

News & Announcements

PRAYER REQUESTS

Daryion Banks Continue to keep Daryion in your prayers as he continues to undergo therapy from his accident and that he will get better soon.

Helen Moore. Keep Helen in your prayers that she continues to feel better.

Lewis Wells. Lewis had some tests taken at the VA Hospital this week, however, at this writing do not know the results of those tests. Keep Lewis in your prayers that he will be feeling better soon.

Keep the following on your prayer list who are either shut-in, unable to worship with us, or have on going health concerns,

Daryion and Janette Banks, Liz Barajas' dad, Dorothy and Firman Barton, Mary and Bob Cress, Beverly Dempsey, Rachel Kidwell, Beth Nebeker, Bobby Pounders, Ignacio Reyes, John Simo, and Fernando Vizcarra, Jr. in your prayers.

Mens Business Meeting is today at 4:30 PM. All men should try to be in attendance to discuss very important issues.

TRAVELING MEMBERS

Brenda Mendoza is in Australia until sometime in March. Keep Brenda in your prayers for a safe return.

MILITARY MEMBERS

Michael Barnes and David Sims are stationed at Nellis Air Force Base.

WORD OF FAITH

Weekly bulletin of the Vegas Drive Church of Christ

February 14, 2016 • 3824 Vegas Drive • Las Vegas, NV 89108 • (702) 636-4986
Sunday Bible Class: 9 AM • Sunday Worship: 10 AM & 6 PM • Wednesday Bible Class: 7 PM

www.vegasdrivechurchofchrist.com

CAN WE AGREE TO DISAGREE OVER THE "MEAT" OF THE WORD?

"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:1-3)

With these words the Holy Spirit calls Christians to the noble walk of the gospel: humility and meekness, longsuffering, love, and the earnest pursuit and maintenance of unity and peace.

The reality is, however, that we have not yet attained to the "measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4:13). Some are still "children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting...." (Eph. 4:14). Christ and His gospel are not to be blamed for this, for He through it thoroughly equips the saints for service and strength (Eph. 4:11-13).

God knows there will always be different levels of maturity in His body. Nevertheless, He calls us all to press on unto maturity (Heb. 6:1-3). Thus, He provides the milk and the meat of the word for our spiritual growth (Heb. 5:12-14). God did not intend for differing levels of spiritual maturity, with the "milk and meat of the word" as its proof, to be a reason for having ongoing fellowship with sin. Even a new convert is to be rebuked and warned to repent of sin, not accepted in it (cf. Simon, Acts 8:18-24).

Truly, there are "milk and meat" topics in the New Testament. But where does the New Testament say that we *must* sustain unity and fellowship only over "milk" issues?

Some brethren teach this to be the case. Some suggest that error on the "milk" of the word demands the severing of *MEAT OF THE WORD*.....fellowship, while disagreement

on “meat” is allowed. Of course, the New Testament does not give us a definitive list of milk and meat topics. But those who advocate this “milk-meat” approach to unity in spite of doctrinal and moral diversity will have to eventually provide us with one. (In fact, some have via their “core gospel” concept.)

Since this approach to unity is used regarding variations in teachings on marriage, divorce and remarriage (but by no means the only issue), let us make some practical applications here:

1. Will we categorize the subject of marriage as milk or meat? (Matt. 19:4-6) (Eph. 5:22-33).
2. What about the subject of divorce and remarriage? (Matt. 19:9, 4)
3. Can we view the definition of adultery as a “meat” issue, and allow for unity in diversity on this subject?
4. Are lusts of the flesh matters of “milk” or “meat?” (Gal. 5:19; Rom. 7:2-3)
5. Is the subject of God’s covenant, and whether He has only had one covenant with His people, one of the fundamental truths of the Bible?
6. Is the New Testament teaching about the “new covenant” milk or meat?

In Hebrews 5:11-6:3 there is no indication that Christians are given the right to disagree on the meat of the word. In fact, given the context of Hebrews, “meat” includes such things as the priesthood of Christ and His work as High Priest (Heb. 5-10). Now, the fact that some may not understand these subjects (myself included) due to numerous factors (such as immaturity or the depth of the subject) does not argue for tolerating false teaching about these topics.

Why then are some willing to fellowship with those who teach error on divorce and remarriage? Should we be longsuffering with those who disagree with the revealed word of truth? Yes. Should we study together with open Bibles and open hearts? Yes. Should we tolerate false teaching by practicing ongoing fellowship with those who are not in harmony with revealed truth? Never. (Eph. 4:1-3; 5:3-11; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 1 Jno. 2:19; 4:1-6; 2 Jno. 9-11)

We must study together to arrive at unity and walk in truth (Eph. 4:3; 2 Tim. 2:24-26). This being God’s will for His people, it is entirely possible for us to obey (Eph. 4:13-16). But, it is not obeyed by endorsing, condoning or remaining silent about sin and the advocacy of false doctrine (Eph. 5:8-11; 2 Jno. 9-11). We cannot use “study” and “longsuffering” as a cloak for practicing ongoing fellowship with sin.

Hebrews 5:11-6:3 teaches that spiritual immaturity was why the brethren could not handle the meat of the word. Hence, the exhortation was given to press on to maturity. Mature Christians, due to using the word, can discern good and evil (Heb. 5:14).

Hebrews 5:11-6:3 does not give authority for sincere, studied, mature Christians to disagree over the word of God (rather than discerning good and evil and uniting upon the truth)! Such is not a proper use of the scriptures. The appeal to “milk and meat” fails to support the practice of ongoing fellowship with the teachers of error on marriage, divorce and remarriage.

By: Joe R. Price

WHAT YOU CAN CONTROL

YOU CAN’T CONTROL the length of your life but you can control its width and depth.

YOU CAN’T CONTROL the contour of your face but you can control its expression.

YOU CAN’T CONTROL the weather but you can control the atmosphere of your mind.

WHY WORRY about things you can’t control, when you can keep yourself busy controlling the things that depend on you?

God’s Plan of Salvation

HEAR the gospel Rom. 10:17
BELIEVE the gospel John 3:16
REPENT of your sins Luke 13:3
CONFESS Christ Matt. 10:32
Be BAPTIZED Acts 2:38
Live FAITHFULLY Rev. 2:10

If you are visiting today, we appreciate your presence and hope to get to know you better. Please fill out a visitor’s card so we can have a record of your attendance, and if there is any way we can serve your spiritual needs, please bring this to our attention.

www.vegasdrivechurchofchrist.com