

Those to Serve

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

September 4th

Mission Sunday

September 5th

Labor Day

September 11th

Grandparent Day

Men's Business Meeting

September 25th

Noon Fellowship

October 2nd

Mission Sunday

Prayer List:

Diane Savage (Virginia's niece)
Cheryl Burks
Mark Kirby
Virginia Lovell
Dora Martinez
Letha Sheldon
Pray for our Nation
Our Troops
Law Enforcement
Rescue Personnel

Three Difficult Words

Three of the most difficult words in the English language to say are, **"I am sorry."** Why is this so? There are only three words in the sentence. Two of them have only one syllable. The other has only two syllables. You could write them using only eight letters. Then why are they so difficult to express? Is it not because they convey an admission of wrong?

Most of us don't like to admit we are wrong. This is a flaw in our character that we need to correct. All of us make mistakes and commit sin. John wrote, "if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). Verse nine states we must confess our sins to God to receive forgiveness. When we sin against others, we are admonished to confess to them and make it right (James 5:16: Mt. 5:23,24). When we are wrong, we should admit it and say we are sorry. It will help our relationship both with God and man.

By George Pledger

Happy Birthday

Vernon Houts Sept. 24th

Judy Grant Sept. 28th

Autumn Vann Sept. 29th

Judd Wall Oct. 10th

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

September 4, 2022



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

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www.evantchurchofchrist.org

Our Duties to the Local Congregation

It is certainly true that we are converted to Christ, not to the church. However, it is also true that the church is a vital part of God's plan for His people (**Ephesians 3:9,10**), and we know that membership in a local congregation is crucial for every disciple (**Acts 9:26**). Therefore, all Christians should be committed to the local congregation where they are members.

With these facts in mind, what are our duties to the local church?

Consider these:

1. The congregation's reputation in the local community is very important. We cannot expect people to visit, investigate, study, and ultimately be converted if they know that individual members of the church are not living up to the standard they proclaim. If others see hypocrisy among the members of the local church, it will not prosper. Each and every individual Christian must be 'salt' and 'light' among the lost (**Matthew 5:13-16**).
2. No organized group can progress without good leadership. This is definitely true of a local church. But, good leaders need supportive and cooperative followers. Thus, as the elders lead and guide according to the God's truth, each member has a duty to submit and obey (**Hebrews 13:17**).
3. There are certain financial obligations that must be met with regularity. Consequently, the members need to sense their obligation to give generously, regularly, and consistently (**1 Cor. 16:1,2**). Though circumstances may force one's absence occasionally, extra effort should be made to make sure one's financial support to the congregation is always honored.
4. Ultimately, the very existence of any congregation depends upon the attendance of its members. The very life of the church is dictated by attendance. For this reason, every saint should feel a duty to be present at every possible service, Bible study, special meeting, etc. (**Hebrews 10:25**). Each one should realize that an unexplained, unjustifiable absence strikes a blow to the energy, enthusiasm, and efficiency of the congregation.
5. The growth of the congregation depends upon new people being converted. If this is to happen, the members must grasp the importance of sharing their faith with others who are in their sphere of influence. Neighbors, co-workers, family members – to name a few – should be among those that we seek to win for Christ (**Matthew 28:19,20**).
6. It is critically important that the members feel a sense of love and loyalty to every other member and to the group as a whole. Just as one would not 'turn their back' on their physical family, neither should they callously turn away from their spiritual family. This means that there will be a concerted effort to maintain peace with others (**Ephesians 4:1-3**). Genuine concern should be shown for those with special needs, both physical and spiritual. The brotherly love between individual saints should be open and obvious – it is, after all, a sign of our discipleship (**John 13:35**). When a Christian leaves a local church without good reason, it is an indication that he did not have a sense of loyalty that is so necessary if the church is to succeed.

- by Greg Gwin

The Trap of Tradition

Maybe you've heard the story about the young wife preparing her first roast dinner. Watching her, the husband asks why she cuts the ends off the roast. "Because that's what mom always did," was her answer. Later she asks her mother why she cut the ends off the roast. Her mother answered, "Because that's what my mother always did." Later still grandma was asked, "Why do you always cut the ends off the roast?" Grandma replies matter-of-factly, "Because the roast was always too big for my pan."

Sometimes we do what we do because of tradition. Most of the time traditions are quaint, harmless and sentimental. We'll hold on to them because they connect us to our past and we cherish that, as well we should. But sometimes traditions can become a serious problem in our relationship with God.

How can we tell when a tradition or at least the way we view a tradition is wrong?

1. When the tradition itself contradicts the Word of God. This is what the Pharisees had done (Matthew 15:1-9). Often people today come to realize that a belief or practice that they've held all their lives is either not supported by or outright prohibited by the Bible. They are then faced with the unpleasant decision to either obey God, forsake the tradition and risk hurting those they love or cling to the tradition and continue to disobey God.

2. When we elevate the tradition to a level with the Word of God. Some traditions are not wrong at all—they're just traditions. But when our attitude towards them carries the ring of a "thus saith the Lord" when no "thus saith the Lord" exists, we've got a problem. We are guilty here when we insist that others accept our opinions, interpretations, conclusions and ways of doing things to be deemed "faithful".

God has blessed us with the Bible to "light our path" (Psa.119:105) and "equip us for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16,17). Sometimes this guidance takes the form of specific commandments and prohibitions. Sometimes it takes the form of principles that have a broad application. When we are faced with a fork in the road to either continue in error or follow the Lord, may we have the attitude of the apostles when they said, "We must obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29)

By Brad Fry