

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Kyle Pool

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Scot Parchman

Assisting: Brynn Hatcher
Ron Austin

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Ricardo Alvillar

Those serving Wednesday

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Scot Parchman

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Pantry Item

N/A

Sermon Notes

John's Baptism and Authority

I. A Valid _____

II. An Invalid _____

III. "Of _____, or of _____"

December 19, 2021

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Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

3808 Village Dr
Fayetteville, NC
28304
Phone:
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Website:
capefearcoc.org
Find us on
Facebook!

Service Times

Sunday:
B. C. 9:00am
Worship 10:00am

Wednesday Night:
B. C. 7:00pm

Ladies' Class:
Tuesdays 10:00am

Elders
Scot Parchman
Wade Hedgepeth
Byran Hatcher

Deacon
John Williams

The
Cape Fear Crier

"Cry aloud and shout...for great in the midst of thee is the Holy One of Israel." Isaiah 12:6

The Sin of Denominationalism

H. Leo Boles

Nothing is taught more clearly and emphatically in the New Testament than that Christians, disciples of Christ, should be united. Jesus, before he established his church, prayed that his disciples should be one. *"And the glory which thou hast given me I have given unto them; that they may be one, even as we are one; I in them, and thou in me, that they may be perfected into one"* (John 17:22-23). The Holy Spirit through Paul exhorted Christians to *"be perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment"* (1 Cor. 1:10). Again Paul wrote by the Holy Spirit to the church at Philippi *"that ye be of the same mind, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind"* (Phil. 2:2); and again the Holy Spirit taught through Peter that God's people should be *"all likeminded, compassionate, loving as brethren, tenderhearted, humble-minded"* (1 Peter 3:8). Scriptural quotations could be multiplied which emphasize the fact that God's people should be united. Not only do the Scriptures clearly teach that the disciples of Christ should be united, but division among the people of God is condemned. The church at Corinth was instructed to speak the same thing, *"And that there be no divisions among you."* The New Testament is as clear in condemning division as it is in emphasizing that God's people should be united.

One of the vital questions of our day is that of bringing together all of the professed followers of Jesus. The question is frequently asked: "How shall the followers of Christ, now ranged under different banners, be rallied and united under one standard, when party names shall be known no more?" The desire of many is that the distinctions which are represented by party names pass away and the reproach of division be removed. Many earnest and honest hearts are pondering the difficult solution of uniting the believers in the Lord. They feel keenly that such divisions as now exist are condemned by the New Testament. At the same time they see no satisfactory conclusion of the present divided conditions; they know that no power can force people to unite; they know that the union must be wholehearted on the part

of everyone. The heads of the denominational bodies know that they cannot compel the members of the different denominations to disband and merge into one large body of believers. No one denomination today will claim to have all the truth, and each denomination will admit that the other denominations have some truth. It is an impossible task to unite the present denominations. **A uniting of all the denominations into one large denomination is not the unity for which Christ prayed and which the New Testament teaches.**

The union of believers in Christ cannot be had by the different denominations “agreeing to disagree;” there is no such thing as uniting these different religious bodies by getting them to ignore the differences that separate them into different bodies; neither will they be brought together into one body by agreeing to differ with each other, and yet maintain their distinct organizations. It is impossible to form a confederation of the denominations and have so many “wheels within a wheel.” Any theory of unity that assumes and makes provision for the perpetuation of denominationalism is doomed to failure. Many fatal objections can be urged against it, and no wise leader among them is bold enough to urge such a thing. The efforts that have been made toward union on such grounds have resulted in still more confusion, and as a result we have “confusion more confounded.” As a result of such efforts, denominations have multiplied and subdivisions have been the result of the different methods and theories urged for the union of religious people. Some have concluded that it is impossible for believers in Christ to be united. God requires all of his children to be of the same mind. If all cannot be of the same mind and be united, then God requires an impossibility of believers, or believers are condemned for not being of the same mind, united in Christ.

The Bible nowhere intimates that the perpetuity of denominations shall continue. They did not exist in the early days of Christianity; neither were they provided for in the New Testament; their origin, organization and perpetuation are condemned in the New Testament. There is not a single intimation that God endorses them or that the Holy Spirit guides their different activities. If Paul censured the dissensions and party feelings in the church at Corinth, how much more reprehensible must be the ripened fruit of such schisms in religion today? They are antagonistic to and destructive of the spirit of unity. There is nothing in the New Testament that can be fairly construed to give any justification of denominationalism. Such divisions among the followers of Christ were not only unknown in apostolic times, but are by explicit apostolic teachings condemned for all time. And since denominations had their origin since the days of the apostles, they must certainly pass away before “*we all attain unto the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God*” (Eph. 4:13).

By the Numbers

Attendance 12/12/21

Bible Class: 26

A.M. Worship: 45

Wed. B. C.: 29

Family News and Notes

Rick Caldwell’s stepdad, **John Welch** passed away last week. **Matthew Vann**, friend of Elaine Turnage, is in critical condition. **Debbie Smith’s** parents’ are not doing well at this time, especially her dad. Linda Williams’ mother, **Mary Pipkens** and her brothers, **Wayne** and **Harry** all are in need of prayer because of serious health concerns. **Jack** and **Sondra Wain**, Kim Perkins’ parents, are dealing with serious health issues. Her sister-in-law **Rhonda Wain** needs prayers as well. **Jamie Phillips** is caring for his mother and going through a hard time. **Claudia Farrington** is having a difficult time right now. **Frances Salaz** is going through chemo. Let’s remember one another in prayer.
Active military: Pray for our active duty military members; they could be called to a conflict area at a moment’s notice. Remember to pray for their families as well.

Also remember: **Margaret Langston, Vicky Carver, Deborah Ross Alex Freshley, Frances Salaz, Tylia Landrum, Gwen & Sarah Jennen, John and Linda Williams**, the **Pollard** family, **Claudia Farrington, Rick and Robin Caldwell**, and **Thelma Adams**. Please pray for those in Bible Studies, teachers and students!

Bible Reading Plan

Dec 19	Dec 20	Dec 21	Dec 22	Dec 23	Dec 24	Dec 25
Obad	Jonah	Micah	Nahum	Habak	Zeph	Haggai
Pr 19	Pr 20	Pr 21	Pr 22	Pr 23	Pr 24	Pr 25

Events

New Years Eve: Fellowship and singing. Friday, Dec 31st at the building.

Ladies’ Bible Class: Not meeting on the 21st or 28th of December.

