

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

John 8:32 and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

# THE LENEXA EDIFIER

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## WHAT MEN LOVE, GOD HATES

Jim Stauffer

**Malachi 2:16** *For I hate putting away, saith Jehovah, the God of Israel, and him that covereth his garment with violence, saith Jehovah of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.*

There are an equal set of statistics on marriage and divorce in the U.S. to the number of groups maintaining those statistics. The general consensus is that the divorce rate peaked in the 70's and 80's and has trended downward since. These statistics attempt to defuse the argument that many Americans disrespect the institution of marriage, but do not take into consideration those people who simply co-habit and reject marriage altogether. The N.Y. Times Survey shows marriages in the 70's and 80's ended in divorce 45+% of the time. In the 90's it is nearly 35% and in the 2000's it is approximately 15%. While this does show a decline, the later marriages will undoubtedly increase somewhat with more time.

The question is, "What causes a marriage to end in divorce?" The first and foremost problem is the lack of respect for what marriage represents. It is a union, blessed by God, to enable two people to assist each other in lives devoted to God, the Creator. God designed and instituted marriage (**Gen. 2:23,24**). It was planned to last "until death do us part" (**Rom. 7:2,3**). Man has long since decided it is for pleasure, convenience and any number of purposes that once ended, entitle each of the partners to end the marriage.

There are certainly demands on each party and sacrifices both must make for a marriage to endure the test of time. The attitude of the husband to his wife according to scripture will cause him to make a serious commitment beyond infatuation and the sex appeal of his wife. Paul said, **Eph. 5:25** *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it;* We do wonder if husbands are as committed to their wives as Christ is to the church. In turn he addressed the attitude of the wife as well. **Eph. 5:22**, *Wives, be in subjection unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*

I overheard a discussion on the subject once where

one person thought he was taking a strong stance on marriage by saying it should be a 50-50 relationship. He was corrected by a gospel preacher who told him it had to be a 100-100 relationship to succeed. Each person has to be fully committed to the success of the marriage. This will lead them to give full consideration to their spouse and sacrifice if needed to sustain the marriage.

Many people in the world completely dismiss the teaching of Christ on marriage and worry little about the effect on the eternal destination of their souls. Jesus taught there was only one reason acceptable for a person to divorce and remarry without sin. Fornication on the part of their spouse. He sets forth clearly those who divorce and remarry for other reasons have become adulterers and as such will be judged in the final day (**Mat. 5:32; 19:3-9; 2 Cor. 5:10**). This principle is set forth by John the Baptist when he told Herod, concerning his marriage to his brother's wife, *it is not lawful for thee to have her* (**Mat. 14:4**)

But even those who do not consider the spiritual side of divorce should recognize the benefits healthy marriages have socially. Divorce simply wreaks havoc on a society. Along with marriage comes the family. It is without controversy that society is as strong as the family unit. Illegitimate births where children are not viewed with the love and respect of two parents bring much turmoil to our society. The future success of these children is diminished by the atmosphere in which they go from children to adults. They suffer a much greater chance of dropping out of school, becoming juvenile delinquents and then struggling to gain employment and contribute to the world around them.

It is not long after this happens to our culture that we, supposedly a "Christian Nation", abdicate scripture even further in an effort to compensate for previous poor decisions. We endorse abortion of unwanted pregnancies, accept homosexual "parents" to rear children in a way God never intended.

And it all started when we chose to view marriage from our selfish viewpoint rather than accept God's.

## Foolish Disregard

To dismiss God from our decisions is a most foolish thing to do. The reality of God is the most massive truth we'll ever encounter, and the most consequential. It is folly to omit this truth from our thinking, as if we expected it to move out of our way.

Some individuals disregard God by adopting the intellectual position that He does not exist. These have thought the matter through and come to the conclusion that there is no God. In their conduct, they may live as if there were a God and may even adhere to a certain spirituality, but their position, at least philosophically, is that a personal God does not exist.

If God does exist, such a denial is obviously unwise. But many of us disregard Him in a way that is no less foolish. We do this when we simply conduct our lives without taking God into serious account. This is a more practical kind of atheism. We pay lip service to a God who "perhaps" exists, but we believe that this God can be safely set aside in the actual conduct of our day-to-day affairs. He has no real impact on our lives. In **Psalm 14:1**, it is this kind of "fool" who is described. He says *"There is no God"* not so much by his dubious philosophy, as by his disobedient lifestyle.

There is a sense in which this kind of atheism is more arrogant than any other. In **Psalm 10**, for example, we are shown how PRESUMPTUOUS it is to disregard God: *"The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts" (v. 4). "He has said in his heart, 'I shall not be moved; I shall never be in adversity'" (v.6). "He has said in his heart, 'God has forgotten; He hides His face; He will never see'" (v.11). "He has said in his heart, 'You will not require an account'" (v.13).*

When we live in this manner, we trivialize God in the most blasphemous way. Unlike the atheist who believes there is no God to be dealt with, we believe that we don't really have to deal with the God who does exist. We think that, for all practical purposes, He can be ignored. But if God is our Creator, our disregard only shows us to be foolish. It does nothing to diminish Him.

*by Gary Henry*

## Garage Sale Salvation

Every so often, I take the time to go to some garage sales. I am hoping to find something that someone else does not want, and buy it cheaper than I thought I wanted to pay for it originally. Many times you can get something for pennies on the dollar. The Quarter Store is much the same way.

What was it that turned these items into junk for these people? Why did they decide they did not need it anymore? Was the product not as good as was advertised? Was the product truly a piece of junk? Just maybe they found another toy to play with, and this item did not keep their interest anymore. Another thing you

can do at a garage sale is negotiate a price.

Some people treat their Christianity like that. They count the cost and decide to live for Jesus, then later on their souls do not seem to have the importance that it once had, and they trade it in on a new experience, or revert back to their sinful lifestyle.

Still others, not willing to pay the true price required to obtain salvation, will look around for a cheaper version. One that does not require as much cost to obtain. By that, I mean that Jesus asked us to give Him our all (**Luke 14:33**), yet some choose to only give a portion that they are comfortable with. It is sad that people try to negotiate with their souls.

Sadly, there are many religious groups that cater to these types of people. They do not hold people accountable to the truth enough. They do not teach enough truth. Sure they teach some truth because that is what most people want. They tell people what they want to hear (2 Timothy 4:3-4), and usually this allows them to continue in their various vices and sins. In many ways the people do not like that the cost to be accepted of God is so burdensome on them.

Yes, the bible tells us: *"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome" 1 John 5:3*. But there are many people who do not care to keep God's commandments, but still want to soothe their conscience to feel that they can still go to heaven. This will not work for them.

If you are guilty of this, please, do not treat your soul like this. It is your most valuable possession. Do not sell it for pennies on the dollar. Proverbs 23:23 reads in part: *\*buy the truth, and sell it not.\**

Your soul is too valuable to treat it like junk. Jesus died on the cross for you, and that shows that God thinks your soul is valuable.

Let us help you realize the value of your soul, and help you to acquire salvation which is what God wants, and that is what Jesus died for.

God is not willing that any perish (**2 Peter 3:9**). You must believe that Jesus is the Son of God and died on the cross for your sins. (**Acts 8:37**). You must repent of your sins (**Luke 13:3**), you must confess Jesus as Lord (**Matthew 10:32**) and you must be baptized for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38; 22:16**). Then you must remain faithful and continue learning how to serve God (**2 Peter 3:18**). Let us help you on your spiritual journey. May God bless you in your study of His word.

*By Carey Scott*

## She Missed One Service

Some years ago on the front page of The Tennessean was the story of Alline Nankivell (91) of east Nashville, Tennessee. It was not a story about how the elderly help the needy or of some great thing she had accomplished in advanced years. Sadly it was the

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story of her murder.

How many services would you have to miss before others would come looking for you? In the paper much was written about how she trusted people. She had been robbed and beaten several times but she continued to have a basic trust in others. In a society such as we live in it is difficult to put trust in strangers, but Nankivell always tried to see the good in others. There is a basic lesson in this aspect of her life for each of us.

Another point in the article struck me with even greater force. It is found in the following paragraph of the article: "Yesterday, when she did not show up at church, neighbors found the blood-caked body of Nankivell lying face-up across the bed in the 2000 Eastland Avenue home. Police said she appeared to have been beaten to death."

Later in the article it is pointed out she was a member of the Chapel Avenue Church of Christ.

The amazing thing to me about this story is the fact her friends were caused to check on her simply because she missed one worship service. This could mean one of two things. She could have been so faithful in her attendance of the services that everyone knew something had to be wrong if she wasn't there. She may have been such a fixture and force in the congregation and its services that her absence stood out like a sore thumb. A question: What if you had been the victim of this crime? How many services would you have to miss before others would come looking for you? Are you so irregular in your attendance that others would just assume you decided to sleep in or do other things? Can you honestly classify yourself as a faithful, regular worshiper?

On the other hand we may assume the people of the congregation were so concerned for the souls of others that when anyone, regardless of how regular or irregular they were in attending the services of the church, missed a single service they would go to check on them. When some of our number are missing, do we check on them as we should? It may be a brief comment will cause them to do better in the future.

I don't know the situation in the Nankivell story, but I would like to see more men and women to be faithful, regular worshipers and brethren who are so concerned for the souls of men that they will check on everyone not present.

Brethren need to read **Hebrews 10:22-25** more often. We cannot draw near to God, hold fast the confession of our hope, or consider our brethren to provoke them unto love and good works if we forsake the assembling of the brethren together.

How regular are you in attending the services of the saints? Would you be missed if you were absent for just one service?

**By Alex D. Ogden**

## THE BLUEPRINT FOR CHRIST'S CHURCH

Often the church is described as a building, a temple, or a tabernacle. These figures are used to enable us to understand the nature of the church better. Keep in mind that the church is SPIRITUAL, not physical. Peter wrote, *"Ye also, as living stones are built up a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 2:5)*. Speaking of Christ, the writer of Hebrews states, *"...a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man" (Heb. 8:2)*. The true tabernacle is the church which Christ built. Many analogies are drawn between Moses' tabernacle and the true tabernacle of Jesus Christ, but we have not space to consider them all now. The tabernacle and priesthood of Moses' day served as TYPES or shadows of the heavenly things revealed in Christ. God was the designer of the tabernacle built by Moses. *"Even as Moses is warned of God when he is about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern that was showed thee in the mount" (Heb. 8:5)*. God is no less the designer of the church of Jesus Christ, the true tabernacle of God. Moses was warned then, so are we warned today to build according to the pattern. The church of Christ can be built in every age, in every generation, as long as man has access to the

blueprint and builds accordingly. The blueprint for the church is the word of God contained in the New Testament. How shall Christ's church be organized? Search the N.T. for the answer. What are the terms of admission into the church of Christ? Again, the N.T. contains the bylaws or blueprint. How do we determine the work and worship of Christ's church? The N.T. alone reveals the will of Christ, the head and founder. What rules of self-discipline shall govern the church? Christ has already spoken. The answer lies in his word. Does any man, or group of men, have the right to set aside the pronouncements of Christ, and set up their own rules and bylaws? No! A thousand times no!

Yes, I believe with all my heart that Christ's church does exist today. Every church built upon the foundation of Christ and loyal to Christ is a church of Christ. This church is not a sect, a denomination, or an ism developed since the days of the apostles. God will reject every house built upon a false foundation, **1 Cor. 3:11**, even as He will destroy every plant produced by corrupt seed, **Matt. 15:13**, or every soul who follows a false "ism," **2 John 9**. The true test, as I have emphasized, is the word of God. The church of Christ can be reproduced in every generation of every age simply by planting the pure seed of the kingdom, or rather, building according to the blueprint contained in the N.T. Are you a member of the one true church? I challenge you to investigate God's word and be sure.

**By Lindy McDaniel, Pitching For the Master**



**Eph. 2:19** *So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, 20 being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; 21 in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord;*

**1Pet. 2:9** *But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

**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**

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**Check out the following websites:**

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

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

## **NEWS AND NOTES:**

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING  
IN YOUR PRAYERS: J.R. DANIEL,  
GRANT CLOTHIER, JAN PATRICK AND  
STEVE WIMP.

MARY CZIRR IS UNDER HOSPICE  
CARE.

OUR CURRENT STUDIES ARE: SUNDAY  
MORNING: THE BOOK OF ACTS -  
BYRON TAYLOR AND WEDNESDAY  
EVENING: THE SCHEME OF  
REDEMPTION - JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON:  
RECOGNIZING AND ACCEPTING TRUE  
JUDGMENT



## **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