

THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton
Mike Gentry

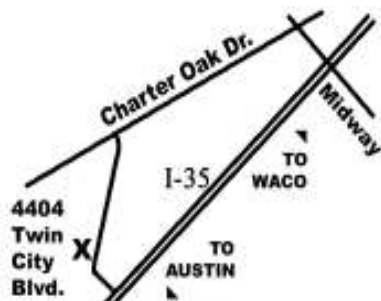
Deacons: Craig Clanton
David Foster
V.O. Speights

Preachers: Drew Nelson and 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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THROWING STONES

“...in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.” - Ro 2:1

Some argue that it is wrong to judge others under any circumstances. They pass judgment on those who pass judgment. Such inconsistency is self-evident. When we condemn others for behaviors that we are guilty of ourselves, we are hypocrites.

But, does this mean that it is always wrong to “cast the first stone” (Jn 8:7)? When we realize that we are all guilty of sin (Ro 3:23), is it even possible to rebuke someone without being a hypocrite?

Jesus commanded that we judge “righteous judgment” (Jn 7:24). But, He also commanded that we pull the “log” from our own eye before attempting to pull the “splinter” from our brother’s eye (Mt 7:1-5). His solution was to pull the log first, then pull the splinter!

Practicing thieves and adulterers make poor teachers. But, those who have come out of those lifestyles are in a good position to teach us all – cries of self-righteous indignation notwithstanding. And, they do not become hypocrites in the process.

The Clergy

Would you be surprised to learn that the ‘clergy-laity’ distinction is not found in the teaching of Christ and His apostles? No one is ever referred to as a ‘clergyman’ in the New Testament.

In the Old Testament there was a distinct priestly group among the Israelites. The priests had special functions that were not shared by common people.

However, Jesus taught, *“Do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth ‘father’; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven”* (Mt 23:8-9). One brother in Christ is not to be elevated over another. Even elders are warned not to be *“lords over God’s heritage”* (1 Pe 5:3).

All Christians share a common priesthood. *“You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”* (1 Pe 2:5). All share the same blessings.

Timothy, Titus, Silas, Barnabas, and other preachers are never called ‘clergymen’ in the New Testament – and neither are the apostles. The ‘clergy-laity’ distinction is of human origin.

– Frank Himmel (edited)

Just Thinkin’

God’s people are challenged to be a thinking people. *“Come now, let us reason together”* (Is 1:18). *“...in His law he meditates day and night”* (Ps 1:2). *“Do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is”* (Ep 5:17). The ability to reason, to meditate, and to understand is fundamental to knowing God’s will and making right choices.

But, have you ever known someone who stopped to think, then forgot to start again? The world is full of such people – people who stopped for a moment to contemplate God’s Word, but then failed to apply common principles of comprehension.

Take, for example, the effort to defend homosexual behavior by arguing that Jesus nowhere condemned it (study 1 Co 6:9-10 with 14:37). Or, consider those who justify the use of instrumental music in worship to God by pointing to old covenant patterns of worship (meditate on Gal 3:24-25). Looking to God’s Word in such matters is good; but, we must be willing to accept the plain truth when we see it. Think about it.