

### Those to Serve

(B) Calvin Burks  
(FV) Keith Stifflemire  
(O) Doug Pruett  
(A) Vernon Houts  
1st prayer Jack Wall  
2nd prayer Kyle Stifflemire  
Announcements: Mike Mallett  
Singing: Kevin Grant



Eloisa Garza March 2nd  
Koh Stapp March 12th  
Dennis Sheldon March 30th

### Dates to Remember

**February 18th**

*Presidents Day*

**February 24th**

*Noon Fellowship*

**March 3rd**

*Mission Sunday*

**March 10**

*Day light Saving*

**March 17th**

*St. Patrick's Day*

### Prayer List:

Mike Lovell  
Letha Sheldon  
Ruby Jones  
Loyd Crownover  
Pray for our Nation  
Our Troops  
Law Enforcement  
Rescue Personnel

### Address For Mike Lovell

MD Anderson Cancer Center  
1515 Holcombe Blvd  
Room 730  
Houston, TX 77063

### Galatians 1:6-9 (KJV)

<sup>6</sup> I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

<sup>7</sup> Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

<sup>8</sup> But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

<sup>9</sup> As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

# Edifier

## Evant church of Christ

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

February 17, 2019



*Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."*

**Sunday Worship:**

**Will Vann, Preacher**

**9:30 am Bible Study**

**863-899-0987**

**10:20 am Worship**

**Email: wvann@yahoo.com**

**12:30 pm Afternoon**

**www.evantchurchofchrist.org**

**Wednesday Night**

**6:00 pm**

## Is The Church More Than Its Members?

One of the main arguments used against the church supporting institutions such as orphans homes, is that it is supposed to be the individual Christian and not the church that provides care for them. Two passages that are commonly used to prove this point are [James 1:27](#) and [Galatians 6:10](#). We will take a closer look at James 1:27 in a moment, but for now let us look at the results of the argument. I have taken the following from a sermon outline belonging to a non-institutional preacher.

“Yet some will say, ‘If it is my duty, then it must also be the church’s duty, since the church is composed of individual Christians.’ Is the church just a group of individual Christians? [1 Cor 12:14](#) - The church is not one member, but many. [Matt 18:15-17](#) - In dealing with a problem member, the church is not an individual or a group of Christians. The church has distinct actions. It assembles - [Heb. 10:25](#), [1 Cor. 14:23](#). It has membership - [Acts 9:26](#), [1 Cor 5:1-6](#). It has elders to oversee its work - [Acts 14:23](#), [1 Pet 5:1-2](#). It has a treasury - [1 Cor 16:2](#). It is distinct from other churches - [Rom 16:16](#), [Phil 4:15](#). As you see, the church is not just a group of Christian – it is something more” (La Vista, Orphans).

Misunderstanding of what the church is. It seems to me that this brother believes the church is a spiritual entity separate and apart from its individual members. If this is true, what can the church actually do separate and apart from its members? Can it deal with a problem member without actions of individual Christians? Can it assemble without individual Christians? Can it have membership without individual Christians? Can it have elders to oversee its work without individual Christians? Can it have a treasury without the giving of individual Christians? Can it be distinct from other churches without individual Christians? To say that what this brother is stating has a few flaws would be an understatement. He goes on to claim that the church is not one member, but many ([1 Cor. 12:14](#)), but, “is not an individual or a group of Christians.” Also, it assembles and has a membership ([Heb. 10:25](#); [Acts 9:26](#)), but “is not an individual or a group of Christians.” Note that he gives book chapter and verse for what the church is and does, but he doesn’t give a verse to back his assertion that the church, “is not an individual or a group of Christians,” because that is all it is, an assertion!

So, what exactly is the church? What does that bible say about it? “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all” ([Eph. 1:22,23](#)). “For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another” ([Rom. 12:4,5 NKJV](#)). From these two passages we see that the church is the body of Christ and is made up of individual members.

Two points to consider. First when the church was established. If we know when the church was established, we can then know what it is made of. In [Matthew 16:18](#) Christ said, “on this rock I will build My church.” However, it wasn’t until [Acts 2](#) that the church was actually built. [Verses 38 and 39 of Acts 2](#) tell us what the people did to be saved, that is, be baptized into Christ. [Verse 47](#) tells us what happened to those that were saved. They were added to the church by the Lord. We can know from this, that at its inception, the Lord built the church with the saved. In other words

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the church is made up of Christians. Second, we have the constituent elements argument. This argument has been used extensively in debating the issues of church cooperation and orphans homes. In simple terms it means the whole is the sum of its parts. While discussing these topics the non-institutional preacher will deny the validity of this argument, but in all other areas he will use it. When looking at kitchens in the church building I used a quote from one of these preachers where he uses this very argument to show that the church building is not sacred. “But at the same time, if we’re talking about the brick and mortar, the roof, the carpet, and other materials that go into the building - No, they are not sacred.” In other words, if everything that makes up a building is not sacred, then the building is not sacred. This shows the acceptance of the principle. Now, we understand that the church is not the individual anymore than a flock is not a single bird. That being said, just as that flock is made up of individual birds, so also is the church made up of individual Christians. If you have no birds, you have no flock, just as if you have no individual Christians, you have no church.

A problem with the math. Another gentleman of the same persuasion said, when speaking of [James 1:27](#), “In [verse 26](#), James uses several personal pronouns, he, his and his in teaching about one’s religion. Then in [verse 27](#), instruction is given to keep “oneself” unspotted from the world. It seems evident that the individual is addressed in these verses and not the church.” Let us apply this same logic to [1 Corinthians 16:2](#), the verse that we use to authorize the church having a treasury. “On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come” ([1 Cor 16:2](#)). Do you see the problem? All of the commands are to individuals. The phrase “each one of you,” and the pronoun “he,” is used to show individual responsibility. Also, applying the same logic, if Paul had wanted the church to pool their money he would have used the singular collection instead of the plural collections. Again, using this same logic, it would seem that we are authorized to “store up,” as individuals, but not as the church. Any rational person would probably point out that the command Paul issued is to the church and not merely to the individual for he ordered them to do the same as the, “churches of Galatia ([1 Cor. 16:1](#)).” That is exactly right! This right here shows that [Galatians 6:10](#), [James 1:27](#) and other verse like them are not only applicable to the individual but to the church as well. Only the singular is used when speaking of the collection in [1 Corinthians 16:2](#), but still applies to the plural church ([1 Cor. 16:1](#)).

Ultimately, the contention about the individual verses the church shows us what the problem really is. You see, when I speak of what the church can do, I am talking about Christians. When the non-institutional preacher speaks of what the church can do, he is talking about the church’s treasury, i.e. “God’s money.” According to this doctrine, the Christian can help non-Christians, but the church’s treasury/God’s money can’t. The Christian can support orphans, but the church’s treasury/God’s money can’t. The Christian can cooperate with others in evangelism, but the church’s treasury/God’s money can’t. Brethren, I can easily make the Bible say whatever I want by just redefining a few words, but I need to remember one very important thing, [Galatians 1:6-9!](#) Read It!