

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## Ashamed of the Church

Are you ashamed to let people know that you are a member of the church of Christ? A number of years ago, the “Pastor” of one of the local Baptist Churches and I were in a discussion. He said, “Why is it that the people in the Church of Christ are ashamed to admit that they are members of the Church of Christ?” Yes, he knew what he was talking about. I have seen some members of the church almost choke trying to tell people that they were members of the church. I have seen them shamefully blush with embarrassment when asked where they went to church. I have seen them bow their heads and with a weak voice say, “I am a member of the church of Christ.” When that Baptist preacher asked me that question, I was ashamed of all those who are ashamed of the church.

To be ashamed of the church of Christ is to be ashamed of something greatly loved by Christ. Paul said, **“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish”** (Ephesians 5:25-27). The love Christ manifested for the church is paramount in the Bible. The very blood that dripped from His wounds was shed in order to purchase the church. The Ephesian elders were instructed; **“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood”** (Acts 20:28). How on earth can any man be ashamed of the very thing that Jesus loves so much— or of the very thing that the blood of Christ was shed for? God forbid!

To be ashamed of the church of Christ is to be ashamed of God’s family. The church is composed of the children of God. The apostle Paul declared that the church is God’s household, saying: **“I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground for the truth”** (I Timothy 3:15 NKJV). There is not a man living today, with any moral decency in him, who would fail to love his family and demand respect for it. What if someone were to manifest open shame and embarrassment if asked to admit they were members of your family? Why, it would tear your heart out because your family means so very much to you and you are proud of it. Now think of God and His family, the church. In the first place God’s Son died for the church. This makes it all the more precious to God. It makes Him even prouder of it. Can you imagine God’s view of the child of His who is ashamed to admit that he is a member of God’s family; shame on any person with such a lack of respect for God and His family.

To be ashamed of the church is to be ashamed of the infinite omniscience of God. The salvation of man through the church was in the mind of God since before the foundation of the world. The order of the ages was directed toward that “fullness of time” in which Christ would come into the world to build His church. In Ephesians 3, Paul explains how God’s plan remained a mystery through the ages and how that this plan is manifested in and through the church of our dear Lord. Friend, are you ashamed of the institution of God planned and established in order that your soul might be saved? Are you ashamed of the way that God thinks and acts? God forbid!

Rather than waiting to be asked about our church membership, let us go forth in true Christian humility, but never with shame and declare to all who will listen that we are members of the Lord’s church. So what if the world scoffs and ridicules us? So what if some with malicious intent may do even worse? Regardless of what men may ever think or do, we must never be ashamed. Is it not better to be rejected by the world than to be rejected by Jesus Christ? After enduring all those terrible ordeals that he

went through in his preaching, Paul said: ***“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth”*** (Romans 1:16). That same Gospel message declares the church; therefore, to be like Paul we must never be ashamed of the church.

—Tommy J. Hicks

### **Sympathy**

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Terresia Weaver and all her family in the loss of **Jimmy**. Jimmy passed from this life early Thursday morning, November 29th at his home. His funeral service was conducted Saturday, December 1st at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home and Jimmy was laid to rest at Sunset Memorial Gardens. Keep the Weaver family in your prayers.

### **Baptism**

Allen Weakland had the privilege of teaching God’s word, taking the good confession and then baptizing **Nina Wright** into Christ last Tuesday night, December 4th. Her baptism took place at the Westside Church of Christ. Nina is Shona Wood’s aunt who lives in Midland. We rejoice with the angels in Heaven.

### **Response**

**Marilyn Upshaw** came forward Sunday morning, December 1st at the invitation. She came forward confessing sin in her life and wants to return to the Lord Jesus Christ. Please continue to keep Marilyn in your daily prayers as she is dealing with several health issues.

### **Prayer Request**

**Hattie Mae Gilmore** is in a lot of pain due to swollen legs and ankles. Please keep her in your prayers that she may have pain relief soon.

**Matthew Simmons** (grandson of Susan Simmons) went to Lubbock for a gall bladder problem. He was scheduled to have tests run last Tuesday. The family has requested prayers for him. Please pray that Matthew will get a good report from his tests.

### **Prayer List**

Brian Basaldua; Dennis Betts; Elsie Bradford; Brad Bundick; Bill Butler; Emma Craig; Dana Erwin; Densell Fambro; Jennie Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Winford Hambright; Letha Hooper; Jennifer Jones; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; Juan & Estella Morolez; Janelle Shirley; Charles Simmons; Albert Stegall; Jack Straw; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Josh Wells; Lisa Wells; James & Janet Wesson; John Wood;

### **Eisenhower’s Shut-ins**

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley; Marilyn Upshaw and Lester Whisenant.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

### **Youth**

#### **Bible Quiz Question...**

To whom did God say the following: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.

#### **Last Week’s Bible Quiz Answer...**

The Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the form of tongues of fire on the day of Pentecost.

### **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.

## Office News

The “New Mexico Children’s Home” will be here this Tuesday (11th) for a food pick up. They are requesting **Chocolate Chips and Vanilla**. Monetary donations are also accepted. The home will also be collecting the holiday gifts for the children at the same time.

STF—Group #2 will meet in Room C-5 after the service this morning for their group meeting.

## Going Back to Church

Several times over the past few months I’ve heard someone talk about going back to church.” Or actually do it. Many would be quick, as I often am, to point out that there is a more basic duty than that: returning to God. That picking up a ritual practice is no sign that one is right with God, something the Old Testament prophets proclaimed repeatedly and fiercely. And we are right in making that distinction.

But I wonder if, in my theological finery, I’m not missing a basic truth in plain dress. You can’t return to God (or turn to Him) without “going back to church.”

Sunday morning communion with God (when the saints are meeting together) in the bass boat or on the beach is self-deceit. In other words, you can’t be right with God and stay away from His people.

When I say His people, I’m not saying any religious group or a denomination that happens to call their self a church. I mean the true church of Jesus Christ, according to the New Testament pattern. But the point is, the Lord adds us to the body of Christ the same time that salvation occurs, as per Acts 2:47”...the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

So maybe I shouldn’t quibble when somebody says they want to “go back to church.” Maybe I should just offer to pick them up Sunday morning.

—J. Randal Matheny

### December 9, 2018

	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Song Leader	Jaxon Straw	Rudy Ochoa
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Scripture	Jr. Munoz	Josh Wells
Second Prayer	Tom Sorenson	John Wood
Closing Prayer	Cody Wesson	George Warren

### Lord's Supper

(Scripture Reading)	<u>Doug Guynn</u>	
West...	Rudy Ochoa	Dex Dennard
	Josh Wells	Communion
	Scot Straw	(In Library)
East...	Jr. Munoz	
	Trinidad Wood	
	Cody Wesson	

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder* : Allen Weakland 254-8209 *Deacon*: Bill Ryan 272-5507 *Pulpit*: Larry May 638-3990 *Table*: Dex Dennard 296-1582 *Song Leaders*: Larry May 638-3990 *Recording Duties*: Richard Siler 556-2151 *Collections*: Richard Siler 556-2151

### Sunday AM

“Total Commitment”  
(Romans 12:12)

### Sunday PM

“Soul Winning”  
(Mark 16:15-16)

