

JANUARY 3, 2021

# CHURCH of CHRIST



*1002 Clairmont Avenue, Cambridge, Ohio 43725*

*(740) 432-7486*

*Web Site: [www.cambridgechurchofchrist.com](http://www.cambridgechurchofchrist.com)*

*E-Mail: [info@cambridgechurchofchrist.com](mailto:info@cambridgechurchofchrist.com)*

## 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)*

# FULFILLING THE PLEA FOR UNITY

## **INTRODUCTION: Eph, 4:11-15**

1. “Unity”- the state of being one; harmony, or agreement (<sup>dictionary.com</sup>). The *harmony* from sharing *likeness of nature with the Lord*” (<sup>biblehub</sup>). Found only in Eph. 4:3, 13 in NT.!
2. How do we fulfill God’s desire for our unity (Psa. 133:1)?

## **I. PLEAD FOR THE BOOK OF CHRIST (Eph. 4:13)**

- A. Note the articles: *the* unity of *the* faith and of *the* knowledge of *the* Son of God.
  1. There is but ONE standard of unity; there is but ONE faith (4:5).
  2. ONE body of knowledge of the ONE begotten Son of God.
- B. Our faith rests upon facts. (2 Pet. 2:21; Acts 2:4; Rom. 10:17).

## **II. PLEAD FOR THE CHURCH OF CHRIST (Eph. 4:12).**

- A. Christ promised His church (Mt. 16:18).
- B. Christ perished for His church (Acts 20:28).
- C. Christ produced His church (Acts 2).

## **III. PLEAD FOR THE NAME OF CHRIST.**

- A. What name is central to the Gospel (Rev. 19:10; Acts 4:12; 8:35)?
- B. Will you deny that name? Mt. 10:32, like Peter (Jn. 18:15f)?
- C. Will you suffer for that name (Acts 5:41)?
- D. If Christianity were illegal would you be convicted (Jn. 19:38)?

## **IV. PLEAD FOR THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST.**

- A. Multitudes recognized His inherent authority (Mt. 7:28-29).
- B. Christ claimed authority (Mt. 9:6; 28:18-20)

## **V. PLEAD FOR THE CREED OF CHRIST.**

- A. “Creed” is what is believed by a group, sect, or denomination.
- B. Christ is our only creed (Mt. 16:16; Jn. 20:30-31; 1 Cor. 2:2; 15:1-4).

## **VI. PLEAD FOR THE TERMS OF ADMISSION INTO CHRIST.**

- A. Must become saints before they can be perfected as saints (Eph. 4:12).
- B. Plan of salvation

## **VII. PLEAD FOR THE WORSHIP OF CHRIST.**

- A. Must not worship in vain (Mk. 7:7).
- B. Must worship in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24; 1 Cor. 14:40).

## **VIII. PLEAD TO LIVE A LIFE THAT HONORS CHRIST.**

- A. To be perfect (Eph. 4:13). complete, mature; Growing up into Him (4:15).
- B. Honor Christ as the head; the body does what the head directs.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Unity demands that men serve the same Lord in the same way—THE Way of Christ.
2. We must strive for unity based upon God’s revealed, inspired, inerrant word.
3. The things we practice and believe; are they from Heaven or men (Mt. 21:25)? Can we find a “thus saith the Lord”? if not, it must be rejected. Ω

## CHANGE AND THE NEW YEAR

We all know that no magical cosmic or metaphysical changes occur simply by flipping the calendar from one year to the next, yet people are inclined to make an enormous deal about “the new year”. Our circumstances did not dramatically change from 11:59 pm on December 31, to 12:01 am on January 1<sup>st</sup>. I still had the same bills due, still had the same aches and pains, still had the love of my life right beside me, still have my beautiful church family, etc.

Sometimes, I think we wish for some mystical, magical change to occur which will affect our circumstances by somehow just making everything better but change for the better is seldom accidental and it certainly is not something for which we should hold out hope. The majority of the time, change is something that results from concentrated effort on the part of the one desiring to change.

If you think about it, the Bible is a book (66 books really) about change, and change, of course, is part of life. We see changes throughout the Bible and these changes mirror the changes we see in life everyday: good to bad, bad to good, and so on. The folks we read of in Scripture who made the most positive changes are the folks who actively worked towards that end—change for good. Some were better at it than others and some were more enduring than others. Some resist change when it does serendipitously, or even providentially present itself. This is probably because many of us do not welcome certain changes; we like things to be familiar because familiarity promises a certain amount of comfort. Comfort is not inherently bad but if we become comfortable in sin, then it can be devastating!

I think one of the reasons so few people obey the Gospel is because it requires change. This is especially true when the sinner has convinced himself that his life belongs to him and things are going well, so why change? For the same reason, many folks who have been baptized were not really converted because they refuse to change, opting rather to pay lip-service to God on Sunday, and then go about things their own way the other six days of the week.

Even though nothing mystical happened at 12:00 am this past Friday, if you want things to be better in 2021, I have some questions: “What are you going to do to make it better”? Are you going to get closer to God by attending all the available services of the church? Are you going to study your Bible daily? Are you going to seek more frequent fellowship with your brethren? Are you going to invite more people to services? Are you going to pray with more frequency?

Years come and go, and folks are discouraged because the changes they wish for never happen. The reason they never happen is largely because people continue in the same rut and expect different things to occur. Be the change you want to see in 2021—*JK*.

**PLEASE LEAVE Song Books OR Pew Bibles IN THE SEAT FOLLOWING WORSHIP.**

**REMINDER:** "All individuals in Ohio must wear facial coverings in public at all times when ...at an indoor location that is not a residence". The order only requires those 10 years old or older to wear a mask" (<https://ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/site/media-center/news-and-events/covid19-update-07222020>). **Additional exclusions are posted on the foyer bulletin board.**

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Jerry & Erma Endly, Dean Huprich, Cathy Jackson, Bruce Johnson, Gary & Debbie Jones, Lois Knight, Rick Lambert, and Flavil Miller.

**SHUT-INS:** Audrey Burns, Nancy Love, and Jack Mitchell.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** **Nellie Bichard, Weston Boulet** (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), **Carter Campbell** (John and Marys Smith's grandson), **Bob & Donna Henthorn** (Laura Jamiel's parents), **Collene Keister** (Mo Smith's sister), **Linda Potts** (Joyce Starrett's sister-in-law), **Addy Reed, Mona Stoffer** (Flavil Miller's daughter), **Mitch Vick, Bob & Marge Watson**, and remember to pray for **one another**.

## Welcome!

To our visitors, we are thankful for your presences. Please fill out one of the blue cards and place it in one the collection boxes or leave it on the seat.

Allow us to answer any questions you may have.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Carol Mitchel** fell last week and landed on her tailbone. She is sore but alright.
- **Brendyn Herald** will be leaving for *Freed-Hardeman University* in Jackson, TN. on January 16. We certainly wish him the best!!!!
- *"I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, phone calls, and for the comforting words from John at the time of my loss. Thanks. In Christian Love, Flossie Daniels"*.
- Wednesday evening Bible study will resume on February 3rd.

### REMINDERS:

- ❖ Let John know of any changes for our *Family & Friends* prayer list.
- ❖ Remember our library.

### TODAY'S LESSONS

**AM:** Fulfilling the Plea for Unity (Eph. 4:11-15).

**PM:** The Power of the Gospel (Rom. 1:14-17).

*IF you had to stand trial for being a Christian,  
would there be sufficient evidence to convict you?*