

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 principle “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. “Romans 14 says you can’t judge me if I use instrumental music in worship.” “Romans 14 say’s you shouldn’t judge a church for using praise teams or dramatic re-enactments.” “Romans 14 say’s you should not judge a church that uses 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 Word spoken by 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” (KJV, v. 1), or “disputes over doubtful things” (NKJ, 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; Phil. 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 the 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 most evident 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 with the minds of many. The reality is, we are commanded to judge and it is to be **“righteous judgement”** (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 Chr. 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

Sympathy

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Stan and LaDonna Chism in the loss of Stan’s brother, **Vernon Chism** who passed from this life on Sunday, March 5th at 8:40 p.m. His funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m., March 8th at the First Baptist Church in Bertram, TX. Vernon was 65 years old.

Prayer Requests

Urisonya Flunder has requested our prayers as there is a possibility she may have to have a surgical procedure done soon.

Concerns Update

Vanessa Machuca (daughter of Sylvia Campos) underwent surgery Thursday, March 2nd, in San Antonio. She is home recuperating now. Sylvia has requested prayers for Vanessa that she may have a speedy recovery. She lives in Helotes, TX.

Marjorie Foster (Nancy Easlon’s mother) was able to travel back to El Paso last week. She had been in Odessa since the auto accident in December. Continue to keep both her and Jenny in your daily prayers as they recuperate.

Jenny Fuls’ surgery on the 7th at the University Medical Center in Lubbock went well. She was experiencing a slight breathing problem after surgery. Jenny should know more when the doctors examine her legs.

Prayer List

David Alaniz; Lee Roy Bell, Betty Branson; Mary Brown; Bill Bundick; Marie Bundick; Mitchell Bundick; Sissy Bundick; Betty Burns; Crystal Card; Glynn Chandler; Linda and Sonny Coggins; John Cole; Barbara Crowder; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; John Ford; Shane Ford; Marjorie Foster; Melida Frazier; Jenny Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; Maria Guzman; Anna Groves; Lon Howard; Charles Jones; Janis Laminack; Jody Langford; Cheyenne Lozano’s baby; Elder & Glenna McCarty; Jason Moore; Russ Montgomery; Juan & Estella Morolez; Carolyn Morrison; Rudy Ochoa; Trina Plyler; Ivan Rigsby; Cynthia Schulze; Andrew Schwarz; Brenda Simmons; Charles Simmons; James Stephens; Marilyn Upshaw; James Weaver; Judy Wells; Lisa Wells; Ann Wilson; John Wood; Jack Wright; Paula Wyatt; Toya Zambelli.

Eisenhower’s Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Janice 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...

If you were to read in Acts 27:14, the word, Euroclyden; would you associate it with, (1) a ship; (2) a person; (3) a tempestuous wind?

Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...

Jesus was crucified outside of the walls of Jerusalem.

Wedding Shower... (Change in Date & Time)

Hannah Weakland's "Wedding Shower" has been changed to Monday, 27th at 6:30 p.m. at Bonnie Sorenson's home. Her selections are at Bed, Bath and Beyond, Amazon and Walmart. All the ladies are invited.

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

Eisenhower Church,

Thank you so much for the meal prepared for our family before the funeral service. It was so nice to have a place our family could be together.

We appreciate those of you who came to visit mother. She hadn't been able to attend church regularly, but really appreciated those that reached out to her! Eisenhower was such a part of her & daddy's life for so many years and they had so many friends over the years.

Thank you again for your kindness,

The family of Ruby Davis

Office News

NOTE: Odessa Christian School has a position open for school secretary. The position is a 12 month hourly. If interested pick up an application from the front office. We will be accepting applications through March 20th.

Thank you,

Nancy Campbell

STF—Group #2 will have their luncheon today following our morning service. All our visitors are invited to join them.

March 12, 2017

Announcements
Song Leader
Sermon
Opening Prayer
Scripture
Second Prayer
Closing Prayer

A.M.

Jeff Wesson
John Wood
Allen Weakland
Jeff Wesson
Richard Siler
Bill Tolbert
Craig Wesson

P.M.

Jeff Wesson
Jacob Carson
Allen Weakland
Jeff Wesson
Tom Sorenson
John Wood
Scot Straw

Lord's Supper

West...

Jacob Carson
Trinidad Wood
Richard Siler

Bill Butler
Communion
(In Library)

East...

Don Easlon
Dylan Straw
Craig Wesson

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Jeff Wesson 561-5302 *Deacon:* Rudy Ochoa 214-0398 *Pulpit:* Scot Straw 368-7852 *Table:* Chris Butler 362-7486 *Song Leaders:* Denny Wilson 325-340-2291 *Recording Duties:* Tony Marrs 553-7349 *Collections:* Scot Straw & Chris Butler

Sunday AM

"Forgiveness made Possible"
(Romans 3:21-26)

Sunday PM

"Blind Leaders"
(Matthew 15:12-14)

Our Records

Bible Class... 68
*Morning Worship...*140
*Evening Worship...*70
*Wednesday...*93
Contribution...\$5,413.50