

June 23, 2019

CHURCH *of* CHRIST



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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes.....9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes.....7 p.m.

Minister, John Keith
(304) 266-9027

WELCOME!

We of the Cambridge church of Christ
invite you to all our services.

"...the churches of Christ salute you" (Romans 16:16).

WHEN THE CONSCIENCE DISAGREES WITH BRETHREN

INTRODUCTION: Read- Rom. 14:1-3

1. Individually, conscience related issues can be a source of anxiety; however, the problems of conscience compounds when a group is involved.
2. How do we respond when our conscience permits us to do something which another person's conscience does not? Vice-versa?

I. HELPING THE SPIRITUALLY WEAK (14:1-12).

- A. The Background: A Transitional Era in the Church.
 1. Jewish Christians passing from one divine system to another.
 2. Cultural diversity between former Jews and former Gentiles led to problems which threatened the unity of the church.
- B. The Present Situation: Conflict in the Church
 1. Between "weak" (1) and "strong" (15:1) Christians.
 2. The Jews- dietary laws (Lev. 11).
 3. Not all former Jews had learned that all meats were legal under the New Covenant (Mk. 7:19; Acts 10:9-16; 1 Tim. 4:3).
 4. The Gentiles- steeped in idol-worship; meat offered to idols sold in markets (1 Cor. 10:25).
- C. The Admonition: Patience (14:3-8).
- D. The Golden Rule (14:7-8).
 1. No one can live recklessly without considering others (Mt. 7:12).
 2. If we unjustly judge/mistreat our brethren, we do the same to Christ.
- E. The Authority Behind the Admonition (14:9-12).
 1. Christ's authority is founded His resurrection.
 2. We will all be judged by Christ (11-12; cf. Isa. 45:23).
 - a. We cannot be stricter than God.
 - b. We cannot be more lenient than God.

II. HOW DO WE DISAGREE IN LOVE?

- A. Welcome them (Rom. 14:1-2).
- B. Do Not Look Down on Them (14:3-4).
- C. If I have a weak conscience, I must not criticize the stronger or judge their liberty.
- D. Assume the Best Regarding the Other (14:6).
- E. If You "Eat Meat" (Are Stronger), don't allow your freedom to embolden a weaker to sin against his conscience.
- F. If you have freedom, don't flaunt it; if You are strict, don't expect others to be like you (14:22a).
- G. Follow the Example of Christ (Rom. 15:1-6).
- H. Let Your Decisions Be for the Glory of God (15:7).
 1. "Welcome him (14:1). . . as Christ has welcomed you" (15:7).
 2. The purpose is "for the glory of God".

CONCLUSION: This is God's solution, so we know it works when implemented properly. Our opinions come and go; our conscience strengthens and weakens, but God's word abides forever. Receive the weaker; be fair with the stronger and do all for the glory of God.

IS PRAYER REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?

The English word “pray”, and its various forms is found over five-hundred and forty times in the King James Version of the Holy Scriptures; that does not include various mentions of “petitions”, “supplications”, and other references to prayer. So, it is really no big surprise to find that prayer was vitally important to mankind throughout history. But how do we—deep down—feel about prayer? Is it a last resort, or is it something we spontaneously do at each interval of our day?

For the newly baptized, and depending on their background, prayer can be a difficult thing to “remember” to do. Like any changes we make in our lives, some things take time to develop, and a *prayer life* can often be one of those things.

I do not wish to imply that prayer should be mere habit, but it should be habitual; a regular part of *hourly life* (you though I meant “daily life”, didn’t you?) Read through the four Gospel accounts and count the prayers of our Lord, Jesus. Note the salutations of brother Paul in his epistles; they are saturated with prayer.

One writer (and I can’t remember where I read this) called Christians who would dare to undertake the day without prayer, a “functional atheist”! That sounds harsh, but could it be the case? Oh, they go to church and live morally good lives, but they seldom, if ever, pray. They call themselves “Christians”, but they *function* as atheists because they never petition the Lord, and never thank the Lord. Atheists don’t pray (although many do *prey*), and many atheists live—for the most part—morally good lives. So, what separates their example from the Christian who never prays?

Besides prayer being a command (cf. 1 Thess. 5:17), it should be the natural response of a grateful, former-sinner, to the Almighty—*JK*.

We encourage our visitors to fill out one of the blue cards and place it in the collection plate.

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| <p><i>IN OUR PRAYERS:</i> Jerry & Erma Endly, Mary Lou Huprich, Cathy Jackson, Tina Keith, Gary & Debbie Jones, Kathy Mayo, and Flavil & Verna Miller</p> | <p><i>SHUT-INS:</i> Audrey Burns, Jack Mitchell, Shirley Patterson and Marge Rothwell</p> |
| <p>FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Nellie Bichard, Alec Blake (grandson of Wilma Roe), Weston Boulet, (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), Larry Chips (friend of the Starrett's, Kenneth Crookshank (son of Dannelle Gilmore), Dan Doudna (Wilma Roe's relative), Bob & Patty Eddy, Tom Eddy (Betsy Cook's brother), Carmie Green (Flavil Miller's sister), Doris Hall, Herb Hamilton (friend of the Starrett's), Bob & Donna Henthorn (Laura Jamiel's parents), Collene Keister, (Mo Smith's sister), Les McCollum (friend of Deb McGath), Erica Rich, Shirley Roe, Mona Stoffer (Flavil Miller's daughter), Mitch Vick, Bob & Marge Watson, Kedra Wyatt and remember to pray for one another.</p> | |

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Verna Miller got a “cancer-free” report!!!
- “Dear church family—thank you for the very nice graduation reception held in Brendyn’s honor. We appreciate the efforts of Diann and Jennifer and are grateful to those who shared the evening with us. Thank you also for recognizing ‘mom’ with flowers. We are blessed by your kindness & friendship and we love you all—The Heralds”.

REMINDERS:

- ✓ ~~WORDWATCHER~~ will meet tomorrow.
- ✓ **TODAY is the last day** to up-date/verify your contact information for the **church directory**; please take a minute to confirm your listing on the table at the rear of the auditorium.
- ✓ If anyone would like to take a turn creating a bulletin board for the entry, please sign up on the board in the foyer.
- ✓ **Be sure to check the bulletin board for upcoming area events.**
- ✓ We still need a teacher to take over **Brendyn Herald’s** class.

TODAY’S LESSONS

AM: When Conscience Disagrees With the Brethren (Rom. 14:1-3)

PM: How Long Wilt Thou Refuse Me (Exo. 10:1-3)?

| <i>Bible Class</i> | <i>Sun. AM</i> | <i>Sun. PM</i> | <i>Collection</i> | <i>Wed.</i> |
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