

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## Does the Church of Christ Need to Change?

We have heard much about change where the Lord's church is concerned. Many argue that since times have changed, the church needs to change as well. The church is both human and divine. It is divine in that the Lord is the Founder. It is human in that it is composed of human beings. From the human standpoint, perhaps some changes need to be made. If I do not make the proper preparation for worship, I need to change. If I do not enthusiastically participate in worship, I need to change. If I am not living a Christ-centered life, I need to change. If I am not a diligent worker in the church, then I need to change. However, from the divine side, it is not possible to improve the church. It was designed by God. In worship, organization, salvation, and mission—there can be no improvement made upon an institution begun by God. Consider the following...

***Do we need to change the nature of the church?*** The church of Christ is not a denomination. It pre-dates denominationalism by hundreds of years. When Pilate asked Jesus if He were a king, Jesus replied, "My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now my kingdom is not from hence" (John 18:36). Thus, the kingdom, (i.e., the church, Matthew 16:18-19), by its very nature, is a spiritual institution in which Jesus is the Founder. Furthermore. Many people rebel at the idea that the Lord has only one church, but consider the Scriptures' teaching. The church is the body (Ephesians 1:22-23). "There is one body" (Ephesians 4:4). Christ is the Savior of that one body (Ephesians 5:23). We cannot change that which the Lord designed!

***Do we need to change the plan of salvation?*** When many inquire of salvation, the common answer given is "Say the sinner's prayer; ask the Lord to come into your heart; and accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior." But what do the Scriptures teach regarding salvation? In Acts 2:37, sinners asked, "What shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). Saul of Tarsus was still in sin when met by Ananias who told him, "Arise, and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). Those instructions were in keeping with the Lord's statement in Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned." We dare not tamper with the Lord's terms for pardon.

***Do we need to change our worship?*** Jesus declared, "God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). "In spirit" refers to the attitude of worship. Our worship must be from the heart; i.e., in sincerity. "In truth" means it is to be regulated by the word of God (cf. John 17:17). Our worship consists of studying/teaching God's word (Acts 2:42); prayer (Acts 2:42); partaking of the Lord's Supper each first day of the week (Acts 20:7); giving of our means each first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:2); and singing (Ephesians 5:19).

It should be noted regarding to singing, the melody is to be made in the heart (Ephesians 5:19). There is no authority for mechanical instruments of music.

***Do we need to change with regard to the biblical doctrine of fellowship?*** "Fellowship" means joint participation, sharing, having in common. Paul writes, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Ephesians 5:11). If we bid God speed to those

who bring not the doctrine of Christ, we become partakers of their evil deeds (2 John 9-11). The “doctrine” of Christ means the doctrine which Jesus delivered. Thus, I cannot fellowship preachers, elderships, congregations or those outside of Christ who do not follow the Scriptures.

—Jimmy Ferguson

### ***Sympathy***

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Steve Chavez**. Steve passed away November 3rd. His service was held at Sunset Memorial Gardens at 10:00 a.m. November 8th.

Our condolences go out to Jackie Perkins and his family in the loss of his mother, **Ollie Perkins**. Ollie passed away on Friday, November 5th. Her services were held on November 10th

### ***Prayer Request***

**Tiffany Horton** (Tom & Bonnie Sorenson’s daughter) was diagnosed with breast cancer. An MRI was done last week. Please keep Tiffany in your prayers that her treatment will be successful.

**Ora McAfee** is back in the hospital due to another fall. They are trying to strengthen her body so she won’t fall so easily. Ora may have to go back to Encompass for therapy.

**Chasidy Rayos** (Jackie & Wanda Perkins’ granddaughter) has been diagnosed with a very aggressive breast cancer. She has begun chemotherapy treatments at MD Anderson.

### ***Concerns Update***

**Terresia Weaver** is waiting for a biopsy and PET scan. Continued prayers are requested.

**LaDonna Chism** was able to go home last weekend. She was sent home with medication. Continue to keep LaDonna in your prayers.

### ***Prayer List***

Wayne Anderson; John Michael Armendariz; Betty Branson; LaDonna Chism; Dana Erwin; Hattie Gilmore; Tara Grimmett; Doug Guynn; Rosanna Herrera; Chris Landers; Alex Martinez; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Julie Munoz; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Jackie Rex; Daniel Reyes; Reda Sowell; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Janet Wesson; John Wood.

### ***Youth***

Bible Quiz Question ... (Finish the Beatitude)

Blessed are the poor in spirit...

Last Week’s Quiz Answer...

King Jehoshaphat was King of Judah after King Asa (his father) served 41 years. Both were good kings.

### ***Events***

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

## The Truth Sometimes Hurts

How much do you appreciate the truth? The truth is easy to hear when it is flattering, encouraging and uplifting. However, the truth can sometimes hurt. Do you always desire the truth from those around you, regardless of whether it is favorable or not? Do you always demand the truth from those who preach and teach the gospel of Christ?

The truth pleased the rich young ruler until Jesus told him the one thing he lacked (Mark 10:17-22). Some would call such a declaration of truth unloving, but the Spirit called it love (note verse 21). How do we feel when someone courageously and honestly points out our shortcomings? (Proverbs 27:6)

Most of the Jews who heard Peter on Pentecost appreciated the truth, though it indicted them. They chose repentance and baptism (Acts 2:36-40). Whereas, those Jews who heard Stephen speak that same truth hated what was spoken. They responded by stoning Stephen to death (Acts 7:54-60). How do we respond to the truth?

The Galatians loved the apostle Paul—so much that at one point they were willing to pluck out their own eyes and give them to Paul. However, in the very next verse, Paul was compelled to ask if he had become their enemy because he told them the truth (Galatians 4:14-16). Do we despise those who tell us what we need to hear?

A few reminders should help us to realize the value of truth.

1. Jesus is the truth (John 14:6).
2. God’s word is truth (John 17:17).
3. Knowing and abiding in the truth can set us free (John 8:31-32).
4. Those who suppress the truth in unrighteousness will face the wrath of God (Romans)1:18).
5. We must always speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).
6. We should always speak the truth with our neighbors (Ephesians 4:25).
7. Love rejoices in truth (1 Corinthians 13:6).

Simply stated, unless we have a love of the truth, we will never appreciate the truths that hurt (2 Thess. 2:10-12). Unless we are willing to accept painful truths, we cannot know the sanctifying power of truth (John 17:17). Unless we obey the truth, we will be condemned (Romans 2:8).

How much do you appreciate truth? The answer is painfully obvious when we are confronted with agonizing truths that require change in our lives. Change hurts, but the truth saves. How will you respond the next time you are confronted with the truth?

—Jonathan Perz

<b>November 14, 2021</b>	<b>A.M.</b>	<b>P.M.</b>
Announcements	Larry May	Larry May
Song Leader	Craig Wesson	Oliver Hernandez
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Larry May	Larry May
Scripture	David Ryan	Tommy Garcia
Second Prayer	Tom Sorenson	Jeff Wesson
Closing Prayer	Bill Ryan	Charles Wood
Lords Supper		Richard Siler
<u>Scripture Reading:</u>	<u>Cody Wesson</u>	Communion
	Oliver Hernandez	(In Library)
	Don Easlon	
	John Wood	

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder:* Larry May 638-3990 —*Deacon:* Jr. Munoz 212-2231 —*Pulpit:* Scot Straw 288-4533—*Table:* Richard Siler 556-2151 —*Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990—*Recording Sermons:* Craig Wesson 934-4646 — *Collections:* Richard Siler 556-2151

### Sunday AM

“On-Going Growth”  
(Hebrews 3:11-13)

### Sunday PM

“How Shall the Young Secure Their Hearths”  
(Psalm 119:9-16)