

**Today's Order of Worship**

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: David Key

Opening Prayer: Billy Box

On the Table: Head - Josh Berryhill  
Servers - Eddy Dickinson  
Greg Lowery  
Charles Berryhill

Closing Prayer: Ralph Burleson

Preparing the Lord's Supper Michelle Lowery

**Weekly Service Times**

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am  
Morning Worship 10:45 am  
Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

**Visit Our Website**

[www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org](http://www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org)

Elders: Leonard Key / David Key  
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson  
Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill  
Minister: Greg Lowery

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# The Great Commission



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



## Teaching the Next Generation

By Andy Sochor

It has been said before that the church is just one generation away from apostasy. This is certainly true. While there are exceptions to any rule, generally what the wise man said is accurate: *“Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it”* (Proverbs 22:6). If we want children to follow the way of truth when they grow up, they must be taught the way of truth while they are growing up.

As we raise the next generation, we should focus on this question: *Why do we believe, teach, and practice what we do?* This is important. We are to *“please [God] in all respects”* (Colossians 1:10). The next generation must be taught to please God as well. But if we do not teach them how to do this, what will they do when they are grown?

To answer that question, consider what happened with the generation that rose up after Joshua and the sons of Israel conquered the land of Canaan:

*“All that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel. Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals, and they forsook the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed themselves down to them; thus they provoked the Lord to anger”* (Judges 2:10-12).

Notice what the new generation of Israelites did – they did evil, forsook the Lord, served the false gods of the people around them, and provoked the Lord to anger. Why would they do this? They “did not know the Lord” (Judges 2:10). Regardless of whether this was due to a failure of the previous generation to teach or a failure of the new generation to listen, this still provides us with an important reminder of how vital it is for knowledge of the truth to be passed down from one generation to another. When it is not passed down, apostasy is inevitable.

## THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Patty Berryhill: having problems with a hernia, please pray that the doctors can help her with this problem

Billy Lee & Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Brother & Sister} both are in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray for them they both have some health issues

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

Buddy Frazier: undergoing cancer treatments, please keep him in your prayers

Hunter Coal Corkren: treating his kidney problem with medicine, please be praying that this problem clears up with this treatment

Felicia Berryhill: she is having some ongoing health problems, please pray that she will be able to receive the right medical treatment to help her

Angie Ganey Gardner: breast cancer surgery went well and is waiting learn the next course of treatment, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

David Warren: he is fighting cancer, please be praying that his cancer will be defeated

Bobby Sanderson: continues to improve, please pray he has no further problems

Gunner Pendley: recovering from severe brain injury, please keep him and family in your prayers

Janet Spann: has severe COPD and other health problems, please keep her and her family in your prayers

Tommy Housh: diagnosed with bladder cancer, please pray that they will be able to successfully defeat this cancer

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Kye Jackson: (Lindsey’s son) has some health problems, please pray that the doctors will be able to help him

Jeff Upton (Donna Martin’s Co-worker): weakness in his legs, please pray that this will improve

Mary Box: some ongoing other health problems, please pray that she will improve

Ren Garrison (Donna Martin’s Nephew): is still dealing with an issue concerning his heart, please be praying that this issue will be dealt with successfully

Tyler Upton: is in Atlanta going through rehab for injuries received in an automobile accident, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Winfred York: bladder cancer has returned, will have surgery February 17<sup>th</sup>, please be praying for him and Mrs. Vertie

Larry Eads: (member at Carbon Hill) diagnosed with stage 4 esophagus cancer, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Jack Willis (Meg Rutledge’s Father) is fighting cancer, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Cody & Amber Corkren’s unborn baby will have tests to determine if his kidney is functioning at Children’s in February, so they can come up with a plan for when he is born in March.

Shauna Silas: diagnosed with thyroid cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer will be defeated

Ruth Addison: is in Fayette Nursing Home room 115a going through rehab, please pray that she regains her strength and returns home

Trib Henderson: found two nodules on her lungs and kidneys, please pray that they are benign

So let us again consider the question stated earlier: Why do we believe, teach, and practice what we do? It is not sufficient to simply pass down what we believe, teach, and practice (though this is also important). We must impress upon the next generation the reasons why we believe, teach, and practice what we do. It is important that we teach the next generation the right reasons so as to promote continued faithfulness. If we teach the wrong reasons (either explicitly or implicitly), the danger of apostasy will be even greater.

First, let us consider some wrong reasons for doing what we do in service to God:

**It is a tradition** – Often people will hold to religious practices and doctrines because they grew up with them. But we should not do anything simply because we have always done it that way. Some traditions, the ones given to us in the word of God (2 Thessalonians 2:15), must be kept – not because of mere tradition, but because they are right. Some traditions are contrary to the word of God and must be rejected (Matthew 15:3-6). Other traditions are harmless – neither commanded nor condemned – but must never be bound upon others (Matthew 15:1-2). Our standard must be truth, not tradition.

**It is our preference** – Many people will simply follow their conscience, believing that there are many paths that lead to heaven. But the wise man warned: “*There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death*” (Proverbs 14:12). Jesus is the only way to heaven (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). He promises to save those who “*obey Him*” (Hebrews 5:9). Our prayer should be that God’s will be done (Matthew 6:10) rather than selfishly seeking our own desires. Our standard must be God’s preference, not our preference.

**Others are doing it** – One of the reasons why Israel rejected God and asked for a king was so that they could “*be like all the nations*” (1 Samuel 8:20). This desire to be like the world has plagued God’s people throughout history. Yet we are to be different. Paul wrote, “*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind*” (Romans 12:2). Our standard must be the word, not the world.

**Other churches of Christ are doing it** – The church belongs to Christ (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23-24). When Paul referred to the local churches with which he was associated, he called them “*churches of Christ*” (Romans 16:16). However, we should not think that just because a congregation wears the name “church of Christ” that they are sound and should be emulated. This is a denominational concept. Wearing a name alone does not save. The church in Sardis had “*a name that [they were] alive, but [they were] dead*” (Revelation 3:1). Many “churches of Christ” teach and practice things that are foreign to the New Testament. Our standard must be the head of the church, not fallible humans in the church.

In contrast, let us notice the right reasons for doing what we do:

**It is commanded** – Jesus possesses “*all authority*” (Matthew 28:18). Therefore, we must “*observe all that [He] commanded*” (Matthew 28:20). This does not just include the words He spoke while on earth that are recorded in the first four books of the New Testament. It includes all that is commanded to us in the New Testament. Paul said, “*The things which I write to you are the Lord’s commandment*” (1 Corinthians 14:37; cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:2; 2 Peter 3:2).

**It is authorized** – Paul said, “*Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus*” (Colossians 3:17). To do something “*in the name of the Lord*” is to do it *by His authority*. It is not enough for us to do whatever we choose and then claim that it is for the Lord. Jesus said, “*Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness’*” (Matthew 7:21-23). It is not enough to simply believe in Jesus and be religious. We must respect Him enough to do what He has authorized us to do.

**It is expedient** – When we think about expedients, we must understand that something must first be authorized before it can be claimed to be expedient. Paul said, “All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient” (1 Corinthians 10:23, KJV).

Once we understand what has been commanded of us and what is authorized, we can then look to determine the most helpful/profitable way of doing what is commanded and authorized. We should not allow tradition to hinder us from engaging in better ways of doing things. On the other hand, we must be careful that those “better” ways that we call “expedients” do not go beyond what has been authorized in God’s word.

All of the points above can be summarized in this statement: **We must follow the word of God in all that we do.** “*To the law and to the testimony!*” (Isaiah 8:20). The Scriptures are our standard and we must diligently follow what they teach.

Naturally, we want the next generation to be faithful to the Lord. John wrote, “*I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth*” (3 John 4). Let us be sure we are teaching the next generation – not only what we believe, teach, and practice, but also why we believe, teach, and practice these things – so that they might also walk in the truth.

Obtained at: [www.plainbibleteaching.com](http://www.plainbibleteaching.com)

Upcoming Events		
Today	Nursing Home	2:00 pm
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	Missionary Report {Dorian Flynn}	
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	Fellowship Meal	
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Bowl {Here} {Please remember we will need drinks & snacks}	2:00 pm