

# A Man's Enemies

I do not want any enemies. I will not deliberately and with malice aforethought make any. It is the craving of my heart to "follow after peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no man shall see the Lord." (Heb. 12:14) Nevertheless, a man's enemies can be a standing monument to his power and integrity. It was so with Christ and it was so with Paul. Theodore Roosevelt said a man who has no enemies is a man who does nothing. Christ said: "A man's foes shall be they of his own household." (Matt. 10:35)

If I must have a few enemies, or many, here are the kinds I want: I want to make them "for the truth of the gospel." I want them to be among men who have winced from the sharp point of the sword of the Spirit. There are both in and out of the

By Cled E. Wallace church bold advocates of false doctrine. Some of them are unscrupulous. Chattering enthusiasts threaten to eclipse the present glory of the church and the power of the gospel with theories. The gospel must fit the mold of their theories or they will have none of it. If I must make a few enemies, I want them to be false teachers, church destroyers, and their sympathizers and apologists. And if they must be my enemies, I want them to be so because I have told them the truth; and on the principles involved I will ask them no quarter, nor will I offer them any. Christ did not; neither did Paul.

Truth Magazine - Jan 8, 1970



Sick			
Kevin Simpson (Bob Simpson's son)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)
Donna Pridmore (Erin Miller's Mom)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Andrew Westphal	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)
Betty Bradford	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Dale Herd (Brother of William Herd)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Eli Williams	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Madi Wise (Friend of the Robert's)
Diane Lewter (Kyle Lewter's mother)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkins' Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Amy Baswell Hall

August Birthdays
2- Emma Miller
2 - Heath Donahue
4 - Will King
7 - Joey McGee
7 - David Golden
9 - Elliot Weldon
9 - Troy Swenson
10 - David Hartsell
11 - Walker Davis
12 - Jon Coleman
13 - Brendan Kirby
14 - Elizabeth Wiggs
15 - Kalee Reid
16 - Cade Smith
18 - MaKayla Chittam
19 - Brettlyn Currier
20 - Caleb Law
24 - Sophie Hall
25 - Emily Jones
27 - Chip Freeman
28 - Larry Rouse
28 - Cole Johnson

**News and Notes**

☑ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Fallon Hartsell and Brittany Bagent!

☑ - Drew Martin and Holly Allamel were married yesterday!

☑ - Congratulations to our graduates: Rachel LaGrone, Emily Jones, Kaylee West and Andrea George!

☑ - Remember the evangelism class on Tuesday Night at 7:30 at Eagle's Landing Unit 62.

☑ - Remember Tim Morton and also Matthew Cavender, a new student to be with us in January, in your prayers as both are deployed to Afghanistan.

☑ - Mark Dean has begun his treatments for cancer. Please continue to pray!

☑ - Bob Cannon, friend of Holly Law, is in the ICU of the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, AZ. Please remember him in your prayers.

☑ - Lisa Carter, Josh Carter's mom, will have surgery on Tuesday for colon cancer.

☑ - Allie Hosey's cousin, Brad Marshall, has been diagnosed with cancer.

☑ - Scott Perkin's grandfather, John Burt, (97) is not doing well in CA, Scott is visiting with him.

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# The Auburn Beacon

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)



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## Why do "Churches of Christ" differ so Widely?

By Sewell Hall



### Thoughts to Ponder

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

(Revelation 2:7)

A sign reading "Church of Christ" in front of a building tells you very little these days. Most any doctrine or practice may be found inside. This is frustrating to many people.

Outsiders make fun of the situation, saying, "You preach unity but you are the most divided people we know." They may add, "This just proves you are not the true church." This last statement shows a total misunderstanding of what the true church is, but it is a misunderstanding shared by far too many "members of the church."

### How Can We Explain It?

First, many churches that claim to be churches of Christ are not "of Christ" at all. Any church can claim that designation, but only one that truly recognizes Christ as its head is justified in using it. There is no denominational accrediting board that can certify a church as a true church of Christ — the Lord Himself is the judge of that.

In addition, there are churches, claiming to be churches of

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Christ, that intend to follow Jesus but have widely differing ideas of what that involves. Some, like the Sadducees, "are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God" (Mt 22:29). Others know the scriptures but construe them loosely, rejecting only those things that are forbidden. Still others believe that only those things clearly authorized are to be practiced; but even among these there may be differences as to what is authorized. When such congregations are truly autonomous, it is inevitable that there will be noticeable differences.

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**Elders**  
Walker Davis (334) 703-0050  
Larry Rouse (334) 734-2133

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**  
**Sunday**  
Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
**Wednesday**  
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM  
**E-Mail:**  
larryrouse@aubeacon.com

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### Such Differences Are Not New

Differences existed among churches established by the apostles even while the New Testament was still being written. The "seven churches of Asia" (**Revelation 2 and 3**) provide good examples.

A visitor in Ephesus would have found an old established church that was doing everything right but with a lack of love (**Rev 2:4**). Moving on to Smyrna, he would find a rather poor little group that had a bad reputation among the Jews in town (**Rev 2:9**). Visiting the church in Pergamum, he might well hear a teacher defending idolatry, approving the eating of meat sacrificed to them (**Rev 2:14**). And if that was not shocking enough, going on to Thyatira he might meet a woman in the church who claimed to be a prophetess and was actually teaching and seducing the men to commit fornication (**Rev 2:20**).

If the traveler expressed concern about what he had found thus far, he might well be told that he would find things better in Sardis where there was a church widely known as a really lively church. But on arriving there, he would be disappointed to find that, as far as doing what God wanted them to do, they really were dead (**Rev 3:1-2**). Moving on to Philadelphia, he would find a church made up of good people, but relatively small and with "little strength" (**Rev 3:8**). Finally, in Laodicea, visiting the church he might be met by greeters at the door offering him a brochure and telling him how rich and self-sufficient the church was; but on closer inspection he would find that they really were spiritually "wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked" (**Rev 3:17**). At least, that's what the Lord found.

Were all of these churches right because they would claim to be "of Christ"? **No!** Two of them were threatened with total rejection by the Lord (**Rev 2:5; 3:16**) and three others

were warned of dire consequences if they did not repent. Did the remaining congregations comprise the "one true church?" **NO!** The one true church is not composed of congregations but of faithful individuals saved by the Lord (**Acts 2:47**). In spite of the false teaching and immorality in some of the churches there were still some who had "not defiled their garments." The faithful remnant in these and other churches made up — and make up — the "one true church."

### What All Churches Must Do

In John's epistles, written about the same time, we see echoes of the same problems. He speaks of those who questioned both the divinity and humanity of Jesus (doctrine of the Nicolaitans?); of those claiming they could sin without guilt and of some who hated their brethren. There had even been divisions which John explains by saying, "*They went out from us because they were not of us*" (**1 Jn 2:19**).

John stated the solution. Approximately ten times in 1 and 2 John he speaks of "the beginning." Most often that expression seems to refer to the beginning of the church on Pentecost under the direction of the apostles of Jesus (**see 1 Jn 2:24**). After warning of false teachers (**1 Jn 4:21**) he provides the standard by which they are to be tested. As an apostle he writes: "*We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error*" (**1 Jn 4:6**).

We cannot be responsible for every church in the world that calls itself a church of Christ. Our responsibility as congregations is to go back to be the church as it was in "the beginning" and to the apostles doctrine in which that church continued steadfastly (**Acts 2:42**). As individuals we must make sure that we are a part of the faithful remnant that makes up the "one true church."

-- **Biblical Insights, February 2012**



## Yens of Youth

By Dee Bowman

I have a special affection for young people. I was one once, you know. I remember some of the feelings, some of the frustrations, some of the sheer fear involved in trying to grow up. It's fun. But it's hard.

I admire so many things about youth. I like its vitality. I like its energy. I like its sanguinity. I like its sheer lack of fear, its confident expectation, its bright-shining hope. All that's great. But it all has to be carefully used or it will blow up in your face. Vitality, when it's out of control, can cause poor judgment. Energy, unrestrained, can send you off in the wrong direction. Even the sanguine disposition can be troublesome, especially if you don't see the negative stuff, too. And hope is only good if it's focused.

The Scriptures speak considerably about the business of youth—of growing up. For instance, Solomon, once a young man himself, said: "My son, do not forget my teaching" (**Prov. 3:1**). He further suggests that you "keep my commandments in your heart." You would do well as a young person to stay pretty close to the teachings of the Bible. They won't ever steer you in the wrong direction and sometimes they will be just what you need to avoid sure disaster. The Scriptures are from God. He knows. He cares. And He will help.

"Let love and faithfulness never leave you" (**Prov. 3:3**). Love is the most basic ingredient in a happy and fruitful life—even when you're young. Not play-love, but real love—the kind that keeps on doing good when it might be easier to give in; the kind that makes good choices about who, what, and why; the kind that gives more than it gets; the kind that is kind, considerate, understanding. Faithfulness is just being honest. It's taking care of relationships. It's caring, even if you don't get anything for doing it. Faithfulness is fairness, honesty, trustworthiness. It's being true to your convictions, to what has been entrusted to you.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding" (**Prov. 3:5**). I've got news for you—you can't handle it by yourself. You can't do it. God knows what is right—every time. His word is im-

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mutable, unchangeable. It won't ever send you in the wrong direction. If you have a problem, consult it—trust it. If you can't find it, ask someone who can help you. Your own understanding is less than dependable, not because you're a bad person, or not smart, or not capable—its less than dependable because it hasn't had much experience; it hasn't been put to the test much yet. And take careful note of this fact: What you feel about a matter is a poor criterion for making sound choices. It'll often take you in the wrong direction. Lean on God. He's the only One who won't ever let you down.

"Do not be wise in your own eyes" (**Prov. 3:7**). Humility is hard for young people. And not all pride is bad. You certainly need enough to take care of yourself, to keep yourself hale, hearty, and happy, to look good, and even to be good. But excessive pride can cause great harm. Every generation thinks it's the smartest one ever. Things do change from generation to generation, but it's technology that changes, not human nature. As you can already see, the same problems you have are essentially the same ones that were present in Solomon's time. Learn to listen. Listen to learn. Learn to obey. Obey to be faithful. It all lines up if you let it. Run from the bad stuff. I said run! Don't walk, run! Paul said, "flee fornication" (**1 Cor. 6:18**). You can't do very well by yourself.

"Do not despise the Lord's discipline" (**Prov. 3:11**). It just makes matters worse when you get all puffed up because of some correction, some rebuke, some disciplinary action. Discipline is an act of love. I know it doesn't look like it sometimes, but it is. Discipline is hard—on both ends. It's hard for the giver and it's hard for the taker. But necessary—absolutely necessary, if there's any love left in the relationship. Don't be afraid if you are disciplined, be afraid if you're not. Because, "He disciplines those whom He loves" (**Prov. 3:12**).

Well, I'll get off my soapbox. I just wanted to tell you that I love you and want what is best for you. And I also want you to know that I understand. Be good now, y'hear?

