

### Be An Example

What kind of example are you? Is it indicative of a faithful Christian? Do you show the world what it means to be an obedient follower of God? Do you show spiritual infants what maturity means? Is your example helping others to become a disciple of Christ...or discouraging them? Is your example helping the church grow? How often do you show up when the doors are open? How interested are you in developing skills needed to help the church grow, and how interested are you in using your talents to serve God's kingdom? Is your example helping or hindering the progress of the church? If every churchgoer was exactly like you, would the church be strong and growing? Would it even exist?

None of us are perfect, and all of us have room to grow. We should not be discouraged by our shortcomings, nor should we harshly and hypocritically judge each other without patience and love when we see faults in others. Instead, let the questions asked above challenge us all to take Christianity more seriously and, with God's help and grace, become an example worth following and help others to do the same. ~Unknown

*Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity.*

#### Kennewick Church of Christ

3926 W. Kennewick Ave. Kennewick, WA 99336

509-783-4013

Website: [www.kennewickcoc.com](http://www.kennewickcoc.com) Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ

Church Email: [kencoc@gmail.com](mailto:kencoc@gmail.com)

#### Meeting times:

##### Sunday:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

##### Wednesday:

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

#### Elders:

Clarence Botts: 509-521-3344; [ccbotts@hotmail.com](mailto:ccbotts@hotmail.com)

LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; [vern.engelke@gmail.com](mailto:vern.engelke@gmail.com)

#### Minister:

Dustin McCrickard 509-579-9068

Open Congregational meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 5:00 pm. All are welcome.

Attendance 12/23: 61 | Budget \$2400.33 | Contribution 12/23 \$2135.00

December 30, 2018

## Kennewick Church of Christ

### Pick A Side - You Can't Be Neutral

Jesus was a very polarizing preacher. He was constantly dividing his audience and the whole world into two categories. Some (few) will accept the truth and some (many) will not (cf Matt. 22:14). This process is polarizing. It calls on men and women to make a choice, pick a side. Consider these great, simple, but demanding verses:

- In Exodus 32:26 Moses asked, "Who is on the Lord's side?"
- In Joshua 24:15 Joshua said, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve."
- In 1 Kings 18:21 Elijah asked, "How long halt ye between two opinions?"

These questions are God's questions.

They are polarizing. They demand that people make a choice. They call upon everyone to "pick a side." Should we not follow this example? Yes, we must if we are going to meet with God's approval.

Matt 7:13-14, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." There are only two ways before humanity. One leads to life, the other leads to destruction. Everyone is traveling one path or the other. The point is, Choose a road - Eternal Life (salvation) or Eternal Destruction (damnation).

Matt. 7:24-28, "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sound: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house and it fell: and great was the fall of it. And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine."

Everyone has a choice to make - Wise or Foolish? We can build on the foundation of the words of Jesus, or we can build on the sand. The point is, build (stand) on the Rock of Truth or build (collapse) on the shifting sands of error. ~Rusty Stark

***Feel free to stand up for what you believe in. Never let what others might say turn you into a coward who stands for nothing.***

***People's beliefs will differ. Do not betray yours out of fear of opinion.***

***Be polite while making your stance crystal clear.***

<b>Keep These Dates in Mind</b>	<b>January Birthdays and Anniversaries</b>	
<b>01/06</b> First Sunday Potluck 01/12 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 01/13 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p 01/16 Soup Night (Tentative) <b>02/03</b> First Sunday Potluck 02/09 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 02/10 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p 02/20 Soup Night (Tentative)	Bill & Linda Lafferty 12/24 Hannah Minor 1/5 Linda Lafferty 1/8 Gayle Caldwell 1/12 Holden Minor 1/15 Henry Walker 1/18 Larry Moore 1/19	Mary Beth Walker 1/22 Shirley Childers 1/24 Eddie & Eunice Petross 1/24 Loretta Slettene 1/26 Mary Lewis 1/27 Casey Berry 1/28 Hannah Mendoza 1/29 Nadine Mohr 1/19
<b>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect</b>	<b>Bible Studies</b>	
	<b>Adult Bible Classes</b> Sunday AM – Galatians Wednesday – Acts 1-12	<b>Youth Classes</b> Classroom Wing <b>Teen Class</b> - Teen Room



**Issues (ongoing):** Karen McBurney, Bob Childers, Shirley Childers, Amanda McCrickard, Kaleb McCrickard, Joshua Hickman, Vern Mast, Sue Aldrich, Lupe Mendoza, Marji Lindholm, The Johnson family, Brent Bryant, Marilyn Davis, Randy Hargus, Eunice Petros, Shawna Stephens

**Sandi Gray, Tami Pennington, Mary Beth Walker and Bill Henniger** as they continue to recover

**Bill Henniger** appears to be doing much better and healing. Let's give thanks for that.

Keep all those who are traveling during the holiday season in your prayers that they go and come back home safely.

### **Our Ministries**

#### **Mountain States Children's Home**

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (James 1:27)

#### **Peru Ministry** – Oscar and Anna Maria in Peru

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and of the Holy Spirit

#### **Food Pantry** - Our food pantry is located in the small room next to the library.

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed." (Proverbs 19:17)

#### **Austin and Kennadie McCrickard** – Bear Valley Bible Institute

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

### **Satan's Cruellest Lie**

Jesus made it perfectly clear: Satan is a liar (John 8:44). His lies are like fiery darts (Eph. 6:16), and he is compared to a lion seeking opportunity to devour the careless (1 Pet. 5:8). But of all the lies Satan tells, which is the cruelest? Is it the lie that there is no God? While this is indeed a cruel lie, those who are deceived by it are looking for a way to live life on their own terms. They are not willing to submit themselves to the ultimate authority of the supreme, sovereign God. When they meet their Maker in judgment, they will see the foolishness of their ways too late, but they never really wanted to be part of God's kingdom in the first place. Is it the lie that can live a life of sensuality and excess without eternal consequences? This too is a cruel lie, but for many of the same reasons just given, this lie may not be the cruelest of all. Which of Satan's lies, then tops the list as the cruelest? It may very well be the lie he tells people who think they are saved when they really are lost.

This lie may be the cruelest because it exploits people's desire to be with God. There are many people in the world who know enough about God and about what he offers to mankind that they want to become his children. However, Satan knows that a mere desire to be a child of God is not enough to make one a child of God. Paul explained that we become children of God through faith in Christ when we put on Christ in baptism (Gal. 3:26-27). However, there are millions, perhaps billions of people who have believed the many different forms of Satan's lies regarding how people become children of God. Many believe they are children of God merely because they have believed; others are convinced that they became children of God when they prayed the "sinner's prayer;" still others affirm that they were individually predestined to be God's children. Unless these people learn the truth, they will go to their graves convinced that they are children of God. They will face death with a hope that is based on a cruel lie. Too late they will learn that they had been deceived by Satan's cruelest lie.

This lie may be the cruelest because it makes a mockery of people's sincerity. There are plenty of hypocrites in the world, but not every person who is lost is a hypocrite. Jesus told His apostles there would come a time when those who killed them would think they were serving God (John 16:2). Saul of Tarsus was that kind of person. In all sincerity before God (Acts 23:1) he persecuted the church to the death (Acts 22:3-4). Sincerity alone proves nothing of a person's true standing before God. Lot's of people today sincerely devote their lives to what they believe to be the service of God. These are not the kind of people who persecute Christians, like Saul did. These are people who claim to be Christians. They are sincere, devoted, conscientious people who believe they are living in God's grace and on the way to heaven. But because their sincerity is based on a lie, they are not living in God's grace. If they continue on their course they will find out too late that they had been deceived by Satan's cruelest lie.

The truth is that God has only one way for salvation. Jesus described that way as "straight and narrow" (Matt. 7:13,14). God's Word defines the limits of that straight and narrow way. Many have been deceived into believing that they are following that way when really they are not. Satan knows that though God is merciful and gracious, He does not tolerate any alteration of His Word. It is only through His Word that people can gain access to the grace that saves from sin. Because of this, Satan's cruelest lie may just be the one that convinces lost people who want to be saved that they are saved by following something that God has not given. May all people search for and find the one true way that leads to salvation. ~Kevin Beard

**For even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.**