

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## Should the Church Have a Pattern?

If we look around, it is clear most men believe the answer to the question of the title is “No”. But, if one looks to God’s Word instead of man’s wishes, he will find that God has always been concerned with the pattern of those things He has commanded. For example, in the Hebrews’ letter, we read of the commands given to Moses as he received the Old Law on Mount Sinai. We are told he was to “make all things according to the pattern” (8:5; see also Ex. 25:40). A “pattern” is “an example...the pattern in conformity to which a thing must be made” (Thayer’s Greek English Lexicon). God was very concerned with His instructions or patterns being followed in the Old Testament. But did you realize in the New Testament Age (the time wherein we all now live, Matthew 28:18-20), He is even more concerned? In Hebrews 2, we are told “we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip” (Hebrews 2:1-3). Is it not strange then that we look about at the multitude of churches in our day and see so many differences? One would think God did not care enough about the blood bought church (Acts 20:28) to give a pattern! But a study of the New Testament teaches clearly that such is not the case. God has given a pattern. For example, let us notice some aspects of the Lord’s pattern in His promise pertaining to the church in Matthew 16:18-19).

***“And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven”.***

From this passage alone, we can see several things about the “pattern” of the church:

- ***The church ...“the kingdom of heaven”***- The Lord obviously equated the church and the kingdom. Any church which seeks to separate them is not following the Lord’s pattern.
- ***“I will build”***- The church at that time was not in existence. A careful reading of the Scriptures shows that until Acts 2 the church is spoken of as in prospect. From Acts 2 onward, the church is in existence. Any church that has a beginning time other than the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 is not following the Lord’s pattern.
- ***“My church”*** - The church is the Lord’s; not man’s. In His Word, it is described by terms that show His ownership. Man’s churches have strange names—names of men who built them, names of teachings they follow or practices and other such man-made terms. These are not following the Lord’s pattern.
- ***“I will give thee the keys”*** - Keys are obviously used to enter. The Lord has provided a pattern for entrance into His church, a pattern followed in Acts 2 when the church began. Those who “gladly received his word were baptized” (Acts 2:41), “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). While many obviously believed in Christ (Acts 2:37), only those willing to accept and obey the pattern were added to the church (Acts 2:41-47). Today, man has rejected His pattern by teaching infant baptism, faith only and the like.

Clearly God is concerned and has given a pattern for His church. He did this because He is concerned with our salvation. The question comes down to us - “Are we concerned with the

pattern He has given?” Obviously many are not, that is why you can “*attend the church of your choice.*” It really comes down to you. Are you ready to “make all things according to the pattern” and attend the church of His choice?

—Jack H. Williams

### ***Sympathy***

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Charles Jones**. Charles passed from this life early Friday morning, April 14th in Arizona. His services were scheduled for Thursday, April 20th at 2:00 p.m. here at Eisenhower and his burial in Andrews, TX. Charles’ son, Mike Jones, conducted the service.

### ***Prayer Requests***

**Jurlean Warren** entered Medical Center Hospital Tuesday, April 11th due to having atrial Fib. She underwent a heart procedure on Saturday afternoon, April 15th. Blockage was found and Jurlean had to have two stents put in. Keep her in your prayers.

Keep **Trina Plyler** (George and Jurlean Warren’s daughter) in your daily prayers as she continues to fight cancer.

Also the Warren’s other daughter, **Tanya Nichols**, has shingles around her eye area. We need to keep Tanya in our prayers also.

**Velma Tolbert** will be undergoing radiation and chemo treatments for her cancer.

### ***Concerns Update***

**LaVern Couch’s** knee procedure on April 11th went well. She may still need a knee replacement surgery later on.

### ***Prayer List***

David Alaniz; Lee Roy Bell, Betty Branson; Mary Brown; Bill Bundick; Marie Bundick; Mitchell Bundick; Sissy Bundick; Betty Burns; Chris Butler; Glynn Chandler; Linda and Sonny Coggins; John Cole; Barbara Crowder; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; Urisonya Flunder; John Ford; Shane Ford; Marjorie Foster; Melida Frazier; Jennie Fuls; Bill Gibbons; Hattie Gilmore; Irma Gomez; Maria Guzman; Anna Groves; Kenny & Lynn Howard; Lon Howard; Janis Laminack; Jody Langford; Elder & Glenna McCarty; Jason Moore; Russ Montgomery; Juan & Estella Morolez; Carolyn Morrison; Gina Munoz; Jim Ochoa; Trina Plyler; Ivan Rigsby; Cynthia Schulze; Andrew Schwarz; Brenda Simmons; Charles Simmons; James Stephens; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; James Weaver; Judy Wells; Lisa Wells; Ann Wilson; John Wood; Jack Wright; Paula Wyatt; Justin Young; 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...** Who was Simon the Zealot?

**Last Week’s Bible Quiz answer...** There were 42 generations from Abraham to Christ

## Events

Sunday, April 30th is our “**Fifth Sunday Services**”. We will have a noon meal after our morning service followed by the evening service. All our visitors are welcome.

**Jean Grenier** (Missionary in Canada) will be here Wednesday, April 26th, to bring an up-to-date report on the work being done there. All classes JHS and (up) will meet in the Auditorium.

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 back in Odessa June 6th, 2017. They are requesting **Juices (all kinds)**. Monetary donations also accepted.

**STF—Group #4** will have their noon luncheon today following our morning service. All our visitors are welcome.

Our next “**Friday Night Bible Class**” is April 28th in the annex. Snack foods are okay.

A “**Work Day**” has been scheduled for Saturday, April 29th.

## Graduation Showers:

There will be a “Graduation Shower” for **Dylan Straw** on Sunday, May 7th between 2:00-4:00 pm in the Annex. He will be graduating from Permian High on Saturday, May 27th. Everyone is invited to come help Dylan celebrate this milestone in his life.

**Kamilla Armendarez** will also be celebrating her “Graduation and Birthday” on Saturday, May 20th between 12:00—2:00 pm in the Annex. Kamilla will be graduating from Odessa High on Friday, May 26th. Everyone is invited to her duo celebration.

## April 23rd, 2017

Announcements  
Song Leader  
Sermon  
Opening Prayer  
Scripture  
Second Prayer  
Closing Prayer

### A.M.

Larry May  
Craig Wesson  
Allen Weakland  
Larry May  
Trinidad Wood  
Bill Tolbert  
Charles Wood

### P.M.

Larry May  
Jacob Carson  
Allen Weakland  
Larry May  
Josh Weakland  
Don Easlon  
Rudy Ochoa

## Lord's Supper

West...

Rudy Ochoa  
Scot Straw  
Bill Ryan

Chris Butler  
Communion  
(In Library)

East...

Josh Wells  
Josh Weakland  
Dex Dennard

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder:* Larry May 638-3990 *Deacon:* Bill Ryan 272-5507 *Pulpit:* Josh Wells 770-6753  
*Table:* Chris Butler 362-7486 *Song Leaders:* Denny Wilson 325-340-2291 *Recording Duties:* Richard Siler  
362-1392 *Collections:* Richard Siler 362-1392

### **Sunday AM**

*"Am I my Brother's Keeper?"*  
(Genesis 4:1-10)

### **Sunday PM**

*"Jesus & His Children"*  
(Matthew 18:1-14)

### **Our Records**

*Bible Class...* 89  
*Morning Worship...* 159  
*Evening Worship...* 69  
*Wednesday...* 68  
*Contribution...* 4,749.35