

Light and Life

Rules and Relationships

A modern idea in the religious world is that an emphasis on rules takes away from a relationship with Jesus. If we put this in the context of any other relationship it becomes obvious that it is utterly ridiculous. Every relationship has rules – and if those rules are not followed, it destroys the relationship!

Are there rules in a marriage relationship? Of course! A healthy marriage has many rules. Marriage is even used to teach about our relationship with Christ (Eph. 5:22-33). If these rules are broken, the relationship suffers. If they are broken enough, the marriage may even end!

Are there rules between parents and children? Of course! Healthy parent/child relationships have many rules, from children obeying parents (Ep. 6:1) to parents teaching their children (Ep. 6:4). And many passages use this relationship to teach us about our relationship with God (He. 12:7-11, Mal. 1:6, etc.). If these rules are broken, the relationship suffers and can even be cut off!

Every relationship has important rules and boundaries which define that relationship! **And the same is true in our relationship with God!** Jesus told His disciples, “If you love Me, keep my commandments” (Jn. 14:15). Love motivates us to want a relationship with Jesus, but the rules are what define and keep that relationship together! Just like any other relationship, if we do not respect the rules, our relationship with Jesus will suffer. If we continue in disrespecting and breaking the rules, then our relationship with Jesus will end.

We may slip up sometimes; but like any other relationship, we can make things right! As a human relationship can be repaired through an apology and changed behavior, so can a relationship with God (Ac. 26:20).

Let’s respect the rules of the relationship!

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

Those Who Follow

*He cannot lead the singing,
Nor pray a public prayer,
But he sings and prays the best he can
And he is always there.*

*She cannot teach a class of kids,
Her singing is off key,
But she is always present
And she gives most cheerfully.*

*The church is built of folks like these
They share a common bond,
They love and help each other
And they meet to worship God.*

*Leadership is wonderful,
A talent great and rare.
But who would leaders teach and lead
If there was no one there?*

- Ray Crawford

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.
Thursday 11:30a.m.–noon
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

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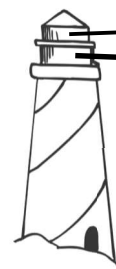
**Give all for Christ because
He gave all for you.**

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

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



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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It Matters

Does it matter whether I believe the Bible to be the standard of right and wrong – the guide for living my life? Yes, it matters (Jn 12:48).

Does it matter whether I believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God and Savior of the world? Yes, it matters (Jn 8:24).

Does it matter whether I am truly sorry for my sins – whether I am determined to leave my sinful life in the past? Yes, it matters (Lu 13:3).

Does it matter whether I have been baptized – immersed in water for the forgiveness of my sins and added to the body of Christ? Yes, it matters (Ac 2:38, Ro 6:4, 1 Co 12:13).

Does it matter whether I join with a faithful group of Christians – and whether I meet with them on a regular basis? Yes, it matters (Ac 9:26, He 10:25).

Does it matter whether the church I am part of follows the pattern of work, worship, and organization revealed in the Bible? Yes, it matters (2 Ti 1:13, 1 Co 9:14, 16:1-2, Jn 4:24, Col 3:16, Ph 1:1, 1 Ti 3:1-13, etc.).

One may think ‘Does it matter?’ is directed to each of us – but that’s not entirely true. In fact, these things do **not** matter to most people. **But they matter to God** – and so they **should** matter to **you!** – *WKing*

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

Sick: Fletchers, Swims, Jean Marshall, Rai Starr, Michael Bader, Ann Dosier

Shut-ins: Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Susan Wiese, Virgil Carter

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

SINGING – Tonight is our first-of-the-month singing. Let’s come prepared to sing praises to our God – and to “teach and admonish” one another!

SENTENCE SERMON – “To have a right to do a thing is not the same as to be right in doing it.” – G.K. Chesterton