

THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton
Mike Gentry

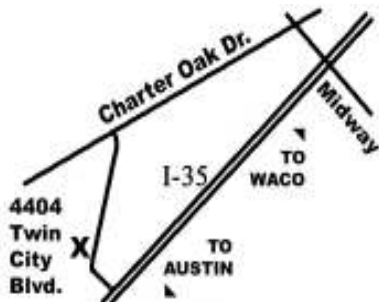
Deacons: Craig Clanton
David Foster
V.O. Speights

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

A PUBLICATION OF THE
LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Personal Responsibility

"Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall children be put to death for their fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin."
- De 24:16

Life is full of disappointments and difficulties. And, while some of these problems are unavoidable, others are brought about by our own bad decisions. Of course, we have all made bad decisions at some point. *"All have sinned"* (Ro 3:23) is an inescapable truism. But, how should we DEAL with our sins? THAT is the question.

One common approach to dealing with sin is just to blame others: *'It is not my fault – others haven't treated me right, so don't blame me.'* Since the days of Adam and Eve, family members (husbands, wives, siblings, and parents) have caught the brunt of this blame. But, does God buy in to that excuse? Not hardly. While it is possible for anyone (including family) to be a stumbling block to us, this does not absolve us from personal responsibility for our own actions (Eze 33:8, Mt 18:6-9).

Liberal sociologists and feel-good psychologists continue to excuse bad behavior. But, God's Word teaches personal responsibility and personal accountability. Our society – and each member of it – should pay attention.

Authority: Living Like Jesus

More and more I hear Christians castigating principles of Biblical authority, even discounting the need for authorization at all. I hear Christians saying we spend too much time finding authority for what we do. In place of this, they suggest we just look to Jesus and be like Him. They act as if this means simply offering to God whatever I feel sincerely about in my heart.

We should live like Jesus; but, does this mean just following what is in our hearts? Solomon said this leads to death (Pr 14:12). We should live like Jesus; but, does this mean we should ignore principles of authorization from God?

Jesus said, “[*The Father*] has given [*the Son*] authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man...I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.” (Jn 5:27, 30). “I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment – what to say and what to speak.” (Jn 12:49).

The conclusion is simple. Those who claim we should simply live like Jesus are right. However, Jesus lived by demanding authority from the Father before He acted. His teaching and His actions were based on what God authorized. Living like Jesus does not mean living in a way that feels right to me. It means seeking out and living by God’s authority. Let’s live like Jesus.

– *Edwin Crozier, in the Kleinwood bulletin (edited)*

Just Thinkin’

It has been said that good judgment comes from bad experience. And, that is often the case. It is one reason older folks are presumed to have more wisdom – they have endured their share of bad experiences.

But, it is also true that bad experiences often come from bad judgment. Some folks seem to know only one way to discover just how hard a brick wall can be. They keep butting their heads against it until finally – bloodied, black and blue – they come to the realization that brick walls can be painful.

There is an easier way to gain wisdom.

“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise” (Pr 12:15).

The willingness to listen to others – to those who have run into the brick wall before us, and to God’s Word, which warns us about the brick wall in the first place – this is the mark of true wisdom.

So, what brick wall do you keep running into? Listen to others who have been there, and look into God’s Word for wisdom. It really is less painful. Think about it.