
WESTHILL

STAND

FIRM

1 THESSALONIANS 3:8

Westhill Church of Christ

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Corsicana, TX 75110

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westhillchurchofchrist.org

Sunday 9:30a, 10:30a, 6:00p
Tuesday 10:30a
Wednesday 6:30p

Wednesday Benevolence 8:30a

June 3, 2018

Building By Unity

by Kevin Cauley

There are many endeavors in life. We may go to work, school, the voting booth, a baseball game, movie, concert, or some other event. Each of these activities requires a certain amount of involvement, and when we involve ourselves in them, we commit to a certain level of participation. Some of these activities may be summarily dismissed because our involvement in them is minimal. Others require more involvement and participation. The more effort we put into the activity, the more we will get out of it in the long run. The greatest endeavor in which one may be involved is the Lord's Church.

There are many, however, who look at the church as simply another opportunity like work, school, or a game. This, however, is not the Lord's view of the church. The church is the body of believers for which Christ died and shed His blood (Acts 20:28). He committed fully to her establishment, and he commits fully to her success. We must have the same level of commitment to the church if she is going to be successful. Lack of commitment to the church is one of the greatest threats to church unity.

Many years ago, a brother in Christ asked my opinion about where he ought to place his membership. He said that there was one congregation he was looking at that was small and didn't have a lot of resources. There was another congregation that was large and had many resources. My question to him was, "Where can you better serve the Lord?" In our day and time, religion is looked on as a cafeteria experience. Many have the attitude that they may shop around until they find a congregation that they like and are comfortable. This is not how we ought to think about our relationship to the body of Christ. Rather, our desire ought to be, "How may I best serve the Lord?"

Being a member of the body is not about comfort, ease, and safety. This notion would likely insult many early members of the Lord's church who endured severe persecution, suffered greatly, and even died for the Lord's cause. Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matt. 16:24). Having Christian unity demands that we do just this. Such unity is not superficial, but truly profound, where Christians may have deep abiding personal relationships based upon true knowledge of one another—not just upon the niceties of making acquaintance. (over)

(continued)

What does it take to have Christian unity? The apostle Paul wrote about it in Ephesians 4:1-16. He commented upon four areas of focus that are absolutely necessary for Christian unity: attitude, doctrine, organization, and working relationship.

We must have the right attitude to have Christian unity. Paul wrote, "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." The world may elevate, lift itself up in pride, cut others short, and run amuck of one another, but God calls all Christians to refuse the passions of the flesh, and bring themselves under control of the spirit. Unity is an endeavor, both personally and collectively.

We must have the right doctrine to have unity. Paul wrote, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Here are listed seven essentials on which we must not compromise. Certainly there are other areas of concern. However, if within these seven "ones," we find disagreement with others, we must work to unite upon God's truth.

We must have the right organization. Paul lists the following "offices" for church work: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Again, this is not an exhaustive list, but all of these offices are provided for today's church. Some, however, are no longer filled because of their temporary nature. The church continues to benefit from the work of the apostles and prophets in the first century. Evangelists, shepherds, and teachers work with the church today to lead, guide, and teach others. The church must be organized correctly in order to be united.

We must have the right working spirit. Paul wrote, "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." In all things we are to have love one toward another. This, however, does not mean that everyone does the same work. In Romans 12 and in 1 Corinthians 12, Paul discusses how each member has different abilities. Different parts of the physical body work differently. The eye cannot do the hearing, etc. So also in the church everyone has their role to perform. We need to make an effort to determine what those roles are and try to fill them to the best of our ability; otherwise, we will have disunity.

Unity is hard; it is an endeavor. Trying to find easy solutions to difficult problems never works out in the long run; this kind of attitude leads to the cafeteria mentality for churches. Strong and lasting relationships depend on our working out our differences according to God's pattern. May God help us to so do.

Notes:



Wednesday Summer Series
You Have OVERCOME

June 6 - Robert Dodson (Northwest)
You Have Overcome



WesthillWORKS!

Community Outreach

Benevolence Program
Habitat for Humanity
Food for Fitness

Local Missions

Cherokee Children's Home
In Search of the Lord's Way
Southwest School of Preaching
Brown Trail Spanish School of Preaching
The Truth in Love *ttil.tv*
WVBS Online School
school.wvbs.org
La Poynor Prison Ministry
(Steve & Carrie Handley)

Foreign Missions

India Preacher Training Program
New Zealand Harvest Missions

Leadership

Elders

Don Ivy - 214.695.5276
Percell Milton - 903.673.1819
Paul Slaughter - 903.872.1228
Paul Stewart - 903.872.3464
Darwin Thomas - 903.695.0176

Deacons

Scott Barham - 903.641.0133
David Baumgartner - 903.654.4057
Zach Drain - 903.521.6055

Joshua Haden - 903.602.9645
Micah Haden - 903.673.1177
Michael Jones - 214.803.5984
Greg Olsen - 903.654.1406
James Olsen - 903.874.8918
Rusty Owens - 903.695.0095
Billy Roughton - 903.654.4032
Dickie Russell - 903.874.4457
David Shastid - 903.257.6464
Brent Stewart - 903.641.9052
Justin Williams - 903.875.8288

Ministers

Anthony Warnes - 430.775.0196 (Pulpit)
Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

Staff

Jay Mahoney - 903.467.9093 (Office)
Brody Owens - 903.520.5946 (Intern)

Prayer List

Darwin Thomas is doing very well after his knee replacement surgery. Thank you for all of your prayers.

Veran Barrett's cousin's son, Eric Keaton, is in Dallas Baylor and waiting for a liver transplant.

Continue to Remember: Don Bowen, Aline Barrett, Billie Thomas, John Sehon, Anita Hawkins, Mary Crews, Darwin Thomas, Faye Hand, Brody Brunton, & Lydia Judson

Announcements

Unity Service Today . It is time to unite with our local spiritual family again and join together in worship! The Jr. High, High School and adults will all meet in the auditorium for morning Bible Class. Following the morning assembly all are invited to stay for a pot luck lunch. We will meet again at 1pm for our afternoon service. There will be no service at 6pm.

Vacation Bible School Work Day is going to be this evening at 6pm for any who want to pitch in.

Early Summer Camp registration is now available online. Got to westhillchurchofchrist.org, click on Events tab, then click on Summer Camp and fill out form.

Upcoming 6th Graders are encouraged and welcome to participate in this summer's Youth Activities.

* Upcoming Youth Activities *

- * **VBS** - 6/18-6/21
- * **Summer Youth Series** - Every Tues.
 - 6/12 Begins @ Mesquite COC
 - 6/26 @ Westhill
- * **Summer Camp** - 7/8 - 7/13
- * **Leadership Initiative**
 - 7/27 & 7/28 (Girls)
 - 8/10 & 8/11 (Boys)

Funeral Meals - If you are interested in **helping to serve meals** for member's funerals we could really use your help. Please contact Veran Barrett to get involved.

Birthdays This Week

- June 3 - Jayde Newman
- June 4 - Brooke Warnes
- June 7 - Casey Hendrix, Turner Jones, & Corey Newton

Records for May 27, 2018

Bible Class	207
AM Worship.....	232
PM Worship.....	151
Wednesday.....	159
Contribution	\$7,135.55



Unity Sunday Lineup

Class	
Song	Kenny Ballard
Prayer	Shawn Smith
Class	Anthony Warnes
Worship	
Opening Song	Kenny Ballard
Welcome	Anthony Warnes
Song	Kenny Ballard
Prayer	John Brown
Song	Josh Haden
Lord's Supper	Zach Drain
Song	Josh Haden
Offering	Zach Drain
Song	Josh Haden
Scripture Reading	DT Milton
Sermon	Alton Albert
Invitation Song	Eddie Orbison
Closing Song	Eddie Orbison
Prayer	Sammy Smith
Lord's Supper Servers	
Billy Roughton	Wesley Hall
David Shastid	Gene Steinkraus
Casey Hendrix	Thomas Smith
Rusty Owens	Clifford Strain
Justin Williams	James Bruton
Parker Smith	Rodney Govan
Kenneth Brown	
PM Worship	
Song	Kenny Ballard
Prayer	Jay Mahoney
Song	Kenny Ballard
Sermon	Steve Orbison
Invitation Song	Eddie Orbison
Prayer	Brody Owens