rules which we make up ourselves to follow. This was happening among the churches of Galatia. They were adding to God’s commands and making up their own commands to follow. Paul writes to them, “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ” (Galatians 1:6-7).

Some among these churches were seeking to bind circumcision (i.e., an Old Testament command; Leviticus 12:3), on Christians who were Gentiles. However, for Christians the Old Testament law had been taken away (cf. Romans 7:1-4; Ephesians 2:14-16). The Old Testament Law was to remain in force until Christ came, but then it was to go away. Paul writes, “But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore, the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:23-27).

As the opening passage above states, trying to justify oneself by following rules which we make up ourselves, sets “aside the grace of God” (Galatians 2:21). Paul reminded these Christians that we are justified by following the faith of Jesus Christ: “knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified” (Galatians 2:16). In fact, Paul warns them that if they did try to justify themselves by getting circumcised, Christ would profit them nothing and they would fall from grace: “Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace” (Galatians 5:2-4).

Paul writes, “For by grace you have been saved through faith” (Ephesians 2:8). Rejoice in God’s grace, walk by faith and submit to the commands which He has given us to follow!

~Daily Devo, Susquehanna Valley Church of Christ

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage” (Galatians 5:1).