

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

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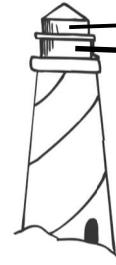
**It's better to be divided
by truth than to be
united by error.**

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Joel Heiligenthal
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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The Single Christian

Let me acknowledge up front that I have never lived life as a single man. One Thursday night, years ago, I spent my last night in my room at my parents' house. The following night I spent with my new bride – and so it has been ever since. As a result, I cannot possibly understand the struggles that a single person (the never-married, widows, widowers, and divorced) – and especially a single Christian – goes through.

But just as a single (or newlywed or childless) preacher is able to preach

about godly families (by reminding listeners of what God's Word says), then perhaps I can offer a few humble reminders to our single brothers and sisters in Christ in the hope of encouraging them in their unique struggles.

Singleness was addressed early in the scriptures. Concerning Adam God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone" (Ge 2:18). And some have interpreted this to mean that **everyone** should be married; otherwise, they say, something is wrong. But Paul argued >

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.
Sick: Gary Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, Rai Starr, Diane Willis & Gerald Robertson
Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Margaret Abel, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Etta Frazelle, Mary Lou Lewis *Military:* Logan Dickey, Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

NEXT SUNDAY – Next Sunday Hayden Cathey will visit with us about our training program. Due to scheduling, evening service that day will be at 2pm.

SENTENCE SERMON – If you would be remembered, you must forget about yourself.

otherwise. “He who marries his betrothed does well, and he who refrains from marriage will do even better” (1 Co 7:38). His argument was simple: life is tough, and it is better, if possible, to live it in an undistracted way. Singleness can make that easier. Jesus taught much the same thing. “There are eunuchs [those not sexually active] who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 19:12).

Paul referred to singleness as a ‘gift’ (1 Co 7:7), and many have used that gift in God’s service. Such a list would include (in all probability) Jeremiah, Daniel, Nehemiah, Anna, John the Baptist, Martha & Mary, Mary of Magdala, Paul, and, of course, Jesus. Let **no one** view singleness as ‘second best’. Sometimes it’s the **very** best.

The single Christian may push back, “But the struggles of a single life can be overwhelming” – which is undoubtedly true. But marriage

is not always the solution to those struggles. Sexual temptations are not just a struggle for singles (David & Bathsheba). Depression is not just a struggle for singles (Pr 27:15). Even loneliness can plague a marriage when the husband and wife drift apart and begin to live isolated lives under one roof. Such problems are part of the **human** struggle – and Jesus came to help us **all** with that struggle.

Paul reminded Christians that the time was rapidly coming when singleness and marriage would matter not at all (1 Co 7:29-31). Jesus taught the same thing (Mt 22:30). This life, with its struggles and disappointments, and even with its joys and triumphs, will be over soon enough. And when that time comes, the only thing that will matter is whether we used the circumstances of our lives – no matter what they were – to the glory of God. May He help us **all** to find that calling.

- *WKing*

Another Perspective

Natural Relations

Critics attack Paul’s claim in Romans 1:26-27 that homosexual intimacy is unnatural. Because some animals engage in same-sex behavior, it means that such behavior is natural, and that Paul is just a dumb ignoramus.

As satisfying as such a conclusion is to opponents of traditional morality, it fails to reckon with Paul’s argument. This passage is part of his famous description of the degradation of the Gentiles. According to Paul, this decline began with the failure of Gentiles to honor God. This failure was their fault, not God’s. In the physical creation, He gave them all the evidence they needed to see His power and divine nature. They recognized the truth, but they put it out of mind because they didn’t want to glorify Him. They chose the gods they had made over the God who made them.

We are the handiwork of an intentional God who expects us to honor His intent for us. That intent is not evident in any member of the animal kingdom. We do not live like animals live, so why should we take our guidance in sexual matters from them? Rather, we learn what is natural **for us** by reasoning from the evidence of our own bodies. The body of a man is made to complement the body of a woman, and vice versa. That is the sexual union for which we have been created. It is equally clear that women are not meant to go with women or men with men. It is not our natural purpose. If He had wanted us to behave differently, He would have created us differently.

It is possible to endorse same-sex relations – and it is possible to submit to the will of God. But it is not possible to do both. – *Matt Bassford (edited)*