

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

# THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”

June 4, 2023

## WE MUST OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN

by Jim Stauffer

*But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:29)* The apostle Peter spoke these words when being ordered to cease preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. But this is a principle that applies to all God has said and commanded we do.

We have a serious attack on gender and the conduct of each gender in our world today.

First the world chose to overrule God and declare no difference in men and women as far as roles in society are concerned. The Scripture teaches us God created man and then woman as a helper suitable for him. When Eve sinned in the garden, God declared she would suffer pain in childbirth and that man would provide for their living by the sweat of his brow.

The apostle Paul made the point of the relationship between a man and a woman clear in his teaching of Timothy. *A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.*

**(1 Timothy 2:11–14).**

However, at the urging of societal leaders, men have generally blurred the lines God designated. The point is the world rejects the teaching of Scripture. It does not regard the wisdom of God as it sets and guides men culturally.

Next, we are told gender conduct is determined by each person in spite of what God has said on that matter. We are told men and women can and should find sexual

partners, husbands and wives of the same gender. *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9–11 cf. Leviticus 18:22,23)*

Now, having experienced success with promoting homosexuality, the cultural leaders are now pushing for children to claim a gender other than that of birth. We must remember God created male and female. There is no other gender and the identification of a male or female is clear enough to eliminate any question as to the gender of one's birth. God designed the human race and His design works best. We respect the designer in equipment and machinery and would not expect the different parts of an engine to be exchangeable with other parts. Why do so with human anatomy?

Brethren, we are descending into degeneracy with these moral deviations recommended by the world. Please do not think this article extreme and unlikely. Some states have school districts that make every attempt to deny parents the right to object to the transgender philosophy. It may well come to the point where parents will have to take whatever action is necessary to prevent harm to their children by this evil degenerate doctrine.

Please understand there are children in families who are faithful members of the Lord's body who have had to deal with these issues.

*But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:29)*

## ***Why I Am a Member of the Church of Christ***

People have offered a variety of reasons for their religious connections. I am here presenting *my* reasons for being a member of the church of Christ; but, first, some negative thoughts:

1. Not because of wealth. The Roman Catholic Church is probably the wealthiest (in material worth) religious organization in the world. The Mormon Church ranks high in wealth among American churches. If I were interested in the material value of a religious body, I would not be a member of the church of Christ.
2. Not because of popularity. The Southern Baptist Denomination boasts the largest membership of any Protestant body in the United States. If I wanted to be lined up with something big and popular, I would not be a member of the church of Christ.
3. Not because of social prestige. Most of the people in the church of Christ are just plain, ordinary folks socially.
4. Not because of convenience. At times it would be much more convenient to belong to some denominational organization. One could remain in good standing with little effort, and could be considerably more lax in his living without anyone attempting to correct him.
5. Not because of family connection. No one ever tried to get me into the church of Christ in order to maintain a family tradition. If he had done so, and I suppose such things may sometimes occur, he would have been using the wrong motive.

### ***The Real Reason***

The reason why I am a member of the church of Christ is quite simple. I heard the gospel, believed it, and was baptized for the remission of my sins. The people who taught me the gospel were content to stop where the gospel stops. They did not ask me to affiliate with any denomination. I have never done so. Hence, I became a Christian and a Christian only, was added by the Lord to His church (**Acts 2:47**) and have since worked and worshipped with the people who did the same.

You might say that I am a member of the church of Christ for the same reason that I am a Christian; obedience to the gospel of Christ never makes one

anything else. The same Lord who saves people (making them Christians) adds them to His church (the church He built).

If the Lord added to the Methodist church such as should be saved, I would be a Methodist. If He added to the Lutheran church such as should be saved, I would be a Lutheran. If He added to the Presbyterian church such as should be saved, I would be a Presbyterian. But since He adds to His own church, that is where He put me and that is where I am to stay.

*by Irvin Himmel*

## **Which Shall We Choose?**

**Gary Henry**

*“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day” (2 Corinthians 4:16).*

*There Is No Question Whether Suffering Will Change Us or Not; The Only Question Is How It Will Change Us? What the change will be depends on our response -- and in the final analysis, there are only three basic ways that people respond to suffering.*

**Passivity.** Some people see themselves as little more than the passive victims of whatever happens to them. Unwilling to acknowledge any responsibility for their own actions or any freedom to choose their response, these individuals are at the mercy of their surroundings and their circumstances. They don't really live their lives; their lives are “being lived” for them by outside forces.

**Bitterness.** Unfortunately, the passive mentality of the victim often degenerates into something even worse: a resentment that life should be so unkind and so unfair. In such cases, pain and suffering come to be the source of bitterness and anger. The fortunate few who are happy are resented, and God Himself may even be complained against for His cruel mismanagement of the universe.

**Transformation.** This response is radically different from either passivity or bitterness. It is the response which says, “I will do the best I can to do whatever is right, and I will respond to suffering with the dignity of a person made in God's image.” When our chosen response is to trust God and obey Him, pain changes us for the better. Even while “perishing,” we are “renewed day by day.”

When we look at the kind of people we are now as opposed to the kind of people we used to be, we all see

a difference, a contrast between “before” and “after.” We’ve either grown upward or downward. And the difference between those who’ve grown upward and those who’ve grown downward is not that some have suffered and others have not. In one way or another, all have suffered. But those who have grown toward God are those who, when faced with suffering, have chosen the upward path rather than the downward.

Transformation to greater glory is always a choice. “Pain and suffering produce a fork in the road. It is not possible to remain unchanged. To let others or circumstances dictate your future is to have chosen. To allow pain to corrode your spirit is to have chosen. And to be transformed into the image of Christ by these difficult and trying circumstances is to have chosen”

**North Beach Church of Christ ; Fort Worth, Texas**

### **Truth and Error: How to Tell the Difference**

We learn about a thing by experiencing it. Babies learn sweet from sour, hot from cold, and wet from dry by experiencing these things. Even so, we learn spiritual truth by experiencing it in God's word, which is truth (**John 17:17**). Our use of God's word enables us to readily distinguish between truth and error. Haddon Robinson relates the following story that illustrates this point:

A Chinese boy who wanted to learn about jade went to study with a talented old teacher. This gentleman put a piece of the stone into the youth's hand and told him to hold it tight. Then he began to talk of philosophy, men, women, the sun, and almost everything under it. After an hour he took back the stone and sent the boy home. The procedure was repeated for weeks. The boy became frustrated - when would he be told about jade?- but he was too polite to interrupt his venerable teacher. Then one day when the old man put a stone into his hands, the boy cried out instantly, "That's not jade!"(Biblical Preaching, p. 102).

In **Hebrews 5:12-14**, the inspired writer is addressing Christians who were not mature enough to tell the difference between right and wrong. He admonishes them with these words:

*"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of*

*the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."*

There are two words in the text that shed much light on our current topic. The first is the word "unskilled" and it means "inexperienced." The Hebrew Christians had not progressed and developed because they did not have enough experience in the word. As a result, they were like children who cannot discern right from left; they were spiritual babes who could not tell right from wrong. The second word to consider is the word "exercised." It comes from the Greek word "gymnazo" from which we get our word "gymnasium" - the place where athletes practice and train. Those who regularly use God's word have their senses trained to *"discern both good and evil."*

Why is it that some brethren don't seem to be able to identify obvious error when they hear it? Why are so many Christians bogged down in their spiritual lives by moral relativism and compromises with the world? Can we not tell the difference between good and evil? Could the root of the problem be that we have had no meaningful experience with the *"word of righteousness"*?

My friends, may we this day resolve to hold God's word in our hearts - to study it, meditate on it, and practice it -- so that when we're given something else we will be able to simply exclaim, "That's not truth!"

**- by Steve Klein**

***We offer either in home studies or by way of Correspondence Courses.***

***Call me, Jim Stauffer at 913-620-0563, Evangelist at the Lenexa church of Christ***

***We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.***

*Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. (Colossians 3:17 NAS95)*

**Psa. 1:1** 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 scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

## HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study  
Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship  
Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship  
Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

**Visitors welcome**

**We conduct in home Bible Studies**

**We offer Correspondence Courses**

**Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer**

## OUR ADDRESS IS:

7845 Cottonwood Dr.  
Lenexa, Kansas 66216  
913-620-0563

**Check out the following websites**

[facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist](https://facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist)

[lenexachurchofchrist.org](http://lenexachurchofchrist.org)

### Elders:

Ron Peck  
Jim Stauffer

### Deacons:

Bill Miller  
Troy Armstrong

## NEWS AND NOTES:

### THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

ALMA BAUMGARTNER, DENESE GORING, BROOKLYN BOYER, TRACY RICHARDSON, MATT BASSFORD, WAYNE MOODY, DAVID AND JOANNE BECKLEY, MARK WALKER, PAT MFCLOUD, JAN PATRICK IS IN O.P REGIONAL, PENNY STAUFFER AND ELLIE GOLDSTON.

Bible Classes: Sunday Morning  
**Prayer - Ron Peck**

Wednesday Evening - **Minor Prophets - Jim Stauffer**

Sunday Sermon: **The Lord is not Slack Concerning His Promises**



## **What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

**Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17

**Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30

**Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

**Be Baptized** for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

**Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10