

August 25, 2019

Free Will and Change

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
Olney, IL 62450
217-218-0803
www.olneychurchofchrist.org

Services

Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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Elders: Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

Deacons: John Frost, Dave Goff,
Roger Sholders

Visitors are welcome

We offer Bible classes for all ages

We also offer in-home Bible studies

We have Bible lessons on the radio
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

1 Corinthians 10:13: *No temptation has taken you except what is common to man. God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above what you are able, but will with the temptation also make the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

God has created us with *free will*. We have the capacity to *choose* whether to obey Him or not. God *commands* us to do right, but He does not *force* us to do right.

On the other hand, *Satan* tempts us to do *wrong*, but he cannot *force* us to do wrong (**James 4:7**). With every temptation, God provides a “**way of escape**.” It is our responsibility to choose that path.

We might be tempted to deny this truth by thinking that we cannot change in ways God requires. God may tell us to put off a sinful behavior that we claim is “just who we are, and there’s no changing.”

For instance, someone might say, “I cannot stop my homosexual behavior. That is impossible.” Yet, God mentioned this sinful behavior in **1 Corinthians 6:9**, and then said of the Corinthian brethren, “***such were some of you***” (verse 11). This example shows that homosexual behavior can be turned away from.

The same is true with all changes God requires. God requires us to do things that are *hard work*, but that does not make them impossible. May we choose to change as He requires.

Christ, Our Head

By Michael Hickox

In **Ephesians 1:22-23**, the Holy Spirit said that God **“hath put all things under [Christ’s] feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all.”**

As *the* head of the church, Christ must be looked to as the source of authority for all church practices.

God demonstrated the need to heed Jesus’ authority when Jesus was transfigured. At that time, the Father said, **“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him” (Matt. 17:5).**

Following Jesus’ death and resurrection, Jesus said, **“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matt. 28:18).**

Authority in religious matters belongs to Christ. If He does not authorize a church practice, it is not authorized.

Upon learning this, we might wonder why it is said that the early church continued **“steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine” (Acts 2:42)**. Notice, though, that what the apostles taught is what *Christ* taught them.

Before ascending into heaven, Christ commanded His apostles to teach **“all things whatsoever I have commanded you.” (Matt. 28:19-20)**. The apostles carried out this command as they took the Gospel to the world. They were directly inspired by the Holy Spirit as they taught, and their doctrine was confirmed by God through miracles (**Mark 16:20**). They

taught *Christ’s* doctrine (**Gal. 1:11-12**).

Only local churches that follow Christ’s doctrine (i.e. the apostles’ doctrine) as revealed in the New Testament are acting by His authority. If all those claiming to follow Christ would take this to heart, much division could be eliminated.

Instead of building “church gymnasiums” for fun and entertainment, churches would be focused on being the **“pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Tim. 3:15)**.

Instead of appointing councils of men to oversee multiple churches and establish doctrine, churches would follow the New Testament pattern of appointing elders in *each* local church who oversee that church’s work and follow *Christ’s* doctrine (**Acts 14:23; 1 Pet. 5:2**).

Instead of worshipping God with mechanical instruments to sound better to men, churches would simply sing and make melody in the heart in order to please God (**Eph. 5:19**).

These problems are among the many that would be solved if we would respect Christ’s authority. Just as we must obey Christ’s teachings as individuals, so must churches do when acting as a “unit.”

May we heed the inspired words of **2 John 9: Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.**

God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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Words to Consider

“When I came to you, brothers, I didn’t come with excellence of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. My speech and my preaching were not in persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith wouldn’t stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.” – 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Betty P
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Dody G
Joe B
Allen S (Cancer)
Raymond & Maxine
June H (Broken Pelvis)
Randy S (Strokes)
Mike & Family
Ken & Chris F
Larry S
Brandon O's Grandmother (Lung Cancer)

Daily Bible Reading

August 25 – Psalms 105-106; 1 Cor. 3
August 26 – Psalms 107-109; 1 Cor. 4
August 27 – Psalms 110-112; 1 Cor. 5
August 28 – Psalms 113-115; 1 Cor. 6
August 29 – Psalms 116-118; 1 Cor. 7:1-19
August 30 – Psalm 119:1-88; 1 Cor. 7:20-40
August 31 – Psalm 119:89-176; 1 Cor. 8

“For the word of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God.” – 1 Corinthians 1:18

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, August 25, 2019

Bible Study: Dan D

Worship: Travis

Evening: Jim

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

Dave

Cleaning Building

Cynde

Prepare Communion

Linda

Upcoming Reminders

Sep. 28: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

Study: Naomi's Advice (Ruth 3:1-7)

Assignments

Sunday, September 1, 2019

Reading: Travis

Announcements: Darrell

Table: Dan H

Serve: Carlyle

Mason

Steve

Dan D

Wednesday, September 4, 2019

Invitation: Michael

Anniversaries

September 3 – Dan & Lovetta

Birthdays

August 25 – Olivia

August 31 – Stephanie

September 2 – Dan H