



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

March 1, 2011

Bible Basis Of Fellowship

Mike King



Jesus prayed for His disciples to be one in John 17:20-21. Unity is not a composite of differing ideals and beliefs, or simply agreeing to disagree. He prayed for oneness like He and His Father are one. God and Christ are truly “united” and tied together in every way. It is possible to have “union” without “unity.” Brother *Gus Nichols* once said, “You might have a box full of iron ore, and you have ‘union,’ but if it is put into the smelting furnace and melted where it will run together, then you have ‘unity.’” The unity for which Jesus prayed is had only on the basis of God’s Word. *We have fellowship one with another “If we walk in the light”* (I Jn. 1:7). The very reason that we cannot fellowship denominations and some of the dissenting brotherhood congregations is due to their refusal to “walk in the light.” When “walking in the light,” there will not be differing views on major and fundamental teachings which impact our salvation. God’s Word does not lead people in different directions, but the absence of His Word does! We are instructed by Paul to “*speak the same thing...and let there be no divisions among us*” (I Cor. 1:10). Chaos and division will ensue when following personal bias, wishes and beliefs. There are too many “babes” struggling to serve as elders with too many pulpits plagued by preachers with “half-baked” thinking. It is asking much for brethren to submit to babes. Men can be older in years and still be babes.

We are to “*follow after things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another*” (Rom. 14:19). Certain courses we choose make for peace, others cause strife and confusion. We would be taking the wrong course if we were to choose to worship with those using instruments, a choir, praise teams, singing groups, women participants in the public worship, etc. We are not granted the luxury of “agreeing to disagree,” but must speak the same things; we are to “*speak as the oracles of God*” (I Pet. 4:11). It is dangerous for us to encourage or be supportive in any way, those who are doing such things, though we do not participate personally (II Jn. 10-11). Many “changes” that we are experiencing in the body of Christ are not good. They are divisive and hurtful to the unity of the body and the embracement of truth. We are signaling the wrong message to the unbelieving and religiously confused world in which we live and those with whom we have to do! Those who insist on such innovations and divisive additions to the body of Christ must be identified and stopped! Paul wrote, “*Mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned*” (Rom. 16:17-18). The Word of God is our only basis for unity.

THE PURPOSE OF WORSHIP

I read recently about a congregation that decided to have four worship services each Sunday.

There was one for those new to the faith. Another for those who liked traditional worship. One for those who'd lost their faith and would like to get it back. And another for those who had bad experiences with churches and were complaining about it.

They have names for each of the services: FINDERS, KEEPERS, LOSERS, WEEPERS.

The joke does remind me that we all have a different idea of what worship should be like. There are some who would like to have a more celebratory nature to our worship. There are others who would prefer to take a more reverent approach. There are many who are concerned about what they get out of worship.

The truth is that there is some validity to each of those concerns. Worship should be a time of celebration: *"Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before his presence with singing."* (Psalm 100:1)

It should also be a time of reverence. *"...Serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire."* (Heb. 12:28-29).

And while worship will make an impact on our hearts and lives, ultimately worship is not about what we "get out of it", but what we "put into it." It is a time for us to bow down before the heavenly throne and pour out our praise for who God is and all that He has done for us.

~ Alan Smith

YOUTH NEWS

- Sunday, March 6th, *Andy Brown* from FHU will be here to try out for the Summer Youth Intern position. *Andy* will teach the teenage class as well as bring the morning lesson. After morning worship the youth will meet at the fellowship building for a pizza lunch and spend some time getting to know *Andy*. If you would like to eat lunch with the *Andy* and the youth, please let *Greg* or *Kim Clayton* know. Following lunch the Senior Bible Bowl group will leave for the Hillcrest congregation for this month's Bible Bowl.
- Sunday, March 13th, the Area Wide Youth Meeting will held at the Mayfield congregation. The van will leave at 5:50.
- Junior Bible Bowl will be held Saturday, March 26, at the Hwy 15 Church of Christ in Pontotoc.

IT'S NOT EASY...

- ...to apologize
- ...to begin over
- ...to admit error
- ...to keep trying
- ...to take advice
- ...to be unselfish
- ...to be charitable
- ...to face a sneer
- ...to avoid mistakes
- ...to endure success
- ...to profit by mistakes
- ...to keep out of a rut
- ...to forgive and forget
- ...to think and then act
- ...to make the best of little
- ...to subdue an unruly temper
- ...to recognize the silver lining
- ...to shoulder a deserved blame...
- ...but it always pays!!
- - -author unknown



PRAYER LIST

Randy Stewart, friend of the *Pounders*, is facing surgery in the near future to correct a problem with a nerve behind his ear.

Jim Dickerson, is at home recovering from surgery to remove a kidney.

Jean Drummond, is still in a lot of pain due to injuries she received from a fall.

Len Collett, brother-in-law of *Dixie White* has taken a turn for the worse. *Bobby & Dixie* have gone to Canada to be with the family.

Robby Koester, son-in-law of *Mike & Sheila King* is recovering at home from kidney stone surgery.



Continual Prayer

Marshal Kell, Ernest Foley, Maxine Carlisle, David Harendt, Della Carmon, John Sanford, Maxine McCarley, Hugh Collins, Shane Crofts, Bill King, Terry Young

Shut-Ins

Jean Drummond, Lessie Bryant, Billy Joe Garner, Laura Mae Harris, Belle Cross, Pauline Smith, Raymond & Amy Vest

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

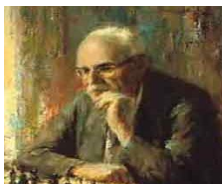
Corrine Hall, Anna Davis & Mattie Golden

Military List:

David Wilhite, Barry Wilhite, Jimmie Stutts, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Michelle Ham, Raegan Cole

SAGE ADVICE

Compassion is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 03.....Angela Ashmore
March 05.....Price Senter
March 06.....Bill Lyon
March 10.....Richard Jennings



SYMPATHY

We express our deepest sympathy to *Paige Young* and family in the death of her mother, *Margaret Bailey*. *Mrs. Bailey* passed away late Monday afternoon. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time. Please check the news line @ 534-0016 for updates.

A GREAT DAY!

We had a good crowd for our “Friends & Family Day” Sunday, where we enjoyed a great time of worship, fellowship and an abundance of good food! We enjoyed visiting with former members, family and friends and meeting new faces. Thanks to all for inviting your friends and family members and for making it a very special day.

AREA EVENTS

- **Hwy 15 Church of Christ in Pontotoc** invites you to their **Friends & Family Day** Sunday, March 6th.
- **Ashland Church of Christ** would like to invite you to their **Spring Gospel Singing** Saturday, March 19th, from 5:00pm till 7:00pm.
- **Christian Men & Leadership**, lessons for men in the Church, Home and Community will be held at Maywood Christian Camp March 19th. Check the bulletin board for details.

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....	131
Sunday A.M	193
Sunday P.M	114
Wednesday	87
Contribution	\$3,752.50
Budget	\$3,455.70

TO SERVE

Scripture.....	Ruston Adams
A.M. Prayer.....	Troy Robertson
Closing Prayer.....	Olen Clark
P.M. Prayer.....	Lonnie Weaver
Closing.....	Mark Jennings
Wed. 3/2.....	Randy Wall
Wed. 3/2.....	Bobby White
Usher & Lock.....	Randy Wall
Greeters.....	B & A Pounders



PANTRY ITEM:
Canned Fruit

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....	9:30
Morning Worship	10:30
Evening Worship	6:00
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00

ELDERS

Richard Jennings.....	534-6671
Troy Robertson.....	534-3491

DEACONS

Bill Botts.....	316-2422
Greg Clayton.....	252-9762
Roger Clayton.....	534-5240
Andy Clemmer.....	816-5887
Harold Russell.....	534-4648
Randy Wall.....	316-9255

MINISTER

Mike King.....	507-0625
Home.....	534-6872
Office.....	534-4649

MONTH: MARCH 2011

SOUND ROOM	Shane Crofts	ANNOUNCEMENTS	Lonnie Weaver
LEAD SINGING		USHER	Dan Cobb
<i>SUN AM:</i>	Richard Jennings		
<i>SUN PM:</i>	Dalton Beard	PREPARE	
<i>WED:</i>	Ray Kennedy	COMMUNION	Sarah Walker
LORD'S SUPPER			
<i>N Head:</i>	Greg Clayton	<i>S Head:</i>	Andy Clemmer
<i>N Help I:</i>	Burrell Walton	<i>S Help I:</i>	Daniel Drummond
<i>N Help II:</i>	Phillip Young	<i>S Help II:</i>	Matt Jennings
SUNDAY			
PRAYERS A.M.	Opening	Closing	SCRIPTURE
<i>1ST</i>	Roger Clayton	Daniel Drummond	READING
<i>2ND</i>	Paul Ormon	Jason Jennings	Greg Harrison
<i>3RD</i>	Richard Adams	Dillon Clayton	Dean Dillard
<i>4TH</i>	Jerry Gibson	Bill Botts	Ruston Adams
<i>5TH</i>			Olen Clark
SUNDAY			USHER &
PRAYERS PM	Opening	Closing	LOCK
<i>1ST</i>	Andy Clemmer	Dan Cobb	Bill Botts
<i>2ND</i>	Harold Crowe	Brad Pounders	Greg Clayton
<i>3RD</i>	J.L. Eaton	Ronnie Griggs	Roger Clayton
<i>4TH</i>	Jerry Gibson	Bill Botts	Andy Clemmer
<i>5TH</i>			
WED PRAYERS	Opening	Closing	GREETERS
<i>1ST</i>	Harold Russell	Bill DePriest	A & S Clemmer
<i>2ND</i>	Troy Robertson	Bobby Marques	T & N Robertson
<i>3RD</i>	Gary Turner	Steve Todd	H & D Crowe
<i>4TH</i>	Randy Wall	Phil Young	R & K Jennings
<i>5TH</i>	Dalton Beard	Bobby White	

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