

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Praise Teams

The “praise team” is one of the sinful innovations that some of the congregations of the Lord’s church have copied from the denominations. Whenever the denominations come up with new innovations, some congregations of the churches of Christ are only one step behind them and are anxious to try anything they do. It does not matter if it is not scriptural. Just as the children of Israel in Samuel’s day wanted to be “like all the nations” around them (1 Samuel 8:5) with their sinful practices, today many congregations of the Lord’s church also want to be like all the denominations around them with their sinful practices.

Praise teams usually start in a congregation by miking certain people, including women, in the audience who have “great voices.” After the congregation has become accustomed to this, then the praise team is moved to the stage in front of the audience where they perform. The congregation ceases to worship God and are now being entertained by a choir. The worship service has now been changed to a performance and God is no longer being worshipped.

The whole congregation is to worship God with their singing. Every Christian is commanded, “Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:19). Also, we read in Colossians 3:16, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Here we see that all Christians are to speak, teach and admonish one another as we worship God in our singing.

With praise teams, women with the aid of microphones are taking part in leading the singing. Here we have women taking a leading role over man. This is forbidden in God’s Word, “And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. For Adam was formed first, then Eve” (1 Timothy 2:12-13). Does it matter if God’s Word does “not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man” in the worship service? Apparently not, because some have chosen to ignore what God says and do things their way. This is sinful and blatant disobedience of God. This disrespect will cause people to lose their souls in eternity.

Concerning our worship, Jesus says. “God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). The word “must” is an imperative, which expresses compelling authority and absolute necessity. The only way that our worship will be acceptable to God is if it is “in spirit and in truth.” How do we worship God in truth? Jesus says to God in His prayer in John 17:17, “Your word is truth.” So, to worship God in truth, we “must” worship Him according to His Word. One cannot worship God with a “praise team” and worship Him in truth.

The Bible says, “and whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Colossians 3:17). Everything we do in worship to God is to be done “in the name of the Lord” which means by His authority. But where in the New Testament can you find the authority that congregation is to be entertained by the performance of a praise team choir and with women taking a leading role over man. There is no authority for this since it came from man and not from God. Jesus says, “And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrine the commandments of men” (Mark 7:7). When our worship becomes vain, it becomes useless and we will lose our souls as a result. Let us not lose our souls by following the denominations in their sinful practices.

—Ron Boatwright

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to Carrie Loving and her family in the loss of her brother, **Doyle Emfinger**. His services were held on Friday, February 25th in Andrews, TX. Keep this family in your prayers.

Our condolence goes out to Ricky and Amy Russell in the loss of their baby boy, **Noah** who was born with serious physical problems. Noah was eighteen months old and passed away in a hospital in Houston last weekend. The Russell's are friends of Gloria Craig. They need prayers.

Prayer Request

LaDonna Chism was taken to the ER at Medical Center last Saturday. She was admitted due to being dehydrated. LaDonna is in room #850. Keep her in your prayers.

Terresia Weaver has requested prayers for her niece, **Sheila Alcazar**, who is in ICU with pneumonia.

Concerns Update

Patsy Mitchell underwent knee replacement surgery last Tuesday, February 22nd, at MCH. Her surgery went well and she was able to go home the next day. Patsy will have about six weeks of physical therapy.

Ora McAfee is back in Odessa, but is being moved into Lincoln Tower—Room #210. She is not able to stay in her home.

Prayer List

Dr. Hank Abrams; Wayne Anderson; Betty Branson; Bill and Mary Brown; Glenna Callendar; Hazel Cavanaugh; LaDonna Chism; Dana Erwin; Hattie Gilmore; Doug Guynn; Rosanna Herrera; Tiffany Horton; Lon Howard; Elaine Huntington; Ora McAfee; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Cain Pilgrim; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Chasidy Rayos; Carlos Reyes; Daniel Reyes; Lisa Salas; Amanda Sarabia; Benny & Lajanna Simms; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Lisa Wells; Janet Wesson; Charles Wood; John Wood, Julia York.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Glenna Callendar; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw

Youth

Bible Quiz Question ...

What was the name of Ruth's first husband?

Last Week's Quiz Answer...

Peter "plunged into the sea" when he realized it was Jesus standing on the shore.

Events

Watch "**In Search of the Lord's Way**" Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

Prayer

"Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer," has been sung on Sunday but neglected on Monday.

Prayer is talking to God. When the council released Peter and John after commanding them "not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus," they returned to their fellow disciples. Luke records, "They lifted up their voice to God with one accord and said Lord, thou are God..." The disciples were addressing God; they were talking to God. Describing this action, Luke says, "and when they had prayed" (Acts 4:18-31). In this narrative prayer is defined as talking to God.

Prayer is commanded. Though a privilege and a blessing, prayer is also a command. "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). "Praying always with all prayer and supplication"

(Ephesians 6:18). “Men ought always to pray and not to faint.

(Luke 18:1)

Prayer is a blessing and a privilege. “Privilege” is a “right, benefit, advantage, or favor.” Prayer is a right and benefit reserved for God’s children. “Now we know that God heareth not sinners; but if any man be a worshipper of God and doeth His will, He heareth” (John 9:31). “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and His ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil” (1 Peter 3:12). While rebellious sinners are denied this precious privilege of prayer, God’s children have confidence God hears. “This is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us” (1 John 5:14).

Prayer is powerful. “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16). James illustrated this with Elijah, “Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again and the heaven gave rain and the earth brought forth her fruit.” There is power in prayer.

Do not neglect this power and privilege of prayer. Talk to God—He is listening for you.

—Steve Housley

February 27, 2022

Announcements
Song Leader
Sermon
Opening Prayer
Scripture
Second Prayer
Closing Prayer
Lords Supper
Scripture Reading:

A.M.

Larry May
Craig Wesson
Allen Weakland
Larry May
Bill Ryan
Scot Straw
Charles Wood
Don Easlon
David Ryan
Kirk McFarland
Jr. Munoz

P.M.

Larry May
Jon Roemisch
Allen Weakland
Larry May
Oliver Hernandez
Cody Wesson
Bill Brown
Richard Siler
Communion
(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: **Elder:** Larry May 638-3990 —**Deacon:** Jacob Carson 940-3775-
Pulpit: John Wood 413-7444- —**Table:** Richard Siler 556-2151 —**Song Leaders:** Larry May
638-3990—**Recording Sermons:** Tommy Garcia 312-5332 — **Collections:** Tommy & Richard

Sunday AM

“Gospel—Foundation of Faithfulness”
(II Thessalonians 2:13-17)

Sunday PM

“Spiritual Living”
(Galatians 6:1)

Our Records

Bible Class... 63
Morning Worship...109
Evening Worship ...NC
Wednesday...75
Contribution...\$4,028.35