

Those to Serve

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



Dennis Sheldon March 30th
Doug Pruett April 1st
Steve Sugg April 6th

Dates to Remember

March 31th
Noon Fellowship
April 1st
April Fool's
April 7th
Mission Sunday
April 21st
Easter
April 28th
Noon Fellowship

Prayer List:

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



April 1st

Calvin & Tammy Burks

April 18th

Jack & Cindi Wall

April 28th

Noon
Fellowship
Graduation
Party Honoring
Kyle
Stifflemire

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

March 31, 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:

9:30 am Bible Study

10:20 am Worship

12:30 pm Afternoon

Wednesday Night

6:00 pm

Will Vann, Preacher

863-899-0987

Email: wvann@yahoo.com

www.evantchurchofchrist.org

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Romans 12:1-2

This passage commands Christians to "not be conformed to this world" (**Romans 12:2a**). In other words, followers of Christ must not have the desire to be like others. Jesus' disciples must not prioritize doing what the rest of the world does, saying what the rest of the world says, and wearing what the rest of the world wears...not if it is condemned as sinful in the Word of God. Christians must not be afraid to be different. They must not feel the need to be like everyone else.

There is a reason for this. Having a conformity mindset easily leads to doing things which one knows are wrong in the sight of God. If everyone uses bad language, conformists will use bad language also. They will dress immodestly because everyone else does so. They will drink alcohol since everyone else is drinking at the get-together. Conformists do this because they are afraid of the scorn and ridicule which inevitably comes from their peers if they do not conform and instead behave differently than them. Fear makes it much easier to conform, all the while forgetting or ignoring the fact that conforming to the sinful ways of the world makes one an enemy of God (**1 John 2:15-17**).

Instead of conforming, Christians are commanded to "be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2b). Followers of Jesus will allow themselves – and allow God – to transform them into something else. This process starts when one initially receives salvation by God's grace through faithful, penitent baptism; it is then that one is "regenerated," "renewed" and "born again" (**Titus 3:4-5; cf. John 3:3-5; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38**). It continues as the Christian's mind is continually renewed through repeated meditation of and obedience to the Word of God (**Psalms 1:1-3; 2 Corinthians 4:16**). As a result, Christians who are obedient and faithful will not have the feelings of insecurity held by conformists because they realize that they are special due to being children of God (**1 John 3:1**). They will not desire to "follow the crowd" because they remember the words of Jesus: "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few" (**Matthew 7:13-14**). The majority of this world are not heaven-bound. Why follow them?

In a sense, Christians are followers in that they follow Christ...but they are leaders also. They are those who "prove" to others that God's will is "good and acceptable and perfect" (**Romans 12:2c**) when they choose to dedicate their entire lives to the service of their Creator and Master. That's what is meant by the command to "present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service" (**Romans 12:1**). The lives of disciples of Christ must completely revolve around God instead of the other way around. If such is the case, they will meditate deeply upon God's Word day and night (**Psalms 1:2**). This will result in them growing in knowledge so that they will know the difference between right and wrong (**Hebrews 5:12-14**).

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Romans 12:1-2

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In turn, this will produce the "intestinal fortitude" needed to reject the wrong and influence others to do the same. Joshua exemplified this when he challenged Israel to "choose this day whom you will serve," all while making it clear that "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (**Joshua 24:15**). His stand for truth motivated Israel to serve the Lord while he was alive (Judges 2:7). Christians must do the same today.

Which do you allow to happen to you each day? Are you a conformist or are you allowing God to transform you into the mirror image of His Son by allowing your mind to be renewed?

Expendable

by Robert F. Turner

During World War II, when British troops were facing Dunkirk; when our boys were pushed from Bataan; someone applied the term "expendable" to forces left to cover the withdrawal. They were considered certainly lost -- given to the enemy -- their death or capture, the price paid for what was hoped to be some greater gain. There were examples of men accepting, even choosing this role, because they too believed in the greater end. One must believe in and greatly love his country to freely make such a sacrifice.

How many soldiers of the Cross are willing to consider themselves (their pride, their comforts, not to mention their life) expendable in order that the greater purposes of His kingdom might be achieved?

Do we dare consider that "giving ourselves" to Christ means just this? The Apostle Paul could ask others to pray that Christ be magnified, whether by his life or his death (**Phil. 1:19ff**). He considered himself expendable. He had long ago "died with Christ" (**Romans 6:6-11**), so that his own life, his earthly desires and appetites, were "hid with Christ in God" (**Colossians 3:2-3**). The greater end, service to his Master and the eternal reward, so dominated his thinking that no demands were too great. He was not his own (**1 Corinthians 6:19; 7:22-23**), but was, and urged others to be "a living sacrifice" (**Romans 12:1ff**).

Had you rather suffer wrong than see Christ's cause suffer? Will you swallow your pride rather than see the greater work damaged? That's what it takes when one is expendable. But this is no easy role to accept. We find ourselves reasoning that others get by without making the sacrifice -- why me? "If any provide not for his own --" is always good for rejecting the financial pinch; and we "live to fight tomorrow" in the more important battles -- which somehow never come.

To us "expendable" says "worthless" but to Christ it was the way to find one's life, (**Matthew 10:39**). He "died for the people, that the whole nation perish not" (**John 11:50-51; 12:32**).

Full service to Christ begins the day we see ourselves as "expendable."