

THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton
Mike Gentry

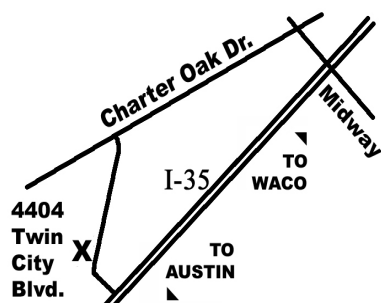
Deacons: Craig Clanton
David Foster
V.O. Speights

Preacher: Warren King

WHEN WE MEET

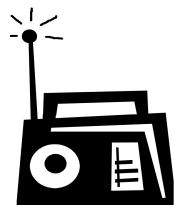
Sun:	Classes	9:30 A.M.
	Assembly	10:30 A.M.
	Assembly	6:00 P.M.
Wed:	Classes	7:30 P.M.

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

A FISHY DOCTRINE

“The Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith... forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from food...”

- 1 Tim 4:1-3

When I was a kid, the school cafeteria always served fish on Fridays. Ignorant of the religious reasons for it, I just figured it was written in the educational code somewhere: *‘Fridays shall be meat without feet.’*

Today, many Catholics continue to abstain from eating beef or chicken on Fridays. This is especially true during the season of ‘Lent’ (the forty days leading up to ‘Easter’), when many will refuse meat on Fridays. Failure to abstain can be a ‘mortal sin’ – really bad news for a Catholic. The fact that none of this is found in the Bible is of no concern to most Catholics. The priest approves and that makes it okay (in their mind).

But, Paul’s prophecy of a departure from the faith seems to have been written with the Catholic Church in mind. To forbid the eating of certain foods is to “*depart from the faith*”. To forbid someone to be married (note priests and nuns) is to “*depart from the faith*”. If this does not refer to Catholicism, then what does it refer to? And if it does, then Catholicism is a departure from the faith!

SELFLESSNESS

A determining factor in our successful bonding as a spiritual family comes down to our willingness as individuals to look beyond self. One who practices brotherly love does not seek his own (1 Co 13:4-8).

Paul is an example of this selfless living. He willingly persevered through great hardships for the gospel cause (2 Co 11:22-27). He clearly looked beyond self (Ro 8:18; 2 Ti 1:11-12).

The brethren in Macedonia are an example of selflessness (2 Co 8:1-4). They gave of themselves, beyond their ability, because they “*first gave themselves to God*” (vs. 5). When we get our hearts right with God, we will gain the proper perspective toward all of our relationships, including our spiritual family.

But, the greatest example of selflessness is undeniably Jesus. He was committed to doing the Father’s will (Jn 4:34; 5:30; 6:38). Even in the face of threat and harm Jesus denied Himself for something greater. He remained committed to God (1 Pe 2:20-23).

Jesus taught a great paradox: “*He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it*” (Mt 10:39). The secret to finding fulfillment in one’s self is to deny self. We will not be benefitted in the long run if we resist God and focus on self. In meeting the needs of brethren and others, selfless servitude is a requirement.

– T. Sean Sullivan (edited)

Just Thinkin'

'Character' has been defined as '*Who we are when no one is looking*' - and, I suppose that's as good a definition as any. It certainly gets to the practical definition. But, character could be otherwise expressed.

For example, character is '*The present result of moral choices we have made in the past*'. Years of decision-making when faced with daily 'forks in the road' (what to think, what to speak, what to do) have determined in large measure who we are today.

Character could also be defined as '*That which determines our destiny*'. Of course, this only works if we classify character traits as God does ('honest heart = good'; 'humility = good'; 'hypocrisy = bad') AND if we understand there is no meritorious earning of salvation simply because we have been 'good'. But with that said, yes, a character that has been molded into the image of God's Son is a character destined for glory.

In reality, a precise definition of 'character' is not as important as the practice of it. Think about it.