



## HOW CHRISTIANS CAN BE WRONG WHEN STANDING UP FOR WHAT'S RIGHT

A few hundred years ago, during the Inquisition, the Catholics used to burn people at the stake for disagreeing with official church doctrine. So the fact that those claiming to be Christians are no longer killing one another over doctrinal disagreements shows great progress. However, there are still times when those of us who name the name of Christ are wrong in the way we stand up for what we believe is right. Here are some things to consider.

### 1. When We're Always in "Attack Mode"

For some of us "attack mode" seems to be our default setting. We treat every matter of disagreement like a matter of life and death. When our brethren offer a slightly different view on a matter, no matter what it is, we talk to them like they've denied the deity of Christ.

Of course living in attack mode is a failure to recognize that Jesus said **some matters are "weightier" than others** (Matthew 23:23). And the apostle Paul dealt extensively with the fact that some matters are matters of conscience and opinion (1 Corinthians 8; Romans 14).

Yes, there are times we must metaphorically gird up our loins and arm ourselves for battle, but that doesn't mean we "go to war" over every little matter. In fact, we should be people who "live in harmony with one another" (Romans 12:16) and "so far as it depends on" us, we "live peaceably with all" (Romans 12:18).

Yes, there is "a time for war." But there is also "a time for peace" (Ecclesiastes 3:8). It takes wisdom to know the difference.

*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 & fellowship  
for lunch every Sunday!

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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

Joe Owen Tim Wilkes, II

### PREACHER

Clifton Angel

## 2. When We Treat Everyone Like “False Prophets”

When someone has the audacity to chide us for being too harsh in our treatment of those with whom we disagree, we often cite Jesus’ treatment of the religious leaders of His day. After all, Jesus used some pretty harsh language when he called the Pharisees a “brood of vipers” (Matthew 12:34). So aren’t we being like Jesus when we use harsh language against “false teachers”?

First of all, I think it needs to be said that **Jesus could read people’s thoughts** (Matthew 9:4). You and I don’t have that luxury. Jesus knew that the Pharisees, and other religious leaders of His day, were **power-hungry murderers**. They were guilty of destroying anyone who got in their way. Their entire religious life was a charade. Jesus wasn’t exaggerating at all when he said they were deadly “vipers.”

99.9% of the time when we have a disagreement with someone, it is NOT “Christ-like” to treat them the same way Jesus treated the Pharisees. Even if we are right and they are wrong, that doesn’t make them on the same level as the Pharisees. It could be that they are simply mistaken. **There is a vast difference between someone who is knowingly and maliciously leading people astray and those who are simply mistaken.**

And then of course, there is always the **possibility that we are the ones who are wrong**. We must be careful to always take our own fallibility into account. We are neither God, nor one of His prophets. We must be extremely humble, even when contending for the faith.

## 3. When We Are Rude

Whether online or in person, **there is no excuse for Christians behaving rudely**. I usually cringe when I read comments online. And sadly, I often agree with a person’s position, while being repulsed by their vitriol. In other words, I believe they are right in what they are saying, but wrong in the way they are saying it.

The true evidence that we are children of God is found in our fruit. If our fruit is full of **strife, jealousy, and fits of anger**, it is evident that we walk according to the flesh and not the Spirit. But if on the other hand, our fruit is full of “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control,” then it is evident we are walking by the Spirit (see Galatians 5:16-26).

So Christians who stand up for what is right by speaking bitterly, angrily, and unkindly are showing that even though they know what is right in one sense, they are still not spiritually-minded people. They are not mature in Christ.

## Should We Stand Up for What is Right?

Of course we should stand up for what is right. We should stand up with boldness and

conviction. We should be people who speak the truth.

But fighting this battle isn't just about boldness and conviction, it's also about wisdom, discernment, and a heart set on spiritual things.

- We must learn when to whisper, and when to shout.
- We must learn when to say something publicly, and when to say something privately.
- We must learn when to speak up, and when to keep quiet.
- We must learn to choose our words carefully.
- We must learn to be kind.
- We must learn to be loving.
- We must learn to be self-controlled.

If we do not learn these things, then our standing up will be in vain. We must "be wise as serpents and innocent as doves" (Matthew 10:16). We must speak the truth, but only in love (Ephesians 4:15).

So how can we learn to be this way? How can we learn to stand up for what is right in a way that is right? Here is the answer from Romans 12:2:

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

In fact, go **read the entire chapter of Romans 12 and you will be well on your way** to knowing how to stand up for what is right in a way that is right.

I love you and God loves you,

**Wes McAdams**

<http://www.radicallychristian.com/>

## *Sermon Review*

### ***That They All May Be One***

(John 17:20 – 23)

- I. Jesus' Request for Unity.**
- II. Jesus' Reference for Unity.**
- III. Jesus' Reason for Unity.**

### **Q & A — Fasting?**

- I. Is It Commanded?**
- II. Is It Wrong To Do It?**
- III. How Do You Do It?**

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Betty Tuggle**, eye complications; **Inez Neyman**; Multiple mission trips involving some of our members; **Seth & Jan Daniel**; **Wiley Tuggle**.

**NetCasters**  
**Fishers of Men**  
**Far East Missions**

### Family & Friends

**Rhonda Cook**, Dana's cousin's wife, complications from a previous operation; **Webster family**; **Mac Owen**, Joe's father, hospital; **Wanda Coats**, Rachel's aunt, breast cancer; **Bill Fleming**, Billie Martin's father; **Ashley Hendrix-Sanders family**; **Henretta Newsom**, Toranda's mother; **Pat Neal**, Clifton's neighbor, recovering from spinal neck surgery; **Steve Angel**; **Tammy Powell**, Janie Brister's daughter; **Sharon Brewer**, Chris' sister; **Lawton O'Brien**; **Doris Easley**; **Pat Hardison**; **Tasha Higginbotham**; **Walter Huffman**; **Beverly Whitecotton**; **Jack Higginbotham**; **John & Anita Simpson and family**; **Peggy Hunt**; **Jason Spencer**; **Joy Angel**; **John Smith**; **Elizabeth Baker**; **Paul Perkins**; **Janie Brister**; **Carole Livsey**; **Amanda Cummings**; **Danielle Key**; **Ava Roten**, **Brett Rutherford**; **Frankie Burfield**; **James Cooper**; **Renee Loya**; **Eli Williams**; **Ray Maples**; **Martha Hatfield**; **Virginia Johnson**; **Bob Spurlin**.

### Birthdays

11/5 Rachel Wilkes  
11/13 Danni Strickland  
11/14 Shirley Yarbro  
11/14 Kara Johnson  
11/16 Billie Martin  
11/18 Timothy Wilkes, Sr.  
11/25 Wiley Tuggle  
11/26 Virginia Sowell

### Anniversaries

11/8 Jeremy & Mindy Moore

## Get Involved!

**5th Sunday Singing & Devo — TODAY — 1 PM**

**Sunday Afternoon for the Savior — Dec 6**  
Between services

**Youth Devo @ the Ferrell's — Dec 11**  
More details to come

**Providence Place Devo — Dec 13 — 2 PM**

**Convalescence Center Devo — Dec 23 — 10 AM**

**Coldwater Singing Night — Dec 23 — 7 PM**

## Privileged to Serve

Sunday, November 29

### Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jerry Davis
Announcements	Jared Brown
Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Jim Jackson
	Jason Bayless
Assist	Jerry Davis
	Davis Johnson
Opening Prayer	Marc Strickland
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Ron Johnson

### Afternoon

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Opening Prayer	Chris Martin
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Jerry Davis
	Davis Johnson
Closing Prayer	Seth Daniel

Wednesday, December 2

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Prayer	Jeffrey Ferrell
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Jared Brown