

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 20, 2014



Time for Churches of Christ to Fellowship Other Groups? [Part 1]

This is a hard post to write. I realize what I'm about to say may be misunderstood or misconstrued. But as difficult as it is to find the right words, this is something that must be said. In fact, I believe there is no greater issue facing the church today.

There are many who charge those in churches of Christ of being arrogant because - for the most part - we will not fellowship those outside "our group." They suggest it is time for churches of Christ to admit we are just another denomination, embrace other groups, and say, "We're all headed to the same place; we're just taking different roads to get there."

This ecumenical push concerns me for many reasons. While I certainly cannot speak for anyone but myself, I have three questions for those who suggest we should fellowship every person who claims to be a Christian:

1. Shall We Abandon Logic?

One of the fundamental laws of logic is "the law of noncontradiction." This "law" helps us understand that something cannot be true and not true at the same time. In ...

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).

**VISITORS,
WELCOME!**

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

1:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes for all ages & Pew Packers each Sunday at 12:30

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ELDERS

Billy Bland

Seth Daniel

Jim Jackson

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

Tim Wilkes, II

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

... other words, when a religious doctrine says something is true and another religious doctrine says that same thing is *not* true, they cannot both be right. Someone must be wrong. In the religious world today, we have *thousands* of contradictory doctrines. ... In order for us to believe every religious group is right, we would have to accept that religious doctrines could be true and not true at the same time. That's simply illogical. So as politically incorrect as it may be, someone must be wrong.

Take for instance the fundamental issue of baptism. I teach that baptism is "for the forgiveness of sins" (Acts 2:38), that baptism - in a sense - "saves you" (1 Peter 3:21), and that baptism is the moment at which sins are washed away (Acts 22:16). But the vast majority of the religious world disagrees. They say baptism is not for the forgiveness of sins and that it has nothing to do with salvation. The law of noncontradiction helps us to understand that we can't both be right; one of us has to be wrong.

Therefore, it would be illogical for me to teach that a person becomes a Christian when he is baptized for the forgiveness of sins and yet embrace, as my brother, someone who rejects being baptized for the forgiveness of sins. In embracing him in fellowship, I would essentially be holding to two contradictory doctrines at the same time.

2. Shall We Abandon Convictions?

Those who tell me churches of Christ must fellowship other groups say it is a matter of humility. They say we are being arrogant for not embracing everyone. "How dare you," they say, "assume you are right and other people are wrong." But doesn't everyone assume their own position is right and that contradictory positions are wrong? Isn't that what it means to be a person of conviction; to be confident that what you believe is true?

A person can be both confident and humble at the same time. You see, it is my conviction that a person who is not baptized for the forgiveness of his sins is not yet a Christian. I suppose I could be wrong about that. I have been proven wrong before and I'll most likely be proven wrong about something again. But until someone can prove to me why my convictions are false, I have no choice but to stand boldly and confidentially upon them.

It seems it is becoming more and more popular to lack conviction and encourage others - under the guise of humility - to abandon their convictions as well. Is that really what God wants us to do? Does He really want us to be a people with no conviction? Does He want us to believe that Truth is unknowable; or worse, that there is no such thing as absolute Truth? Of course not.

God wants us to be a people who are anchored in Truth. He wants us to be a people who are bold and confident; without being arrogant or haughty. He does not want us to be "tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine" (Ephesians 4:14). I'm humble enough to admit my position might be wrong, but not so lacking in conviction as to assume it couldn't possibly be right.

[Editor's note: Part 2 next week!]

I love you and God loves you,

Wes McAdams

www.radicallyChristian.com

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

1. See last page for upcoming VBS's.
2. July 25 – 26: Southaven Youth Rally
See postcard on bulletin board for details.
3. August 1: Coldwater Lock-In
4. August 23: Memphis Redbirds Game
Not just for youth; for all ages!
5. August 29: Fifth Friday Youth Devo
@Andy & Molly's House
6. September 27: Memphis Zoo Trip
Also for all ages!

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Seth Daniel, taking medication equivalent to chemo, which causes great fatigue and sickness, medication ending October, positive prognosis; **Several** traveling for missions and vacations; **Wiley & Betty Tuggle**; **Helen Bowman**.

NetCasters Fishers of Men Far East Missions

Family & Friends

Janet Colvett, Jeffrey's mother, leukemia has returned, receiving treatments; **Amanda Cummings**, young mother with cancer; **Danielle Key**, young mother with cancer; **Trent Childers**, recovering from colonectomy; **Charles Savage**, treatment July 21-22; **Andy's grandmother**, hospice; **Carla Carlson**, cancer, continuously receiving chemo; **Janie Brister**; **Ava Roten**, **Brett Rutherford**, **Jason Spencer**; **Frankie Burfield**, cancer; **Jack Higginbotham**; **Tasha Higginbotham**, on donor list for kidney transplant; **Lauren Harrell**, breast cancer; **James Cooper**, Jan's brother, cancer; **Marie Sims**; **Renee Loya**, Ruth's niece, Parkinson's, MS, & dystonia; **Eli Williams**, cancer returned, receiving treatments; **Ray Maples**; **John & Anita Simpson**; **Martha Hatfield**, Lynn's grandmother, stage 4 cancer; **Virginia Johnson**, stage 4 lung cancer; **Joy Angel**, various health problems; **Linda Perkins**, leukemia; **Mac Owen**; **Bob Spurlin**; **Ally Jo Kelly**, toddler with leukemia; **Brad & Sheri Daniel**; **Joe & Josephine Johnston**, and their sons, Charles and Chris.

Birthdays

7/3	Ruth Brister	7/13	Seth Daniel
7/4	Inez Neyman	7/14	Jason Bayless
7/4	Jimmy Sowell	7/19	Toranda House
7/5	Layla Johnson	7/24	Jayce Brown
7/6	Cali Bayless	7/31	Porter Ferrell
7/7	Aemon Ratliff		

Anniversaries

7/3 Sammy & Grace Williams

Get Involved!

Independence VBS -- July 21 - 23
7 - 8:30 each night

Southaven Youth Rally -- July 25 - 26

Angel Wedding Reception -- July 26
Come & Go 2 - 4, See invitation on bulletin board

POWER Lectureship at Southaven
July 27 - 31, See schedule on bulletin board

Coldwater Singing Night -- July 30 -- 7 PM

Coldwater Youth Lock-in -- Aug 1

Sunday Afternoon for the Savior -- Aug 3
Between services

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, July 20

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Billy Bland
Announcements	Jerry Davis
Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Jim Jackson
	Jeremy Moore
Assist	Dylan Moore
	Payton Jackson

Opening Prayer	Johnny Bayless
Sermon	Ben Grady
Closing Prayer	Joe Owen

Afternoon

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Opening Prayer	Jeffrey Ferrell
Sermon	Andy Ratliff
Lord's Supper	Jeremy Moore
	Dylan Moore
Closing Prayer	Seth Daniel

Wednesday, July 23

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Prayer	Jim Jackson
Invitation	Dalton Owen
Prayer	Jared Brown