

Eisenhower Church of Christ

I Can Do Whatever I Want!

“Only God can judge me” is a common sentiment in our world. This phrase is typically used when one’s personal behavior is called into question. Matthew 7:1 is often quoted by those who shoot off a personal deflection in response to a rebuke from someone who is offended by their behavior. The biblical phrase **“let the one without sin cast the first stone”** is also used as a defensive mechanism by those who do not want their behavior called into question.

Sadly, this non-judgmental, accept-anything and condemn-nothing mindset has crept into the religious world. This writer has noticed an abuse of one particular passage in the Bible when it comes to dealing with certain issues in the church; Romans 14. From it, it is claimed:

“Romans 14 says you can’t judge me if I use instrumental music in worship.”

“Romans 14 says you should not judge a church if they use praise teams or dramatic re-enactments.”

“Romans 14 says that you should not judge a church if they use women for leading in the worship of the church.”

The lack of understanding and careless use of Romans 14 has caused many to believe, “I can do whatever I want and you can’t judge me!”

First, it is understood that GOD IS THE JUDGE! (Romans 14:12). No one who has ever read and believed the Bible would deny that fact! We will be judged by the words of Christ (John 12:48-50), not the opinions of men. God as Judge is not the issue at hand.

Second, a question: With what is Romans 14 dealing? Paul addresses two topics specifically. He addresses the eating of meat in eight verses (2-3, 6, 15, 17, 20-21, 23). He also addresses the observance of “a day” in two verses (5-6). Paul was not writing about the worship of the church! He was discussing matters of “doubtful disputations” (v. 1). That Paul was dealing with matters of personal preference based on one’s own understanding is further proven in verse 22: **“Hast thou faith?” Have it to thyself before God.**” To conflate the matters of certain food and setting aside a certain day for one’s own use to God with matters involving the worship of the church is a gross misuse of Romans 14.

Third, that Paul is not dealing with matters of worship as mentioned above is further clarified in Romans 15:1-6. He wrote, **“That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”** (Romans 15:6). The church at Rome was to be in complete unity! Paul used similar language when writing to other congregations (I Corinthians 1:10-13; Philippians 3:15-16). Would permitting changes in the worship of the church at Rome have promoted unity? Of course not!

However, would the behavior of individual Christians who were concerned about other Christian’s consciences have promoted congregational unity? Of course it would! Paul makes the point, **“For none of us liveth to himself and no man dieth to himself”** (Romans 14:7). Our personal behavior can have an effect on other people and we must be aware of that! That is exactly what Paul was discussing in verses 15 and 19: **“But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died...Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace and the things wherewith one may edify another.”** The misuse of Romans 14 to justify changes to the church and worship reminds us of what Peter wrote about those who misuse Scripture: **“they that are unlearned and unstable wrest (twist) as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction”** (2 Peter 3:16). It seems that the current cultural trends of society have impacted the church in a negative way. The attitude of “you can’t judge me” is alive and well within the minds of many. The reality is, we are commanded to judge and it is to be **“righteous**

judgment” (John 7:24). We need to be able to discern between what is good and evil (Hebrews 5:14). We are not permitted, nor are we capable of judging the hearts of others. In that sense only God can judge, **“for the Lord searcheth all hearts”** (I Chronicles 28:9). However, Jesus tells us, **“By their fruits ye shall know them”** (Matthew 7:20). A false teacher and/or false ways can be known and there are many who misuse Romans 14 to push an agenda for change in the church.

—Barry O’Dell

Prayer Requests

Jeff Wesson has requested prayers for his mother, **Janet Wesson**, who is suffering with gout in her knee. She is having a lot of pain at this time. Please keep Janet in your prayers that she will be able to get some relief soon.

Doug Guynn has requested prayers for his brother, **David Guynn**, who is in the hospital being treated for cancer. Please keep David in your prayers.

Elvia Ruckman is in Midland Memorial Hospital. She was taken to the hospital because of breathing problems and while in the hospital she suffered a heart attack. Please keep Elvia in your prayers. She is the mother of Mark Ruckman (Randy & Patsy Mitchell’s son-in-law).

Jennie Fuls was being treated at the Wound Care Center when she started having breathing problems. The specialist there called an ambulance. Jennie was taken to the ER at Midland Memorial Hospital where she was diagnosed with fluid around her heart and lungs; also her legs are infected. Jennie is in Room #725. Nancy is requesting prayers for her sister.

Jeff & Holly Wesson both have been sick with the flu. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Also, **Dex, Jacey & Deacon Dennard** were sick with the flu for the past two weeks.

Concerns Update

Rudy Ochoa got home last Monday night after undergoing a surgical procedure in Lubbock for a kidney stone problem. He is doing well but has to go back to Lubbock Tuesday, February 6th to have the stent removed.

Prayer List

Mary Anchondo; Tom Bauer; Elsie Bradford; Bill & Mary Brown; Bill Butler; Glenna McCarty-Callendar; Harold Carrigan; David Castor; Sue Dahlen; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; Glenda Driver; Dana Erwin; John Ford; Jennie Fuls; Opal Hager; Hattie Gilmore; Maria Guzman; Anna Groves; Opal Hager; Winford Hambright; Glenda Hillis; Janis Laminack; Betty Leeth; Kristen Limb; Eliseo Lopez; Russ Montgomery; Tanya Nichols; Curtis Parum; Trina Plyler; Jackie Rex; Russel Rosser; Elvia Ruckman; Montrella Ruffner; Brenda Simmons; Charles Simmons; Matthew Simmons; Velma Tolbert; Lauria Troutz; Marilyn Upshaw; Jurlean Warren; Doris Weakland; Jimmy Weaver; Lisa Wells; Wanda Wheeler; Ann Wilson; Glenda Winkley; Charles Wood; John Wood; Jack Wright.

Eisenhower’s Shut-ins

Jennie Fuls; Roberta Hamil; Janis Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Maxine Newton; Janelle Shirley; and Lester Whisenant.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

The Apostle Stephen relates to a time of drought in Canaan. We read in Acts 7:12, “But when Jacob heard that there was corn in _____, he sent out our fathers first”. Into which country did they go for corn?

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer...

The Roman Soldiers took Paul to see Felix who was the Governor of Caesarea at that time. (Acts 23:23-24)

Events

Watch *"In Search of the Lord's Way"* every Sunday morning at 7:00 am on KWES TV 9, (New West 9)

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the *"Speaking the Truth in Love"* program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

Thank You

Dear Brothers & Sisters at Eisenhower,

Arturo and I want to thank you for your prayers, cards and calls. I am so much better from the physical therapy I have received for my leg. I am finally sleeping thru the night and don't have all the pain I had been experiencing. Arturo is healing and has some pain but time will mend his ribs. His lung has gone back to normal and he just has to be doing his breathing treatments and be careful in doing any physical activity. We sincerely thank you and May God Bless each and every one of you.

Sylvia and Arturo Campos

Dear Church Members,

Thank you for lifting me and my wife up during my time of physical healing. Your kindness is so greatly appreciated.

With great thankfulness,

Russell Rosser

Office News

The *"New Mexico Children's Home"* will be in Odessa for a food drive pickup on February 27th, 2018. They are requesting **(Juices (all kinds))**. Monetary donations are also accepted.

Food for Thought... Who gives to me teaches me to give.

February 4th, 2018 A.M.

Announcements Larry May
Song Leader Jacob Carson
Sermon Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer Larry May
Scripture Dex Dennard
Second Prayer Craig Wesson
Closing Prayer Scot Straw
Lord's Supper

West... Tom Sorenson
Gary Loving
Tommy Garcia
East... Josh Wells
Charles Wood
Bill Ryan

P.M.

Larry May
John Wood
Allen Weakland
Larry May
Josh Weakland
Bill Brown
Bill Ryan

John Wood
Communion
(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Larry May 638-3990 *Deacon:* Don Easlon 288-5834 *Pulpit:* Tom Sorenson 631-2518 *Table:* John Wood 413-7444; *Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990 *Recording Duties:* Chris Butler 362-7486; *Collections:* Chris Butler 362-7486

Sunday AM

"Thinking Properly"
(II Corinthians 10:5)

Sunday PM

"He Ran"
(Mark 5:1-6)