

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## A Consumer-Driven Church

There is little question that we live in a consumer-driven society. Most businesses pay careful attention to the desires and preferences of their customers and try to mold their product line or services to meet these preferences. Sometimes companies ignore their constituents and make changes that are unpopular. In 1985 the Coca Cola Company changed the formula of its flagship product and the result was disastrous. The uproar from customers was so fierce that within a few months the original formula was returned to production.

The power of consumer preferences has not been lost on the religious world. Beginning about twenty-five years ago the leadership of some churches began to modify their approach to appeal to what church-growth gurus call, “the unchurched”. As a result, preachers began to dress more casually, worship music became more like a rock concert, more and varied social programs were initiated, and the emphasis of preaching turned more to the person of Jesus and less to doctrinal matters. It was believed that these changes would make the church more appealing to those who had never been to church.

Consumers are quick to pick up on such things and thus more and more people now come to churches with a shopping list of amenities they expect those churches to offer. Visitors now ask, “What programs does your church offer?” They inquire about youth programs, singles ministries, divorce or drug recovery programs, day care and other such things. If the church offers these amenities, they might consider joining it. If not, they take their list to the next church. Unfortunately, the primary concern of many church leaders is only on how to fill the church building. Therefore, the pressure to follow this trend is considerable.

When we open the pages of scripture, however, the idea of a consumer-driven church is nowhere found. Neither Jesus, nor His apostles, put their finger to the wind to see what was popular among the people. Instead, they urged people to focus on the unimpeachable word of God and to mold their desires in compliance with it. Paul notably told the elders of the church in Ephesus that he had not failed to declare the whole purpose of God to them (Acts 20:27). Because he had done so, he was innocent of the blood of all men (Acts 20:26). In other words, he had told them everything they needed to know to please God. If they chose not to obey God, they would bear responsibility for that decision.

When God sent Ezekiel to the people of Judah to warn them of His impending judgment because of their sins, He told the prophet to proclaim His word to them, “*whether they listen or not*”. This theme is constant throughout the scriptures, even in the New Testament. The apostles called people to become what God wanted them to be. They never modified their message to fit the preferences of the people. They spoke the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), but they declared the whole truth without compromise.

If popular opinion determined our eternal destiny, then it might make sense to be a consumer-driven church. However, the Lord said that His word will judge us at the last day (John 12:48). He also warned the seven churches of Asia that He would remove their lampstand if they did not obey Him (Revelation 2-3). From the beginning of His ministry the Lord made it clear

that we must do things God's way (Matthew 7:21-23). If we want a home in Heaven, we must keep seeking the things above, rather than the things on earth (Colossians 2:1-2). Christ purchased the church with His blood (Acts 20:28). Therefore, it must be Christ-driver, not consumer-driven, in all it does.

—Fred Dominguez

### ***Prayer Requests***

Bill and Vickie Ryan's daughter, Andrea Berry, has requested prayers for her father-in-law, **Bill Berry**, who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer and is in need of prayers.

**Opal Hager** (Christy Weakland's grandmother) is in a Nursing Home in Weatherford, TX where an elderly gentleman has contracted the Covid 19 virus. Prayers are requested for the safety of the other residents there.

### ***Concerns Update***

**Jr. Munoz** underwent a successful cancer surgery on Wednesday, April 22nd. Everything went okay and he is in the recuperating stage. Continue to keep Jr. in your prayers.

**Rudy Ochoa** is in Medical Center Hospital undergoing inpatient therapy for the mild stroke he had on April 19th. He is doing very well and may get to go home in a week or so. Continue to keep Rudy in your prayers.

**Devin Jones** (Linda Tate's grandson) who underwent ankle surgery last Monday morning did very well. They were able to repair a large loose bone that did not show up on the MRI. Devin was able to go home that afternoon.

**Princess Tadashi** (one of LaDonna Chism's young students) had her follow up examine last Monday to see whether or not the medication she had been taking has been effective on treating her brain tumor. Prayers are requested for Princess.

### ***Prayer List***

Jack Aaron; Brian Basaldua; Betty Brooks; Bill Brown; Sylvia Campos; Steve Chavez; Maddie Clay; Lavern Couch; Kim Drake; Jazmine Duron; Dana Erwin; Thomas Garcia; Hattie Gilmore; Winford Hambricht; Irene Hernandez; Leo Holloway; Letha Hooper; Vertie Howard; Linda Latch; Liz Leach; Betty Leeth; Charles Lewis; Jed Martin; Alyssa May; Ora McAfee; Krysta McMullen; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Jr. Munoz; Maxine Newton; Tanya Nichols; Rudy Ochoa; Juanita Orosco; Trina Plyler; Laisha Ramirez; Jackie Rex; Danna Robertson; Janelle Shirley; Susan Simmons; Princess Tadashi; Mark Thompson; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Robert Vargas; Jackie Wallace; Lindsey Wells; James & Janet Wesson; Jay Wesson; Tom Wilcox; John Wood.

### ***Eisenhower's Shut-ins***

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Jackie Rex; Janelle Shirley

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 (Multiple Choice)**

Jesus told the disciples about His going away, "I will not leave you (a) Deserted (b) forever (c) Orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:18)

## Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer ...

There are 150 psalms in the book of Psalms.

### **Events**

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

### **Office News**

The New Mexico Christian Children's Home has temporarily cancelled all grocery pick-ups at this time. However, donations can be made to the home online at NMCCH.org. Gathered items will be collected ASAP.

## God's Faithful Children

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints"* (Psalm 116:15).

This verse from the Psalms causes our minds to reflect on the many Christians who have passed from this life. We know that, in spite of the great strides in the world of medicine, death comes to everyone. Just as surely as we are born we will die, unless, of course, the Lord comes again during our lifetime. The writer of the Hebrew letter tells us, *"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"* (Hebrews 9:27). The faithful children will then go home to be with God forever.

God, in the very beginning of creation, looked and saw that mankind would need a Savior. So when the time was ready, according to his plan, God sent His only begotten Son from heaven to earth to be our Savior. Being sinless, Jesus was the perfect sacrifice. His blood takes away all sins of those who obey the gospel plan of salvation and it continues to cleanse those who remain faithful. How grateful we should be for the wonderful privilege of being members of Christ's church and for the promise of eternal life that has been given to the faithful. (Read Revelations 2:10).

John, in Revelation 21:4, describes the peace that the faithful will enjoy in heaven. *"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."* Heaven is so wonderful that, once we get there, we will never want to return to this old world of sorrow and sin. We will be filled with peace and joy forever. What a wonderful future is promised to God's faithful children?

—Dale Grissom

## Sunday, May 3rd, 2020

Due to the Coronavirus spread in Odessa and surrounding areas, the Eisenhower Church of Christ elders have made the decision to "Live Stream" all their services on Facebook since we can have no more than 10 people in attendance. Below are our scheduled services:

Sunday Worship – 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Service -- 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening Bible Class -- 7:00 p.m.

### **Sunday AM**

*"Power of Patience"*  
(James 5:7-12)

**Sunday PM**

*“Life Saving Station”*

*(Matthew 28:18-20)*

**Other Responsibilities: Other Responsibilities:** *Elder* : Larry May 638-3990—*Deacon*: Josh Wells 770-6753— *Pulpit*: John Wood 413-7444—*Table*: David Ryan 512-924-0983 — *Song Leaders*: Larry May 638-3990— *Recording Sermons*: Josh Wells 770-6753— *Collections*: Josh Wells 770-6753