

Romans 14:19 - ...Let us pursue the things which make for peace & the things by which one may edify another

# THE LENEXA EDIFIER

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## Meeting Times:

Sunday Bible Classes	9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10:20 am
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:00 pm

## *“It’s Not My Responsibility”*

*by Jim Stauffer*

The fact we have become a generation of people disclaiming responsibility is not surprising to many above the median age of this nation today. We continually hear how the government should pass laws to keep us from doing things that harm ourselves or others.

We need to ban guns that people use for hunting and recreation because some people obtain them and kill others with them. We need to regulate the food restaurants serve because many people eat too much of it and it damages their health. It seems we have become a society that does not accept personal responsibility for our behavior. We blame the school system for the failure of our children to grow and mature into solid citizens. As the young people say today, duh! They are simply patterning their lives after us.

What if we were expected by government to have this level of responsibility?

**Ex. 21:28** *“When an ox gores a man or a woman to death, the ox shall be stoned, and its flesh shall not be eaten, but the owner of the ox shall not be liable. 29 But if the ox has been accustomed to gore in the past, and its owner has been warned but has not kept it in, and it kills a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned, and its owner also shall be put to death.*

We would be mortified if such a law was passed today. People would begin to complain they could not be responsible for the actions of an animal. We would see battles in court fought over the claim, “It’s not my fault.”

Well the temptation for Christians to become the same way is real. We are taught to care for one another, **Gal. 6:9** *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. 10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

It is all too easy to observe a brother in need and wait long enough until someone else fulfills that need. It reminds me of the old saw where the guy who is slowest to his wallet at the restaurant is least likely to have to pay for the meal. Just wait the situation out and someone else will come through. That may work in the eyes of men but not with God. **Heb. 4:13** *And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

While we do live in a time when people are better off financially than ever before, it does not mean people do not have needs.

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We are taught to love our brethren as Christ has loved us *“and gave himself for us”*. (Eph. 5:1,2) John makes this point clear, **1 John 3:17** *But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.* While John specifically mentions this world’s goods, brotherly kindness is not limited to supplying material needs. It can be many other things your brother needs that you can supply.

The brother who disclaims responsibility for any reason admits to his failure to love his brother sufficiently to know his needs and make the necessary sacrifice to provide for him. John goes on to make clear where we stand if we fail in our responsibility, **1 John 3:19** *By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; 20 for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.*

## Jesus and Mohammed Contrasted

One of the most serious and growing threats in the world today comes from those who practice the religion of Islam. As this false religion – based upon the teaching and examples of Mohammed – increases in power and influence Christians will inevitably be called upon to defend the truth about Jesus as the only begotten Son of God and Savior of the world. One method of doing so is to contrast Jesus with Mohammed.

### Sinless Life

Concerning Jesus, we know that He lived a sinless life. He claimed this (**John 8:29**), and His disciples confirmed it: “Ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin” (**1 John 3:5**). In fact, even His enemies could not bring just charges against Him (**Mark 14:55-59**)

However, Mohammed never claimed sinlessness, and actually admitted he was guilty of sin.<sup>1</sup> As an example of his sinful conduct, an episode is noted during his time as the ruler of

Medina. He made a treaty in which he promised not to attack Mecca for 10 years, but he attacked them the very next year.<sup>2</sup>

### Miracles

We have ample evidence that Jesus worked true and observable miracles. He said that the miracles He performed were intended to reveal and confirm His identity as God’s Son (**Matthew 11:3-5**). As one might expect, His disciples reported these miracles (**John 20:30,31**). But, it is very significant to note that even His enemies had to admit that He worked miracles: “Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation” (**John 11:47-48**).

Of course, the most noteworthy of all the miracles is the resurrection of Jesus (**Romans 1:4**). There is even confirmation from secular history concerning this matter: “Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works - a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He was [the] Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.”<sup>3</sup>

In the case of Mohammed, there are no serious claims that he ever did miracles and therefore there is no confirmation that his message was from God. There are no eyewitness accounts of any miracles he supposedly did. Specifically, Muslims do not even claim that Mohammed arose from the dead. The closest that one might come to a reported miracle is a claim that one night Mohammed was carried to Jerusalem from whence he ascended

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into heaven and saw wonderful visions. However, no one saw this happen, and his wife said he never left the bed.<sup>4</sup>

**Fulfilled Prophecy**

There are many examples of ancient prophecies that Jesus fulfilled. For example:

- His birth (**Matthew 1:22,23; Isaiah 7:14**)
- The place of His birth (**Matthew 2:4-6; Micah 5:2**)
- The time of His coming (**Galatians 4:4,5; Daniel 2:44; 9:24-26**)
- His betrayal (**Matthew 27:7-10; Zechariah 11:12,13**)
- His trial and crucifixion (**Matthew 27:12-14; Isaiah 53:7; Luke 23:32; Isaiah 53:12; John 20:27; Psalm 22:16**)
- His burial (**Matthew 27:57-60; Isaiah 53:9**)

While there are hundreds of Old Testament prophecies about Jesus, there are no such prophecies about Mohammed. Muslims can only claim that prophecies about Mohammed originally were in the Bible, but were removed by Jews and Christians. Of course, manuscript evidence completely disproves this claim.

**Conclusion**

Jesus taught that there is no way to approach God the Father other than through Him: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (**John 14:6**). He said that a denial of His role as the Messiah would lead to eternal destruction: "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (**John 8:24**). The apostle Peter proclaimed that "neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (**Acts 4:12**). The religion of Islam is false. It is based upon the failed claims of Mohammed. It will not lead one to heaven in eternity.

*1 William Miller, A Christian's Response To Islam, Wheaton, Illinois, Tyndale House Pub., 1981, p. 26,50*

*2 Ibid., p. 33*

*3 Josephus, Antiquities Of The Jews, XIII, 3*

*4 Miller p. 24*

by Greg Gwin

**WHO IS MY BROTHER?**

I have been asked this question before. Generally it is in regard to the benevolent responsibilities of the church. That in itself goes to the heart of the question, because who my brother is is not necessarily the same as the church. Let me illustrate it this way. Jesus taught in Luke 10 who our neighbor is. Paul then tells us in Gal. 6:10 we are to do good unto all men as we have opportunity, especially those of the household of faith. In some ways the neighbor in Jesus' illustration is my brother and in some ways he is not.

When we are speaking of "brother" in the sense of a fellow human being, descendant of Adam, I have a responsibility as indicated in Jesus's story of the Samaritan. When we speak of "brother" in the sense Paul did in 2 Th. 3:11-15, my responsibility goes even deeper. More than responsible for general kindness in the relief of suffering, I am responsible for trying to restore him to the Lord. (Gal. 6:1) The fact that Scripture differentiates is these two kinds of "brother" is clear when in 1 Cor. 5:9-11 Paul demands we withdraw from a fellow Christian who is a fornicator while acknowledging we must live in and work with fornicators of the world.

Now, let me address the equally egregious error brethren make in dealing with the needs of brethren. That mistake is to equate the responsibility of the church toward a "brother" in the Adamic sense to that of the individual. Nowhere in Scripture is the church, Jesus died to establish, held responsible for the material needs of society. Therefore, it is a misapplication of Scripture to conclude we should deal with problems of society with the treasury of the church.

It is therefore, unscriptural to conclude the church should establish or support organizations to serve the needs of the world such as, a home for orphans, old folks, etc. Or for that matter an organization that teaches young men to become preachers. These are the needs of society to which the church has no responsibility. Such passages as Acts 11:27-30; 1 Cor. 16:1,2; 2 Cor. 8&9; Rom. 15, all serve as examples to teach the church is responsible for needy saints. Now as an individual I have the liberty and even the responsibility to help those both in the church and out of the church "as I have opportunity."

Jim Stauffer

# News & Notes

by Jim Stauffer

**Eph. 2:19-21** *“So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord.”*

**Psalms 1:1-6** *“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scoffers; but his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by streams of water, that bringeth forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also doth not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The wicked are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the*

*righteous. For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the wicked shall perish.”*

Let us remember the instruction of our Lord by visiting in whatever way we can those who need our help. **Jan Patrick** and **Alma Baumgartner** are home from the hospital. **Candiss Cason** has some upcoming tests to determine her health and future treatments. Remember as well, **Terry Czirr. Pat Blackstock** continues his treatments and seems to be holding his own according to Frances.

**Matt. 25:40** *“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me.”*

The Church at Lenexa is a congregation of brethren who have been *“justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”* (**Romans 3:24**).

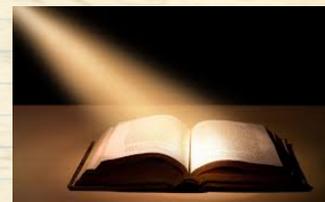
As a result of this justification we have been *“delivered out of darkness and translated into the kingdom of the Son of his love, in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of sins”* (**Colossians 1:13-14**).

We therefore respect the inspired Word of God that will

completely furnish us unto every good work by speaking only as the oracles of God (**2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 4:11**).

EVANGELIST & EDITOR:  
**Jim Stauffer**

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## WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

- **HEAR** the gospel, **Romans 10:17**
- **BELIEVE** in Jesus Christ, **Hebrews 11:6**
- **REPENT** of sin, **Acts 17:30**
- **CONFESS** Christ as Lord, **Romans 10:9-10**
- **BE BAPTIZED** for the remission of sins, **Acts 2:38**

