

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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November 3, 2024

“First Century Church Problems”

By Kyle Campbell

We sometimes think that we are the only ones who have problems. If we are not so naive as to think that we are not the only ones who have problems, then we are confident that our problems are so much worse than others.

But I want to challenge that assertion in this article. In this short space, we are going to consider, from concrete examples, some of the problems in the first century church. I believe you will find that they were plagued by the same types of problems as churches in our day:

Lying

(Acts 5:1-11; Psalm 101:7; Proverbs 12:22). It is telling that the first official church problem is lying. Brethren who will not tell the truth to one another will destroy a local work.

Hypocrisy

(Matthew 6:2-6, 16-18; Galatians 2:11-14; 6:12-14). This is "play acting" - convincing someone that you are something when you really are not.

Forsaken duty

(Matthew 25:24-30; Acts 6:1-6; 15:38; Proverbs 25:19). Once this problem was corrected, the early church grew. The church today can accomplish the same. Brethren must be steadfast and diligent.

False teachers:

(Matthew 7:15; Acts 15:1, 24; 2 Timothy 2:16-18). This is one of the greatest dangers a church can face so it has many warnings sounded in the New Testament.

Immorality

(1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Corinthians 12:21; Revelation 2:20). It destroyed churches then and it will still destroy them now.

Unfaithful preachers

(2 Timothy 4:10; Philippians 1:15-18; 1 Timothy 1:5-7, 19-20). Error can be easily spread by those who should be spreading the gospel.

Indifference

(Revelation 2:2-5; 3:15-17; Ephesians 5:14). This is perhaps the most insidious of all. Apathy slowly sets in and makes us not care about the Lord, His church and other brethren.

Churches did have their own problems in the first century. How did they overcome them? By heeding Paul's instructions: *"Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus"* (2 Timothy 1:13).

Churches can also overcome sin by heeding the Lord's words: *"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent"* (Revelation 2:5).

Do not think we are unique when we have to deal with sin and wickedness. Churches throughout the ages will continually deal with these problems until the Lord comes again. Watch and pray lest you fall into temptation.

"TEACHING OLD DOGS NEW TRICKS"

By Kent Heaton

There is an old saying that suggests you cannot teach an old dog a new trick. When it comes to old hound dogs it may be quite difficult to train them anew as you can a young pup. Old dogs get set in their ways and sometimes their minds just can't accept a new change. They would rather accept life as it is and let life go by in whatever hurried pace it wants.

Inactivity is the best activity for the whole day during a cool breeze and a spot of sunlight. Old dogs just act that way. This affliction of old dogs can sometimes be found in the human breed of animals when a certain age is attained and the desire to learn something new is viewed with disinterest.

Retirement goes beyond a secular world to include most things in life. Often children of God decide at a certain age their work is done and the Lord has nothing more for them to do. It is easier to let the younger folk do the work and the older group will take up their place on the side-lines of life.

Noah was 500 years old when he built the ark and with seven other souls saved humans from extinction (Genesis 6). Abraham was 75 years old when the Lord put him to work. Imagine being told at that age to move and go to a place that I will show you; and take your 65-year-old wife with you (Genesis 12).

Moses was 80 years old when he led the people of Israel out of Egypt and for the next forty years guided them through the wilderness (Acts 7:23,30). Did you notice that God called these men because they were busy at the time?

David writes in Psalm 71:18, *"Now also when I am old and gray headed, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come."*

Psalm 92:14 exhorts those in "old age" to "still bear fruit." The Lord said the "silver-haired head is a crown of glory, if it is found in the way of righteousness" (Proverbs 16:31).

In the New Testament the apostle Paul urged Titus to exhort the older men and the old women to be an example of faith and to share their faith with young people. *"That the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed"* (Titus 2:2-5).

There is much work for older men and women to be doing with the younger men and women. Older Christians need to realize the potential of wisdom to impart to others. David reflected in his old age, *"I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread"* (Psalms 37:25).

Young people need to hear this type of wisdom to help build their faith and secure the blessings of God. It is vital to teach young people to show respect and honor to the older. *"You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man and fear your God: I am the Lord"* (Leviticus 19:32).

Learning from older Christians should help them make better decisions in life. You may not be able to teach old dogs new tricks but thankfully we are not dogs, and we can learn even till the day we die.

2 Peter 3:18 is not age restricted.

This Is Where Peter said, *"but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen."*

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, & Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, Fred Johnson, Bill Hall, George Hutto, Nathan Cox, Angela Warren (Lisa Busby's friend who has cancer), B.J. Graves, Danny Cottrell, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer, and Anita Harris.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Doug George
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "Becoming A Doer Of The Word"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Fred Johnson
Author: Hebrews
Daniel H. King, Sr
Starting Page & Question: Page #102, Question #11

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Fred Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Paul Johnson
Scripture Reading: John 5:19-23
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Lord's Supper: Danny Sheffield
Assisting: —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "Ways We Can Honor Christ"
Closing Prayer: Russell Briggs

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

November 6, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
Workbook: The Minor Prophets #2
Author: By Marc Gibson
Starting Page & Question: Page 37 Question #1
Invitation: Brian Meade
Song Leader: Tim Harris Sr.
Closing Prayer: Conner Whittemore



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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qlfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“Becoming Doers Of The Word”

Lesson Text: **James 1:21-25.** God Is About Transforming Us.... This Is The Way!

I. Answering The Error: It’s Not What We Do—But What Christ Did!

- One Of The Ways Men Try To Get Past Obedience Of The Word.
- Article: “It’s Not About What I Do, But What Christ Did” (By Dr. Georgia Purdom).
- But God Still Requires Obedience For His People Today!
 - Just Like In The Old Testament: **Deuteronomy 32:45-47.**
 - The Words Of Jesus: **Matthew 7:21; Luke 6:46; John 9:4.**

II. Why We Should Be Doers Of The Word.

- Because God Calls Us To Work....
 - As Laborers: **Matthew 9:37-38; 20:1-8; Philemon 23-24.**
 - As Workers: **Romans 16:12; Colossians 4:11.**
 - As Servants/Slaves: **Luke 17:10; Romans 6:16.**
- God Approves And Expects Work Done In The Church Today.
 - To Avoid Being Lazy- **Romans 12:11.**
 - To Bear Much Fruit In Our Labors: **John 15:8.**
- How We Do The Will Of The Father: **1 John 2:17.**
- How We Follow The Example Of Jesus: **1 John 2:5-6.**

III. What Happens When We Neglect The Word.

- It Only Hurts Our Efforts To Serve God. Lack Of Knowing—Doing Connection.
 - **James 1:25.** Word—Work Shift In **Vs. 22 and 25.**
- Lack Of Motivation—Zeal—& Devotion To The Work Can Result.
- We Are Like The “One Talent Man” of **Matthew 25:24-27.**
- We Can Even Drift Away- **Hebrews 2:1.**
- **Hebrews 6:10-12.**

“Ways We Can Honor Christ”

Lesson Text: **John 5:19-23.**

I. We Honor Christ By Observing The Lord’s Supper.

- Memorial: “Something, especially a structure, established to remind people of a person or event.”
- Jesus Instituted This Memorial Before His Death: **Matthew 26:26-29.**
- Paul Gives It In Application Of Our Memorial To Christ In **1 Corinthians 11:23-26.**
- We Honor Christ For His:
 - Love For All Of Us- **John 15:13.**
 - His Painful Sacrifice Of His Body/Blood On The Cross- **John 19:1-6; 23:33.**
 - We Proclaim His Death To Ourselves, And To The World: **1 Corinthians 11:26.**

II. We Honor Christ By Confessing Him Before Men.

- Confession Requires Genuine Faith And Honors Christ Before Men.
- Peter Confessed Christ: **John 6:67-69; Matthew 16:15-17.**
- It Also Took Bravery To Confess Him: **John 9:22.**
- **1 Timothy 6:12-13.**
- Do We Want Jesus To Confess Us For Honoring Him? **Matthew 10:32.**

III. We Honor Christ By Giving Him What He Wants.

- When We Seek To Honor Someone, We Must Not Be Self-Indulgent.
- Self-Indulgent: “characterized by doing or tending to do exactly what one wants,”
- Illustration:
Husband Tries To Honor His Wife By Getting Her Something He Likes—Not Her!
- We Honor Christ By Following His Instructions For:
 - Worship. **Colossians 3:17.**
 - Name & Organization Of The Church. **Romans 16:16; Eph. 4:11-12; Phil. 1:1.**
 - What Name We Wear —Christian. **Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16.**
- Denominational Practices Are Self-Indulgent and Do Not Honor Christ!

IV. We Honor Christ By Imitating His Life.

- “Imitation Is The Most Sincere Form Of Flattery.” But, Flattery Is Not The Goal!
- Many People Have Heroes & Role Models: Michael Jordan.....
 - What About Jesus?!?
- Do We Imitate Christ By What He Did:
 - He Came Not To Do His Own Will, But The Father’s: **John 5:30.**
 - He Came To Serve Others: **Mark 10:45.**
 - He Came To Seek & Save The Lost: **Luke 19:10.**
 - He Sought To Please The Father- **John 8:29.**
 - He Was Obedient To His Father- **Hebrews 5:8-9.**