

# THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton  
Mike Gentry

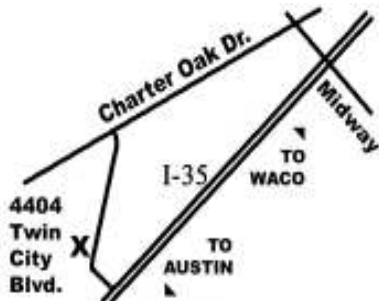
Deacons: Craig Clanton  
David Foster  
V.O. Speights

Preacher: Warren King

## WHEN WE MEET

Sun:	Classes	9:30 A.M.
	Assembly	10:30 A.M.
	Assembly	6:00 P.M.
Wed:	Classes	7:30 P.M.

## WHERE WE MEET



From I-35, take the Midway exit (# 297). Go south (toward Austin) on the feeder road for almost one mile. Turn right at the DPS Drivers License office. We are on the left.

All articles in Simple Truth are written by Warren King unless otherwise stated.  
Back issues of Simple Truth are available online at [www.biblemoments.org](http://www.biblemoments.org).



## BIBLE MOMENTS Radio Program

Listen to the Bible Moments radio broadcast Sunday mornings at 8:30 on KTEM 1400 on your A.M. dial!  
Free audio downloads of the program are available at:  
[www.biblemoments.org](http://www.biblemoments.org)

# SIMPLE TRUTH

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
**LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
4404 Twin City Blvd. Temple TX 76502

Volume 3

Number 9

## Who is the Real Rebel?

*Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?*  
– Nu 20:10

Thus Moses and Aaron chided the Israelites for murmuring about a lack of water. For years they had been wandering in the wilderness. They had seen the Lord's helping hand on more than one occasion. To murmur against Him now was, indeed, rebellion.

But, it is ironic that Moses chose the word 'rebel' at this point in time – as he was leading his own rebellion against God. Ignoring God's instructions to "*speak to*" the rock, Moses arrogantly struck the rock, and then claimed credit for the results. He had apparently gotten over the 'meekness' thing (Nu 12:3).

So, rebellion is not just a problem for the ungodly. It can be a real problem for God's people, too. We may claim fidelity, but the proof is in the doing (Mt 7:21).

Fortunately, this act of rebellion on Moses' part was an isolated case. His overall performance was judged as "*faithful*" (He 3:2). Even so, this one incident cost him a stroll through the Promised Land. Better for Moses – and for us – to simply submit to God's instructions.

## Just Thinkin'

### Why Social Drinking is a Sin

More and more we hear of Christians consuming alcoholic beverages with others at parties, cookouts, in restaurants, or while watching sports. I am not sure what has led to the increased acceptance of this sin among us. The New Testament specifically condemns it. *"For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries"* (1 Pe 4:3 – NKJV).

Notice that the sins listed in this verse were committed in *"our past lifetime"* (before becoming Christians) and that they involve doing *"the will of the Gentiles"* as opposed to doing the will of God. The condemnation of social drinking is found in the phrase *"drinking parties."* The original Greek word is *"potos"* and it literally means *"drinking"* in the sense of drinking alcohol. This word is found only here in the New Testament. The King James Version translates it *"banquetings."* Plainly put, this word describes drinking in 'social situations' such as banquets or parties. There is no better or more exact word in the original language for what we call 'social drinking.' God could not have been any plainer.



Social drinking is sin. Some may choose to be influenced by the world or their own fleshly desires, but God's will is undeniable.

– Steve Klein (edited)

As far back as Aristotle, philosophers have advanced the notion of 'tabula rasa'. It is the belief that people are born with a 'blank slate', and that all we are as humans is a result of our environment. The things that get written onto our 'blank slate' as we go through life determine who we are.

And, the Bible largely affirms this principle. That's why Moses instructed parents to teach God's law *"diligently"* to the children (De 6:7), & why we are to bring up our children *"in the training and admonition of the Lord"* (Ep 6:4). Parents are given this 'blank slate' for only a short time. So write fast and furious!

Opponents of 'tabula rasa' theory suggest that we are merely a product of our DNA. Few would hold to this position absolutely; but, it is not uncommon to hear justification of sinful behavior on the grounds that 'they were just born that way'. Well, we may indeed inherit propensities toward certain attitudes, cravings, likes, & dislikes. But what we choose to do with these propensities is up to us. Thus, much of the scribble on our slate is in our own handwriting. Think about it.