

THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton
Mike Gentry

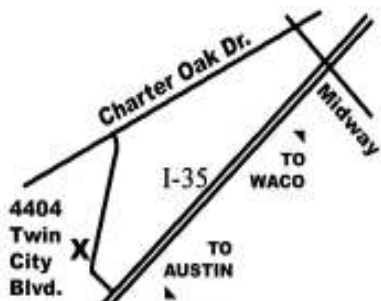
Deacons: Craig Clanton
David Foster
V.O. Speights

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.
Contact the Leon Valley congregation at (254) 939-0682 (leave a message).



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SIMPLE TRUTH

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Number 9

The Uniqueness of the Church

The Lord's church is unlike any other organization on earth. It is not a civic club or a business. And, it is not a denomination. Search the world over if you will, but the church of Jesus Christ is truly unique.

It is unique in its authority. While other organizations draw their authority from civil government or, in the religious world, from traditions, emotions, councils, or latter day 'revelations', the church of Christ looks solely to the Bible as its guide.

It is unique in its appeal. Many denominations offer human philosophy, entertainment, or ornate cathedrals to draw the people. But, the Lord's church simply offers the good news of salvation from sin.

And, it is unique in its attitude. People are viewed as souls to be loved, not pawns to be exploited. Sin is viewed as a repugnant behavior to be avoided, not a thrilling experience to be sought after. And, death is viewed as a mere phase of our life – not the end of life.

In all these ways, and many more besides, the church of our Lord is truly unique.

God's Ideal

Jesus reaffirmed Genesis 2:24 when asked, *"Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?"* The Pharisees protested in amazement that Moses' Law permitted the divorce of Deuteronomy 24, but Jesus showed that such divorce was not God's original design from creation.

Then, He himself spoke as one greater than Moses: *"And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery; and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery"* (Mt 19:3-9).

All who heard Him were shocked at the strictness of this unbending law (vss 10-12). When a man divorces his wife for any cause other than fornication, and marries a new mate, he goes to the bed of adultery. If he divorces her for fornication, he may marry a new mate and his marriage bed will be clean. The mere fact of him divorcing his original mate, for fornication or otherwise, does not free her to take a new mate. If she does, she goes to the bed of adultery.

In all of this, divine law takes precedent over human laws, customs, and circumstances. Fast talking lawyers, corrupt judges, sympathetic relatives, and accommodating preachers cannot change God's laws.

– Ron Halbrook (edited)

Just Thinkin'

'Some drink from the fountain of knowledge. Others just gargle.' David must have had this proverb in mind when he wrote, *"As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God..."* (Ps 42:1-2).

Several Biblical writers extol the virtues of a knowledge of God's Word. Note the prophet Hosea: *"Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord"* (6:8), and the apostle Peter: *"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ"* (2 Pe 3:18). Clearly, the people of God should be a people of the Book.

But, knowledge is not an end in itself. The Pharisees and the Jewish lawyers were very knowledgeable of God's Law; but, they missed its main point. Looking again at Psalm 42, we can see why. Unlike the Pharisees, David's 'thirst' was not for knowledge in itself, but for a close relationship with God. That's an important distinction.

So drink deeply – and do not gargle. But, also think about the purpose of the drinking.