

**New Caney
Church of Christ**

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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***

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Know Your Bible: Answers

1. Jesus (Matthew 11:19)
2. Isaiah (63:1-4)
3. The Nazarites (Numbers 6:2-3)
4. Myrrh (Mark 15:23). Gall (Matt. 27:34).
5. Six (John 2:1-10)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Casey Thomas
Announcements: Tyler Blazek
Encouragement Talk: Arturo Orozco
Opening Prayer: Eddie Bowen
Scripture Reading: Truett Blazek
Luke 7:36-39
Song Leader: John Franks
Table Talk: Sandon Spyker
Contribution: Kevin Buckner
Helper: Billy Scherry
Fruit of Vine: Josh Emerson
Helper: John Van Baale
Helper: Verlin Wilson
Closing Prayer: Billy Lovell

Sunday Afternoons

Mar 16 3PM Yard Work Day
Mar 23 Nothing
Mar 30 Nothing
Apr 6 Encouragement (cards/calls)

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Truett Blazek
Speaker: Tyler Blazek



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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Instrumental Music and Unity

“The important thing is that we’re all worshipping God” said brother N. convincingly.

“That’s right”, agreed brother A. “To hear some of our brethren talk you’d think God is ready to strike us dead if we do something a little differently. God gave us our talents and we should use them in whatever ways we can. Let’s do it.”

This fictitious discussion raises the question of liberties in worshipping God. We’ll get back to brethren”N” and “A” momentarily. But first let’s consider some of the implications of what they’re about to do.

The activity under consideration is a slight alteration of God’s specifications for worship. It is something God has not commanded. But it is in conjunction with an act of worship which God has commanded. How does God feel about such things?

The Mosaic Law said, “*What thing soever I commands you, that shall ye observe to do; thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it*” (Deut. 12:32 and 4:2).

The wise man said, “*Every word of God is tried; He is a shield unto them that take refuge in Him. Add thou not unto his words, lest He reprove thee and thou be found a liar*” (Prov. 30:5-6).

Jesus said, “*I can of Myself do nothing; as I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous because I seek not mine own will but the will of Him that sent Me*” (John 5:30).

The apostles and elders in Jerusalem exposed as false teachers those who were adding something to the gospel, “*to whom we gave no commandment*” (Acts 15:24).

Paul warned the Corinthians “*not to go beyond the things which are written*” (1 Cor. 4:6).

The writer of Hebrews argued that it was not permissible for someone of the tribe

of Judah to be a priest under the Old Covenant. Why? Was such expressly forbidden by law? No. Rather, as he explained, *“as to which tribe Moses spake nothing”* (Heb. 7:14). What are we to do then regarding those activities concerning which God says nothing?

John warned, *“Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ hath not God; he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son”* (2 John 9). Is one abiding in the teaching when he practices something that is not included in the teaching?

If the spiritual gifts have ceased to bring revelations of God’s will to men, then *“that which is perfect”* has come (1 Co. 13:8–10). If God’s will for our behavior and worship has been perfectly revealed, what must we conclude about those activities not mentioned in His revelation?

Is it significant that the final prophetic Scripture concludes with these words: *“I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, I any man shall add unto them, God shall add unto him the plagues which are written in this book”* (Rev. 22:18)?

The sources of authority for religious activities are either “from heaven or from men” (Matt. 21:25). How does God feel about worship based in human authority? *“But in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrine the precepts of men”* (Matt. 15:9).

But what about the minor things? Do these principles really apply to such seemingly insignificant matters? Jesus said, *“Till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or tittle shall in no wise pass away from the law till all things be accomplished. Whosoever therefore shall break on e of the least commandments and shall teach so shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whosoever shall do and teach them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven”* (Matt. 5:18–19). And concerning tithing of the smallest plants and seeds, Jesus said to those under the Law, *“these ye ought to have done”* (Matt. 23:23). So what about the “minor things”?

But before we get back to brothers “N” and “A”, let’s consider the question of religious unity. Shouldn’t we be willing to go

Know Your Bible

Fruit of the Vine

1. Who was called a glutton and wine guzzler?
2. What prophet of God spoke of God putting Israel into a winepress?
3. What group of Israelites were never supposed to drink wine?
4. What was mingled with the wine Jesus was offered on the cross?
5. How many jars did Jesus turn into wine?

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.



along with a slight diversion from God’s instructions for the sake of harmony among brethren?

None will deny the desirability of unity. *“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity”* (Ps. 133:1). God hates one *“that soweth discord among brethren”* (Prov. 6:19). Jesus prayed *“for them also that believe in Me through”* (the apostles) *“word, that they may all be one in us; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me”* (John 17:20–21). Diligence should be given to *“keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”* (Eph. 4:3). To the divisive brethren at Corinth, Paul wrote, *“Not I beseech you, brethren, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment”* (1 Cor. 1:10). The works of the flesh include *“factions, divisions, parties”* while the fruit of the Spirit includes *“love, joy, peace, longsuffering”* (Gal. 5:19–23). Yes, unity is a major consideration.

But is unity to be sought at the expense of obedience? Should we agree to disregard God’s word in order to be united with those who insist on doing so? Was Sapphira right in uniting with her husband *“to lie to the Holy Spirit”* (Acts 5:1–6)? Were the Galatians right in uniting *“unto a different gospel”* (Gal. 1:6)? Are they right who *“fall away from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons”* (1 Tim. 4:1), as long as they fall together? Or were the *“few names”* at Sardis wrong for refusing to be united with the majority who *“defiled their garments”* and were dead (Rev. 3:1–4)? Was the prophet Elijah wrong when labeled a *“troubler of Israel”* for refusing to unite with those who had *“forsaken the commandments of Jehovah”* (1 Kings 18:17–18)?

“Let no man deceive you with empty words; for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the sons of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them...and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather even reprove them” (Eph. 5:6,7, 11).

So will you go along with brother “N” and brother “A” in their worship which varies slightly from the Lord’s instructions?

“And” (brother N.) *“Nadab and”* (brother A.) *“Ahibu, the sons of Aaron, took each of them his censer and put fire therein, and laid incense thereon, and offered strange fire before Jehovah, which he had not commanded them. And there came forth fire from before Jehovah and devoured them, and they died before Jehovah.”*

“He that hath an ear, let him hear.”

by Steve Cawthon