

The Church Belongs to Christ

By: David Sproule

It is interesting and often discouraging to observe happenings in the religious world. The whole world was tuned in to the recent passing of Pope Francis and the selection of Pope Leo as the new leader of the Catholic Church. During that same time, an article was published by a major news outlet regarding “an ongoing debate” within another large denomination about a belief on the rise in this denomination that doesn’t “align with [their] doctrinal beliefs,” and a strong desire among the leadership to maintain “fidelity to what we believe.”

The intent of this article is not to address either of these religious groups or these specific matters that they have faced. The purpose is to ask a fundamental question: Where did all of these different religious groups come from? Or, to ask it another way, did all of these different religious groups come from the Bible?

The vast differences in beliefs and practices among Christendom as a whole is astonishing. Within this, supposed, global community of people with a, supposed, common “Christian faith,” one would expect unanimity of faith and practice, and yet what one finds is as far from unanimity as possible. Some say that Jesus is God, but others teach that Jesus is “a god.” Some say that man should only pray to God, but others teach to pray to saints also. Some say that baptism is by immersion,

but others teach that baptism is by sprinkling. Some say that worship is to be done on Saturday, but others teach that it is on Sunday. Some say that only men are authorized to preach, but others teach that women may preach. And the list of differences could go on and on and on.

What’s the point? The examples used above show that there are doctrines diametrically opposed to each other within this, supposed, common faith of Christendom, emphasizing such incompatibility that the opposing positions cannot both be right. This cannot be because the Bible contradicts the Bible or because the Bible leads to contradicting views. Every word in the Bible is from God (**2 Tim. 3:16**), and the Bible demands that “all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions” (**1 Cor. 1:10**). Thus, the only rational conclusion is that such division is the result of man, not God.

What would happen if man laid aside all doctrines and practices and simply went back to the Bible, used only the Bible, and refused to teach anything but the Bible? He would find that Christ has “one body” or “church” (**Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23**), with Christ as the one “head” (**Eph. 5:23**), and only “one faith” (**Eph. 4:5**) that is to be taught without addition or subtraction (**Rev. 22:18-19**). Following only Scripture would never lead to hundreds, yeah thousands, of different groups with different belief systems. How beautifully simple is God’s Way!

Understanding Letting Our Lights Shine

By: Selected

As I have gotten older, I have learned so much about how to study the Bible. Let me allow you to look over my shoulder as we read the following verse and begin our study by carefully looking at every phrase and sometimes every word. Take time to see how each part of a verse relates to every other part and how it ties so many Biblical truths together throughout the Bible.

Paul said, “For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (**2 Cor. 4:6**). You might profit by reading this verse more than just one time.

“God...commanded the light to shine out of darkness...” Think first about the emptiness and darkness in our universe before the Spirit of God moved over the face of the deep and God said, “Let there be light.” Imagine a world without any sun, moon, and stars, for this immense darkness is hard to contemplate. However, this darkness is nothing to compare to the darkness of sin around us. Our world almost seems like that of Noah’s when every thought and imagination of man’s heart is on evil continually.

God...has shown in our hearts to give the light...” The Bible speaks so often about that which is a light to our feet and a light to our paths. We who once were in darkness are now in the light which He has given us. He is truly the light of the world, but His plan is to use us to let the light that we have received shine in the world to glorify God.

“God...has shone in our hearts...” Here is the key as to how to let our lights shine. True

Christianity is not some ritualistic lifestyle. The first commandment deals with loving Him will all our hearts. If He is not in our hearts, our lives will never impact the world. It begins at this place and impacts how we let our light reflect His.

“To give the light of the knowledge...” Knowledge that is not shared with our lost world is meaningless. We must never let Bible study be simply a mental exercise understanding Bible truths. The knowledge we have is to be given to others.

“Knowledge of the glory of God...” Remember when Moses asked to see the face of God and Jehovah passed by so that he might see the glory of God. If you want to see what he saw read **Exodus 33:18-19**. This is the glory we have in our hearts to let shine into the hearts of others!

“Glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” We are so blessed in the theme of the sermons at PBL. We are walking with Jesus and seeing God’s glory as we look at Jesus. Your life will be changed eternally by these lessons.



Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 1: At our monthly potluck we will be honoring our two high school graduates: Corrine Flonnory and Katie Fricks. There will be a cake and basket for cards. Please bring a covered dish.

Wed. June 4: Summer Series begins. Adults will be in the main auditorium for “It’s Who You Know” and the youth will be in the fellowship hall learning Bible stories about God’s animals.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Clifton Rutherford who is having balance issues.

Maren Fielder who broke her arm recently.

Jerri Rosales will be put at the top of the kidney transplant list as soon as insurance is approved.

Allen Clifton who has been undergoing radiation treatment 5 days a week.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Jerry FitzSimmons, James Hicks, and Veronica Serenil.

Service Roster

Week of May 25, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Ken Dorries
Song Leader Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer..... Jack Jobs
Closing Prayer..... Bryce Dolan

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Ron White
Cup..... Lupe Escojido
Offering..... Bryant Siegel
Assist..... Steve Randle
Assist..... Willie Fossati
Assist..... James Cammock

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Doug Jobs

Opening Prayer..... Mark FitzSimmons
Closing Prayer..... Clifton Rutherford

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Lupe Escojido/
Bryant Siegel

Wednesday Evening

Adult ClassCody McCoy
Song Leader Jack Jobs
Devotional Bryant Siegel

Other

Prepare Communion..... Ferman Rosales

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Marilyn Whitacre.....May 25
Ferman Rosales.....May 28
Bryant Siegel.....May 29
Christie Jacobs.....May 30
Zachary Serenil.....May 31

Anniversaries

Kevin & Imelda Sheeran.....May 31

Please sign up to open/close the building, prepare communion, and host youth devos for 2025. The sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

Have you not even read this scripture: "The stone
which the builders rejected has become the chief
cornerstone."
Mark 12:10 NKJV

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of May 18, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....58
A.M. Worship.....90
P.M. Worship.....56
Wednesday Worship.....62

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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