

SLIDELL CHURCH OF CHRIST

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March 22, 2015

Preacher's Point

By *Dan Schillinger*



Two Huge Questions about Restoring New Testament Christianity (1 of 2)

1. Are the churches of Christ today still committed to the Restoration Plea (the unity of all believers in Christ into one church through the restoration of New Testament Christianity)?

No doubt any survey of our people would give an overwhelming majority answering "Yes!" The Restoration Plea is like a great suspension bridge hanging from two towers:

- 1) *The Inspiration and authority of the Bible.*

According to 2 Timothy 3:16, 17, the Scripture is inspired, authoritative and all-sufficient for all matters of faith and practice.

- 2) *The New Testament as a pattern for the church for all time.*

This is not say that we should restore any given 1st Century congregation, with all of their sins and shortcomings. It is to say that what God wanted those churches to be the same thing that he wants us to be today.

The modern churches of Christ have indeed successfully restored many of the *outward patterns* of the church. Among other things we practice believers' baptism by immersion for the remission

Today's Sermon

a.m. "The Marks of the Church"

Matthew 16:13-20

p.m. *Opportunity for discussion and reflection on the morning message*

of sins (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3), taking the Lord's Supper weekly on the Lord's Day (Acts 20:7), and independent, autonomous congregations overseen by a plurality of elders and served by a plurality of deacons (Acts 14:23; Philippians 1:1).

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Welcome Visitors

"REMEMBER IN PRAYER & ENCOURAGE"



With Visits, Calls, & Cards

Dave Gilstrap – former member here, gravely ill.

Terri Jones – in a lighter phase of her Epstein-Barr disease. Right now.

Morgan Dennis (granddaughter of George & Fairie Roig) – recovering from a broken elbow.

Ted Blackburn (Fairie's brother-in-law) – recovering from kidney stone surgery

Gregory Briant's dad and brother – health issues.

Alexis Leonard – suffering a hurt knee.

Colton Roig – for his faith-walk with the Lord.

Janet Despenza - continuing to recover well at home from recent cervical vertebrae surgery.

Nayla Mustafa – recently diagnosed as suffering from fibromyalgia.

Harold Evans (Sharon's husband) - scheduled for surgery to remove a yet benign mass from his pancreas on March 25.

Clara Leonard - sore after a recent fall.

Joyce Carter - being treated from a hemorrhage in the rear of her left eye, which fortunately is not affecting her vision.

Gerald Molina - experiencing neck pain.

Becky Gilbert - secretary at the Tammany Oaks congregation, undergoing chemotherapy.

Dan Schillinger - left knee pain has mostly diminished, but some weakness remains.

Pearlington church of Christ - struggling to be able to support a preacher.

Pray for all who are travelling.

Pray for the Spanish Bible study.

Pray for our elders: Courtney Cheri, Dwight Jones and Gerald Molina.

Pray for President Obama and all our elected officials.

Pray for our men and women in our armed forces, both here and abroad!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What Does the Bible Say about Sexual Cohabitation? (part 4)

Adapted from

http://www.gospelway.com/morality/sexual_cohabitation.php, accessed 24 July 2013

III. What Constitutes Fornication and Adultery?

Last week we considered scriptural passages that clearly forbid fornication and adultery, but what do these terms mean? Fornication is a general term referring to any sexual union between two people who are not married to one another. Adultery is somewhat more specific and involves sexual relations in which one or both parties are married, but not to one another. So, adultery is a form of fornication, but both involve sexual relations outside marriage. Note the evidence:

Hebrews 13:4 - Marriage includes the right to have the sexual union *only* with the companion with whom we have a Scriptural marriage commitment. To have relations with anyone else is “fornication” or “adultery.”

Note that the sexual union is not inherently bad or evil. Within marriage, it is good and holy. But the passage also defines “fornication” and “adultery” to be sexual union (“the bed”) outside marriage, and says that God will judge those who so practice.

1 Corinthians 6:16-18 - Fornication is wrong because it constitutes being “one flesh” with someone other than one’s lawful spouse. “One flesh” refers back to God’s original marriage plan, which places the sexual union in marriage (Gen. 2:24).

1 Corinthians 7:2-4 - To avoid fornication, one should satisfy the sexual desire only with “his own wife” or “husband.” For each person there is only one other person who has the power to provide the

affection that avoids fornication. That person is one's marriage companion.

Understanding this makes the sexual relationship a beautiful expression of love and devotion for the one person with whom we have chosen to live and love for a lifetime. But this also proves that satisfying the sexual desire outside marriage constitutes fornication.

Sexual relations before or outside marriage are wrong, no matter how much we care for the other person. It is wrong, first because it violates the command of God, and second because it perverts the sexual union so that it ceases to be the beautiful expression of love for one's lifetime companion, as God intended to be. It is a failure to save ourselves for our marriage companion.

If we really respect God and if we really love and care for another person, then we must save the sexual union till marriage and make it an act of supreme love and commitment to our lifetime marriage companion.

[Jude 7; Ezek. 23; Jer. 3; Prov. 5:15-20; 6:29, 32; 7:18-20; Ezek. 16:32; 1 Cor. 5:9, 10]

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THE BASIC TOOL: A GOOD TRANSLATION

Adapted from Fee & Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (3rd edition)

In a healthy, loving marriage, should a husband or wife convey an attitude to their spouse that goes something like this? - "I don't care about the *details* of what you are like, your personality, your desires for our relationship, or how you love me. All I want to know is how I am going to pay my bills and settle into an unthinking routine in our life

together."

As Christians we are spiritually married to Jesus Christ (Romans 7:4; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:31, 32; Revelation 19:7, 9). Would we therefore treat him in a way that we ought not to treat our husband or wife? If we love Christ, we should be *eager* to experience the details of our relationship with him. This is the aim of our present lesson.

The sixty-six books that make up non-Catholic Bibles were originally written in three different languages: Hebrew (most of the Old Testament), Aramaic (a sister language to Hebrew used in half of Daniel, two passages in Ezra, one verse in Jeremiah, and in isolated words here and there in both Testaments), and Greek (the New Testament). Since most American Christians do not know these languages, their basic tool for reading and studying the Bible *must* be a good English translation, or several good English translations.

As we noted in our first lesson, the very fact that one is reading God's word in translation means that one is *already* involved in interpretation--whether one likes it or not. But to read in translation is *not* a bad thing; it is simply *inevitable*. However, this does mean that the person who reads the Bible only in English is at the mercy of the translator(s), and translators have often had to make choices as to what in fact the original Hebrew or Greek was really intending to say.

The trouble with using only *one* translation, be it ever so good, is that one is thereby committed to the exegetical choices of *that* translation as the word of God. The translation you are using may be correct, of course; but it also may be wrong.

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Our Leaders!

Elders

Dwight Jones
Courtney Cheri
Gerald Molina

Preacher

Dan Schillinger

Deacons

Jesse Fowler
James Richardson

Our Services

Sunday Morning Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Ladies Bible Class Tuesday 10:30 am