

Eisenhower Church of Christ

The Image of the Church (Part 1)

What has been the image of the church of Christ in ages past? In the first century it was both good and bad. In Acts 2:47 we find that the Lord's church was, ***"Praising God, and having favor with all the people."*** However, that favorable public image had changed somewhat in Acts 28:22, where we discover that the church was that "sect, everywhere it is spoken against." Paul revealed that same negative public image of the church in his day when he wrote, ***"Being defamed, we entreat: we are made as the filth of the world and are the off-scouring of all things unto this day"*** (I Corinthians 4:13). James wrote to the Christians of the dispersion, asking, ***"Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by which ye are called?"*** (James 2:7). So we see that the public image of the Lord's church has been both good and bad.

It seems that more and more it is being insisted by some that we need to work for a positive public image for the church of Christ. The primary concern of some is that we make the church more appealing to the masses and to those who are drunk on worldly wisdom. In order to accomplish this some would prefer that we make some basic changes in our overall approach. Let us examine three changes some have suggested that we make in order that we might win the "glad hand" of worldly praise and favor.

The Nature of the Church of Christ

Some would have us change the nature of the church of Christ. This would mean altering some of the basic marks of identification of the Lord's church, such as the doctrine that there is just ***"one church"*** (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4; Colossians 1:18); that the church is the "aggregate of the saved" (Acts 2:47; Ephesians 5:23) and our opposition to false ways and keeping the Gospel pure. Some are taken with the idea that such is hurtful to our image. We are said to be "sectarian" when we speak of "only one church" as the Bible does. We are said to be "narrow" when we speak of being saved by full and complete obedience to the Gospel of Christ because this excludes the various ways denominations speak of being saved. We are advised that, in order to have a better community image, we ought not to be vocal in our opposition to false teachers and sinful ways, and that we ought to just leave things alone and "go with the flow" with the public tide.

It is not popular to be distinctive in our day and time. Yet, distinctive we must be! The bible is a distinctive book and if we fail to be distinctive then we fail to be the Lord's church. If we want to abandon the Biblical teaching regarding the basic nature of the Lord's church which makes it a singular unit, then by all means let us blend in with the denominational world, but let us never speak of ourselves as the Lord's church because that really is sectarianism!

—Dennis J. Gulledge
Southside Church of Christ
(Part 2 next week)

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to Linda Collum and her family in the loss of her father, **Harold Carrigan**. Harold passed away on Saturday, February 17th. He had been a patient at Madison Medical Resort for a while. His funeral service was held at Sunset Memorial Gardens at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 20th, conducted by Allen Weakland.

Urisonya Flunder has requested prayers for her family. Her husband's first cousin, **Jewan Edwards**, was hit by a car and killed on February 3rd in San Antonio. Jewan was 19 years old. Please keep this family in your prayers.

Prayer Requests

Letha Hooper is recovering from the flu. She has been sick for a couple of weeks or so. Letha is doing better now.

Verlie Snyder (Devida's aunt) will have a lumpectomy surgery on March 22nd in Columbus, OH. It is a stage one cancer which is very encouraging. Keep Verlie in your prayers.

Tracie Halbert has requested prayers for her grandmother, **Coisee Keith**, who is in MCH with failing health. However, the update is that the breathing machine was turned off last Tuesday night and she was able to breath on her own and if things continue to go well, they may remove the tube. Coisee is a faithful member at the Parkview Church of Christ. Please keep her in your daily prayers.

Devida is requesting prayers for her niece, **Beth Clay**, who has been diagnosed with Scleritis in her right eye. She was put on 80 mg of Prednisone which is a very high dosage. Beth's condition is associated with an autoimmune disorder. Please keep her in your prayers.

Concerns Update

Richard Holiday (Ora McAfee's son-in-law) is out of the hospital continuing to recuperate from surgery for blood clots in his legs. Continue to keep Richard in your prayers.

Prayer List

Mary Anchondo; Tom Bauer; Elsie Bradford; Bill & Mary Brown; Bill Butler; Glenna McCarty-Callendar; David Castor; Sue Dahlen; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; Glenda Driver; Dana Erwin; John Ford; Jennie Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; David Guynn; 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; Elvia Ruckman; Montrella Ruffner; Brenda Simmons; Charles Simmons; Matthew Simmons; Jonathan & Monica Sively; Velma Tolbert; Lauria Troutz; Marilyn Upshaw; Laura Vasquez; Jurlean Warren; Doris Weakland; Jimmy Weaver; Lisa Wells; Janet Wesson; 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.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

Zechariah 9:9 reads, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, thy king cometh unto thee; he is just and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass." Which chapter in Matthew was this recorded as fulfilled; Chapter 20, 21 or 22?

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer...

Melchizedek was the priest of the Most High God. It was he who came out to meet Abraham and his servants upon their return from battle. Genesis 14:18.

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.

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.

The *"Tipton Children's Home"* from Oklahoma will be in Odessa for a Food Drive on April 10th-12th. Although the home has supplied us with a lengthy list, we were given permission to pick a couple of items from the list. The selected items are: **Spaghetti Noodles and Diced Tomatoes**. It would be greatly appreciated if you can help.

Note: We will have a *"Special Contribution"* next Sunday (March 4th). This is to help with the expense in the renovation of our annex. Any amount donated will be greatly appreciated.

Thought to Remember...

A man's tongue is an index to his mind.

February 25th, 2018

	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Larry May	Larry May
Song Leader	John Wood	Jacob Carson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Larry May	Larry May
Scripture	Josh Weakland	Rudy Ochoa
Second Prayer	Jeff Wesson	John Wood
Closing Prayer	Trinidad Wood	Richard Siler
Lord's Supper		
West...	Jr. Munoz Jacob Carson Rudy Ochoa	John Wood Communion (In Library)
East...	Josh Wells Josh Weakland Richard Siler	

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

"The Blood that Speaks of Better Things"
(Hebrews 12:22-24)

Sunday PM

"Controversy with the People"
(Hosea 4:1-3)