

New Caney
Church of Christ

(physical) 19351 FM 1485
(mail) P.O. Box 903
New Caney, TX 77357
281-399-5900
www.NewCaneyChurchofChrist.org

Assembly Times

Sundays
Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Retaining The Standard
Of Sound Doctrine

Evangelist: Charles Willis
281-841-5718
charleswillisNCCofC@gmail.com

- Know Your Bible: Answers
1. Hagar, mother of Ishmael (Genesis 21:16)


2. Sarah's (Genesis 23:2)

3. He heard Jereusalem was in ruins (Nehemiah 1:4)

4. Esau (Genesis 27:35)

5. Jeremiah (9:1)

This Week's Assignments & Events			
Sunday Worship		Sunday Afternoons	
Greeter:	Truett Blazek	Apr 20	Nothing
Announcements:	Tyler Blazek		
Encouragement Talk:	Arturo Orozco	Apr 27	3PM Classroom Quarter Change
Opening Prayer:	Kyle Crain		
Scripture Reading:	Corwin Richardson	May 4	3PM Devotionals
	Luke 8:26-39		
Song Leader:	Billy Lovell	May11	Nothing
Table Talk:	Josh Emerson		
Contribution:	John Franks		
Helper:	Theo Edge		
Fruit of Vine:	Eddie Bowen		
Helper:	Lester Mabry		
Helper:	Verlin Wilson		
Closing Prayer:	Casey Thomas		
		Wednesday Evening	
		Song Leader:	Charles Willis
		Speaker:	John Van Baale



Standing Firm

"Take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm"

Ephesians 6:13

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Congregational Harmony

Musical harmony, whether simple or complex, is beautiful to our ears. It resonates in our mind as something pleasing. It only takes one small added note of dissonance to destroy the harmony. Consider what God has to say about congregational harmony.

Unity Prevails

"Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose" (Phil. 2:2). Those outside the congregation will be able to determine if we are united and whether harmony exists. It is seen, heard and even felt as love between brethren. A unity of purpose and goal must exist. Jesus prayed "that they may all be one" (John 17:20) "so that the world may believe that You sent Me". Unity is not just a good idea, it is the instruction of God.

Maintenance is required to stay in harmony. Musicians must constantly adjust their pitch while playing to maintain harmony. The same is true for saints. We are to maintain the same love. We must "give and take" with each other to remain united. It takes effort for a congregation to be at peace.

Only by developing and growing in these areas can we ever hope to achieve harmony and please God.

Harmony Requires Humility

"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others" (Phil. 2:3-4). Musical harmony will never be achieved if one musician refuses to adjust their pitch. One stubborn individual who demands that their pitch is correct can destroy the efforts of many. This is the result of selfishness.

When everyone in a congregation is "looking out" for each other, rather than themselves, they will be a congregation of workers. The interests and needs of others

will be placed ahead of our own. Their needs are more important than mine.

This is exactly the attitude of Christ which we are to have (Phil. 2:5). He humbled himself *“taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men... He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross”* (Phil. 2:7-9). Don’t lose sight of Paul’s point – this is the attitude we are supposed to have within the congregation. Christ is the example for how we are to behave toward one another. To the extent that we follow His example we will have harmony.

Without Grumbling or Disputing

“Do all things without grumbling or disputing” (Phil. 2:14). These are the behaviors of the selfish, those who have not humbled themselves. They do not have the same mind as the congregation, or of our Lord. They disturb the peace and harmony that exists. The danger in this behavior is well seen in the context of Philippians 2 when Paul writes, *“work out your salvation with fear and trembling”* (v.12). This passage is in regard to congregational harmony and proper attitudes among the saints.

When harmony prevails we *“prove”* ourselves *“to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom”* we *“appear as light in the world, holding fast the word of life”* (Phil. 2:15-16). Congregational harmony is a proof of our fellowship with God! It demonstrates we have adopted a God-like, and Christ-like character. We are to be above reproach from the world. Too many congregations of the Lord’s Church are not above reproach – people point to the bickering and fussing, the divisions and back-stabbing and have no desire to be a part. Can’t say I blame them. These have not proven themselves to be children of God.

Conclusion

We must all learn and individually apply the principles of Philippians 2 in order to have congregational harmony!

by Charles Willis

***Know
Your
Bible***

Crying

- 1. Who wept at thinking her son would die of thirst in the desert?
- 2. At whose death did Abraham weep?
- 3. What caused Nehemiah to weep?
- 4. Who cried as he begged Isaac for his rightful blessing?
- 5. Who said, “Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears”?

Answers On Back

Sunday Sermon

Point your phone camera at the square below, then click on the link to hear the sermon. Recordings will change mid-week.



Watch Where You Are Going

by Charles Willis

I remember taking driver’s education when I turned 16. I was taught to not look at the ground directly in front of the automobile, but to keep my eyes fixed on the horizon. To look five feet ahead is to continually swerve right and left, but by fixing your gaze on the horizon your path becomes straight. This was how I learned to drive. Here’s what God tells us about living life.

Proverbs 4:25 *“Let your eyes look directly ahead, and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you”*

A problem for many believers is they take their eyes off the goal. They do not travel in the right direction because their gaze is not fixed on heaven. Persistence and focus in living life will aid us in remaining faithful. It’s easy to sin when we fail to think of God or consider the consequences of our actions. That’s taking our eyes off the goal. We must be those who are constantly watching the goal.

Distractions will come our way, just as they do in driving. No one who is a decent driver will take his eyes off the road for more than a moment—it’s too dangerous to ourselves and others on the road. I wish some Christians would learn that about living life. We put our own soul in jeopardy and can cause harm to others when we allow ourselves to be distracted by temptation and led into sin. We are failing to heed the instructions of Proverbs 4:25.

Proverbs 4:26 *“Watch the path of your feet, and all your ways will be established”*

I believe this Proverb is telling us to look at where you are stepping. If you’ve ever done any hiking on mountain trails, you understand this concept of looking at where you place each footstep. One poor choice can cause a sprained ankle or worse. Scan the path ahead and we will know which way we ought to go—it will be established in our mind.

Even more true about the way we live our life! Each decision in life is like placing a step on the trail. If we look to our destination and examine where we need to turn to get there, our way will be established. We have to map a course through life. The way to heaven avoids the snares and pitfalls of Satan. We must watch where we place our feet so that we do not become tangled.

Proverbs 4:27 *“Do not turn to the right nor to the left; turn your foot from evil”*

We have choices in our life of doing righteousness or unrighteousness. We must keep ourselves on the path of righteousness without drifting off course. We must turn our foot from evil. When we see it coming—avoid it, step around it, do not participate. These simple truths enable us to remain righteous as we travel the pathway of life.