

# THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton  
Mike Gentry

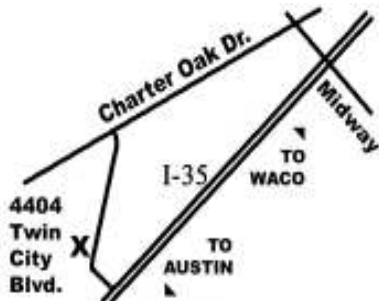
Deacons: Craig Clanton  
David Foster  
V.O. Speights

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 10

## The Unvirtuous Virtues

Peter provides a well-known list of ‘Christian virtues’ in the opening of his second epistle (1:5-7). But, some would like to expand that list.

For example, some see open-mindedness as the greatest virtue. They are quick to assert the validity of all world religions, or all ‘Christian’ denominations. Truth is to them a subjective thing, open to various interpretations. And, every interpretation is of equal worth. The only time that these individuals condemn anything is when they condemn you for having convictions.

At the other end of the spectrum are those who see hard-headedness as the ultimate virtue. Convinced that they are the sole remaining bastions of truth, they impose their legislative judgments – down to the most trivial minutiae – on everyone around them. When pressed for Biblical authority, these respond with a sheepish, “That’s just the way I feel about it”.

Neither of these extremes is virtuous. Children of God should be able to discern God’s will in His Word, practicing it and teaching it, while remaining broad-shouldered and charitable in matters of judgment.

# TRANSFORMERS

If you haven't seen the movie *Transformers*, you've probably seen the commercials for it. And, if you've been around children, you've likely been introduced to the toys that inspired the movie. What appears to be one thing, when manipulated turns into something completely different.

Paul, in writing to the Christians in Rome, urged them to “*be transformed by the renewing of your mind*” (12:2). So, in one sense we should all be transformers.

However, a Christian must be quite different from the toy, which is able to be changed back into its original form at the whim of the child in whose hands it is found. A Christian, after being trans-formed, must remain a “*new creature*” (2 Co 5:17) – a “*new man*” (Ep 4:24), not allowing the world to manipulate him back into his former self.



The church member (I wouldn't call him a Christian) who appears to be spiritual and righteous on Sunday, but is worldly during the week or in different surroundings, has become a transformer of the worst kind – a hypocrite.

– Al Diestelkamp (edited)

## Just Thinkin'

In a recent discussion with several brethren (and 'sistern') about how to accommodate different opinions in a local congregation, one sister suggested that it comes down to a 'negotiated peace'. I believe she had it right.

The 'tyranny of the minority', which holds a congregation hostage to every weird scruple, paralyzes a congregation into inactivity. On the other hand, a majority should not run roughshod over the conscience of the weak. Even when elders are present, with full authority to make judgment calls, these conflicting concerns should be weighed in the balance.

In the end, a 'negotiated peace' is the only practical solution. Without sacrificing truth, or personal convictions, brethren with varying opinions on many different issues should be able to accommodate one another in a local church setting, working and worshipping together in harmony. This is, I believe, the bottom line of Paul's reasoning in Romans 14.

**So negotiate. Give a little, take a little; but, let's preserve the precious unity of the local congregation. Think about it.**