

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Denominationalism or Pluralism?

I once heard the late, great evangelist Andrew M. Connally say, “Denominationalism is of the devil and all who remain in such until death will be lost.” While this may offend many, including some members of the Lord’s church, it is a most accurate and compelling Bible Truth. Simply stated, our Lord did not die for denominationalism. ***He built His church*** (Mat. 16:18), ***shed His blood for His church*** (Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:23), ***is the Head of His church*** (Eph. 5:25; Col. 1:18), ***reigns over His church*** (Acts 2:30-32), ***and will save His church*** (Eph. 5:25). Since there is only one body (Eph. 6:4), faithful preachers have always condemned divisive and devilish denominationalism.

However, within the ranks of denominationalism itself, there has long been much to debate as various religious groups sought to defend their erroneous doctrines by means of Scripture. At least these proponents of error should be commended for trying to prove their beliefs by the Bible and for being convicted enough to try to win people to their way of thinking.

Today, however, there is a growing tendency away from denominationalism to something perhaps even worse: pluralism! Instead of religious bickering and infighting, all the religious groups are being persuaded to put unity ahead of doctrine and come together on “common ground.” While it would be a most marvelous thing to see all the denominations give up their errors and untie together on God’s truth, this is not what is in mind. Pluralism calls for all religious groups, including those outside of “Christendom,” to see the value in each existing group and to tolerate all opinions in our diverse culture, that one might see the benefits offered by each group. This is not to say there has never been unity in diversity before. For example, various denominational groups have always stood united in their opposition toward the Lord’s church. Yet, in recent times we see more toleration and acceptance of error and more retaliation toward the Truth.

Unfortunately, the church of Christ has not been spared from the evil doctrine of pluralism. Notorious statements that have been made by heretical teachers, such as, “Anytime I hear someone call God ‘Father’, I see a brother,” demonstrate how far astray some have gone in order to attain pseudo-unity. More and more, we have brethren who are involved in the ecumenical movement through sharing pulpits with various denominational preachers, conducting youth devotionals with other religious groups, etc. These meetings, for sure, are not intended to teach the lost the truth (though they are often times given that cover as an excuse of their happening). Such brethren must be reminded of the words of the apostle Paul, ***“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them”*** (Ephesians 5:11).

Often these promoters of union with every denominational stripe appeal to Jesus’ prayer for unity in John 17. Yet, this so-called unity movement stands in direct contrast to Jesus’ prayer. No, it was not the intention of the Lord to have everyone just getting along, respecting the whims and opinions of each other, and forgetting allegiance to His divine truth. Truth is exclusive, not inclusive. It is, by its very nature, narrow (Matthew 7:13-14).

So what should be our attitude toward pluralism? The same as it has been toward denominationalism. Remember these words. ***“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father***

and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that abideth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds” (2 John 9-11). May our constant plea be unity, but unity that is authorized by the God who says, ***“the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable”*** (James 3:17).

—Barry M. Grider

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to Nancy Easlon and her family in the loss of her sister, **Jennie Fuls**. Jennie passed away Thursday night, April 4th, at the Midland Memorial Hospital. A memorial service was held at 3:00 p.m. Friday, April 12th at the Nally, Pickle and Welch Funeral Home in Midland.

Prayer Requests

John Wood had an appointment in Lubbock on April 8th to receive another infusion treatment.

Allen Weakland had an angiogram on April 5th. The test showed he has no blockages.

Jurlean Warren underwent an angiogram procedure on Friday, April 5th and then had surgery on Sunday to have two stents put in.

Sylvia Campos has a consultation visit with her eye doctor on April 16th. Please keep her in your prayers that the best possible treatment will be decided on to help her eye problem.

Cathy Mooney has not been able to work for two weeks due to high blood pressure which has caused other health issues.

Loyce Driver’s granddaughter, **Jacki Wallace**, was admitted into Andrew’s hospital last week for dehydration and a strep. She was treated and is home now and doing well.

Melissa Moore had another surgery on her ankle Saturday, April 13th in Lubbock. Please pray for a speedy recovery for her.

Meagan Winsor (Bill & Vickie Ryan’s granddaughter) has a bad case of strep throat and surgery is mandatory because of the severity of it.

Prayer List

Crissy Arroyo; Brian Basaldua; Harshad Bhavsar; Betty Branson; Bill Brown; Brad Bundick; Bill Butler; Sylvia Campos; Eddie Chavez; Jon Cooper; Dana Erwin; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Paul Gunn; Winford Hambright; Letha Hooper; Jennifer Jones; Paul Ketchell; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; Patsy Mitchell; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Sharion Price; Bonnie Pursley; Laisha Ramirez; Jackie Rex; Paisleigh Grace Shepherd; Susan Simmons; Reda Sowell; Jack Straw; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Lupe Valeriano; Robert Vargas; Beth Ann Warren; Lisa Wells; James & Janet Wesson; Sondie Williamson; John Wood.

Eisenhower’s Shut-ins

Robertta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley; and Lester Whisenant.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

Paul told the Ephesian elders that after his departure, savage _____ would come in among them. (Acts 20:29)

Last Week’s Bible Quiz Answer...

The answer is False. John the Baptist taught that the Messiah would baptize with water and fire.

Events

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 back the 1st week in June for a food pick up. **All items are appreciated.** No specific items were given at this time. Monetary donations are also accepted.

Baby Shower

A “Baby Shower” is planned for Kallie Wesson at Bonnie Sorenson’s home on Saturday, April 27th from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. All the ladies are invited. Selections are at Target and Amazon.

A Combined “Graduation Shower” is planned for **William Wood** and **Brenna Wilson** on Sunday, May 5th from 2:00-4:00 pm in the Annex. Everyone is invited.

Does it Matter What Religion You Practice?

Only the right authority gives one the right answer. The authority is not man (Jer. 10:23) nor what seems right to man (Prov. 14:12). It’s not feelings, conscience, creed books. The only right answer is God’s Word (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:3). The question is not what matters to man, but rather, “what matters to God.” If it does not matter to God, then why did God demand religious people obey the gospel (Acts 2, 8, 10, 16, 11)? If it does not matter to God, then there are no false religions, doctrines and teachers. But the Bible reveals that such do exist (Matthew 7:15, 21-23; Rom. 16:17-18; 2 Pet. 2:1-2; 1 John 4:1).

When one reads the charge of the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16), does not that show the Lord is not just interested in one “practicing religion,” but it is His Word that determines what we are to believe, obey and practice (Col. 3:17)?

It matters to God what we “believe in;” “belong to” and how we “live and worship.” It is His Way and only His Way that leads to Heaven!

—Jerry Joseph

via
Church of Christ, San Augustine, TX

April 14th, 2019

A.M.

P.M.

Announcements	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Jaxon Straw	Rudy Ochoa
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Scripture	Jr. Munoz	Scot Straw
Second Prayer	Cody Wesson	Clint Titlow
Closing Prayer	Dan Igo	Gary Loving
Lord's Supper (Scripture Reading)	<u>Craig Wesson</u>	
West...	Jacob Carson	Larry May
	Don Easlon	Communion
	Bill Ryan	(In Library)
East	Dex Dennard	
	Larry May	
	Richard Siler	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Jeff Wesson 556-5547 *Deacon*; Don Easlon 288-5834 *Pulpit*; Josh Wells 770-6753 *Table*; Larry May 638-3990— *Song Leaders*: Larry May 638-3990 *Recording Sermons*; Doug Guynn 260-00440 *Collections*: Doug Guynn 260-0440

Sunday AM

“Bread of Life”
(John 6:35)

Sunday PM

“Overcoming Discontentment”
(Psalm 23:1-2)

Our Records

Bible Class... NA
Morning Worship...115
Evening Worship...62
Wednesday...81
Contribution...\$4,326.00