

SLIDELL CHURCH OF CHRIST

**994 Old Spanish Trail
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July 5, 2015

Do Our Own People Get It?

Have you ever heard members of the Lord's Body utter phrases like "the other denominations," "the Church of Christ denomination," or even "our denomination?" Unfortunately, I have. I understand the misconceptions of our religious neighbors, but I fail to understand my brothers in Christ. Have we so lost sight of the plea for returning to predenominational Christianity that we deny its validity? Have some given up on restoring Christ's unified body on earth? I may understand at times the careless terminology of a new convert or other Christians. Preachers, missionaries, teachers, and elders, however, ought to know better, and ought to recognize their responsibility to speak correctly!

Let us reaffirm what Scripture affirms. The body of Christ on earth is essentially one (1 Cor. 12:12-20), and Christ is the head of that body (Eph. 1:22-23). All saved people are added to that body, the church (Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23). It follows that there are no saved people outside that body. It is that body, described in the pages of the New Testament, that is co-extensive with the obedient followers of Jesus Christ. It is that body that we seek to restore and encourage all to enter, not to focus on the body, but to focus on its head, owner, savior, and redeemer--Jesus Christ. We must not encourage anyone to enter any man-made body that is less than the body described in the Bible, or that would distract and discourage entry into the one body.

Today's Sermon

a.m. *To Be Announced*

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

By definition, a denomination is part of the whole. Our denominational neighbors affirm that there is one body, but that their denomination is only part of that body. "One vine, many branches," they say. Such a view does not characterize those who understand the plea for return and restoration. God's purpose is to bring all people of the earth into the one unified body described in Scripture (Eph. 1:9-10). To affirm denominational-ism, and to embrace it, is to treat division as a foregone conclusion, and to decimate our Lord's own fervent prayer (John 17).

Yes, there are imperfections in our efforts to be the one predenominational body. Yes, there are obstacles in proclaiming the message of Christ so all might know, believe, and obey the Good News. The mindset of God's people, however, must not be divisive or denominational. Teaching and practice must not be divisive beyond the distinctions demanded by God's Word. I, for one, am not ready for the body of which I am part to be thought of as one denomination alongside others.

Welcome Visitors

We are pleased to have the opportunity to welcome you to our service. We think you will find our congregation family to be one that enthusiastically embraces newcomers and warmly welcomes them into our fellowship. We hope you feel right at home as you join us in worship, praise and thanksgiving.

“REMEMBER IN PRAYER

&

ENCOURAGE”



With Visits, Calls, & Cards

The flooding victims, and relief workers, throughout Texas.

Angel Mangus (of Houston, TX, niece of Carl Mangus) - afflicted with inoperable stage 4 brain cancer.

Charles Espadron (Claudia's brother, in Atlanta) – diagnosed with cancer in one lung.

Elery Martin (friend of the Caseys, near Montgomery, AL) - five year old girl experiencing seizures, has had tests re-scheduled for tests on July 23.

Zach Steele – for success and healing through the process of receiving his long-awaited bone marrow transplant.

Cecilia McDonald (Kate's mom, in Pleasanton, Texas) – for the continued strengthening of her heart while she receives in-home care.

Karen Besser (friend of Kathy Pederson's granddaughter) - has pneumonia and a lung clot.

Dorothy Bryan - suffering hearing loss.

Walter Acker - thanksgiving that he now has sight restored to one eye, following recent cataract surgery.

Rosa Nuñez (good friend of the Vargas family) - having serious painful health problems.

Ken Cheri (Courtney's brother) - healing well following recent successful hip replacement surgery. He is getting around with a cane.

Jessica Fowler (Jesse and Shirley's granddaughter, and a resident of Lockport, LA) – has some vexing problems besetting her.

Sharon Evans - having equilibrium problems.

Shirley Ervin – thanksgiving that she is feeling better from a recent bout of pleurisy.

Van Kreh (Margaret's eldest brother, in Estill Springs, TN) – thanksgiving that he is eating and drinking better, despite suffering from Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

Terri Jones – thanksgiving that she is now feeling much better through the cycles of her Epstein-Barr disorder; pray that this will continue.

Dale Epperley – revised figures state that he has a 40% blockage in his left carotid artery, and a 70% blockage on the right side. An appointment with his doctor last Wednesday was supposed to give him direction for treatment.

Gerald Molina – feeling better recently with less fluid build-up throughout his body, though still afflicted with suffering from multi-faceted lower back pain.

Margaret Schillinger - still experiencing some pain and stiffness following a recent slight fall.

Jace Roig (newborn son of Colton Roig) - in precarious health during his extended stay in the NICU at Ochsner-Baptist Hospital in New Orleans.

Bill Tansil - most pressing health issue now is pain from arthritis in his back and shoulders.

Phyllis Tansil - has not received substantial pain relief in her lower back despite recent therapies.

Sharon Honoré (sister of Anita, and a member at the Crowder Blvd. church) - has advanced breast cancer.

Donald Boudreaux (Joyce LeBlanc's brother-in-law, of the Baratavia area) - fighting cancer in the

area of the kidney ureters.

Kimberly Carter - recovering from an injured knee.

Joyce Carter - waiting to see if she needs to receive further injection treatments in her left eye.

Maria Aurelia Alsaro (Marisol's mother, in Costa Rica) - afflicted with kidney problems.

Clara Leonard – still is suffering much pain and can barely walk, with recent MRI results that are unhelpful.

Wyatt (Kristi Ford's son) – for his being well-adjusted as he stays with his dad's side of the family this summer, and for those family members to experience reconciliation with one another.

Bobby Leonard - seeing a kidney specialist.

Carl & Steve Mangus - travelling out-of-state to visit relatives.

Kate McDonald – travelling to Pleasanton, TX to visit her mother and sisters. She will probably return tomorrow.

Shane Hicks – job-hunting following his recent discharge from the Navy.

Shane & Meghan Hicks – travelling to Snyder, TX for the holiday weekend.

Joyce Carter - travelling to Sarepta, LA for a family reunion this holiday weekend.

Pray for all who are travelling.

Pray for Latino evangelism in our area.

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!

The Epistles: Learning to Think Contextually

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

Studying the Literary Context

The next step in studying the epistles is to learn to *trace the author's argument as an answer to the problems or occasion identified in your study of the historical context.* This is what is known as the epistle's literary context.

One's study of the literary context is the really crucial part of the exegetical task, and with a few pointers this is something you can do on your own, without consulting any other resources.

As you trace the author's answer to the problems or occasion of the letter, it cannot be stressed enough how important it is to learn to THINK PARAGRAPHS - not just as natural units of thought, but as *the absolutely necessary key* to understanding the argument in the various epistles. You will recall that the one question you need to learn to ask over and over again is, What's the point? Therefore, you want to be able to do two things:

- (1) In a compact way state the *content* of each paragraph. What does Paul say in this paragraph?
- (2) In another sentence or two try to explain why you think Paul says this right at this point. How does this content contribute to the overall flow of his argument?

The other important task in studying an epistle's literary context is to check whether or not noteworthy discourse markers are present. Chief among these are *imperatives*, which are commands addressed to the readers. Usually, much material precedes the first occurrences of commands, in which the writer is preparing his recipients for what they must do by showing them what Christ has already done for them. An exception to this is 1 Corinthians 1:10, where the severity of the Corinthians' manifold misbehaviors induces Paul bluntly to get to his point right away.

Once imperatives do occur, the exhortation section of the letter is on; the specific commands or participles that are adjacent to the imperatives are ways in which the imperatives are carried out

(e.g., Colossians 2: 6; 3:1; cf. Mat-thew 28:19, 20).

The most crucially important of all imperatives are first person petition verbs. They are usually singular (“*I beseech you;*” “*I entreat you*” - e.g., Philippians 4:2, 3 KJV), though the plural does occur on occasion (“*we beseech you;*” “*we exhort you*” - 1 Thessalonians 4:12, 14). These are variously rendered in other versions.

If first person petition verbs are present (as they are in most of the epistles), then most often the commands that immediately follow these petition verbs are the main things that the author wants his readers to do; they are the high point or points of the whole letter. Petition verbs were used in First Century Greek much as we use *italics*, **boldface**, underlining, highlighting or ALL UPPER CASE CHARACTERS today. See Romans 12:1; 15:30; 16:17; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 4:16; 16:16; 2 Corinthians 2:8; 5:20; 6:1; 10:1, 2; Galatians 3:12; Ephesians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:1, 10; 5:12, 14; 2 Thessalonians 2:1; 3:12; 1 Timothy 2:1; Philemon 9, 10; Hebrews 13:19, 22; 1 Peter 4:11; 5:1; 2 John 5.

Other lesser but important literary points are indicated by the presence of other main discourse markers. The most important of these are conjunctions like “*wherefore*”, “*therefore*,” or “*finally*” (this last especially is variously rendered by our versions).

(to be continued)

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Our Leaders!

Elders

Dwight Jones
Courtney Cheri
Gerald Molina

Preacher

Dan Schillinger

Deacons

Jesse Fowler
James Richardson
Hector Urbina

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.

Stitches of Love Tuesday 9:30 a.m.