

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Mike Davis

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Jon Barry Mark Davis
Cory Easley Clay Morris

Prayers

Rodney Ellis Bill Rinehart

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Mike Davis

Song Leader

Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper

Mark Davis Cory Easley

Prayers

Randy Ellis Sonny Monaghan

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Bryan Garlock

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Prayers

Jon Barry Mike Davis

Invitation

Bryan Garlock

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons

Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
Mike Davis Dave Massey

Evangelist

Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.
Worship6:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

WWW.TXKCHURCH.COM

GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17

Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 8:35-30

Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Walk in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10

Think On These Things

Franklin Drive Church of Christ

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Issue 22

“You Can’t Tell Me What to Do!”

Bryan Garlock

There has been a noticeable shift in submission to the authority of others. This writer believes there are many contributing causes to so many doing what is right in their own eyes (cf. Judges 21:25). One such factor is when parents give in to and please their children. Undoubtedly, these children “getting their way” and “bucking the system” without correction creates a false sense of control and power. Even the workplace is affected. Employees who exhibit this kind of attitude have become difficult to manage. Hence companies have had to reevaluate their policies and their rules because lawsuits are issued due to employees or even customers claiming mistreatment when in fact they just did not *get their way*.

The progression of this attitude does not end in the home or workplace. In fact, some have had a total disregard for the laws of the land and our established government. Due to this destructive and unyielding attitude (taught by parents, peers, and media), crime, violence

(including assassinations), and rebellion to government officials have flourished and we have seen the true consequences brought about by this mindset (i.e., we cannot trust the police, we cannot listen to their authority, we must destroy property and riot in the streets in opposition, etc.).

Unfortunately, not even the church is immune. It is no longer a matter of “The battle is coming, prepare yourselves”; instead, it has long been here.

What exactly is this attitude? It is the defiant, insubordinate, brash mindset that says, “You can’t tell me what to do!” This response is given every time someone of authority tells this person what he or she must do. We use the word “must” because it is the strongest word one can use of things that are necessary of a person. For example, one *must* pass his tests to graduate from school, one *must* stop at the red light, and one *must* obey Jesus to go to heaven. Therefore, when one is told what he “must” do, he *must* not exhibit opposition in action or attitude.

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Willie Margaret Mobley, Bob Buls, Bonnie Allgor, Maxine Burnham, and Francine Davis.** Cards, calls and visits are ALWAYS needed and appreciated.

Keep **Melinda Prynne** in your prayers.

Bonnie Allgor is having tests to further diagnose her problems.

Sue McJunkins is recovering from her recent surgeries.

Cont. from page 1

It would seem some do not like the "musts" in their lives. Thus, with every ounce of audacity they can muster up they scream, "You can't tell me what to do!" Consider the effect this attitude may have had in your life or the life of a loved one. What has been the outcome? Where has this attitude led you or them?

The Bible teaches that "...we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil" (2 Cor. 5.10). The person who argues that he may "live his life as he sees fit" *must* understand that while we may be free moral agents, there will be consequences for the decisions we make.

Therefore, we *must* humble and deny ourselves when we obey Jesus. We no longer live for self because we now live for Christ (see Gal. 2.20). Our life *must* be governed by Jesus and biblical love with no shortage of dedication or submission (Matt. 7.21; 22.37-39; Luke 6.46; John 14.15; Eph. 5.24; Col. 3.17; 1 John 4.7-21).

It is important for all Christians to understand what it means to belong to God. Paul wrote, "For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's" (Rom. 14.7-8; see also Ezekiel 18.4). Elsewhere we read, "...You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (1 Cor. 6.19). Notice that the Christian *must* glorify God in his or her body. Hence we are to "...live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God." (1 Peter 4.2) This means no Christian can argue, "It's my body! You can't tell me what to do!" Instead one is to respond, "...not my will, but yours, be done" (Luke 22.42). Therefore, this attitude that is so prevalent within the world today ought not to be present within the Lord's church. Make no bones about it, Christians are not free to do as we please.

One may argue, "But you said we are free moral agents." While this is true, in Christ we give up our will for His. For example, if we change "You can't tell me what to do" to what is truly being said, the truth of this attitude is made more apparent: "I have the right to sin as I see fit!" However, Paul taught, "...Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?" (Rom. 6.1-2) No person who claims to be a child of God has the permission to continue in sin. John said it this way, "No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God" (1 John 3.9). The saint cannot do that which he does not have the permission to do nor does he have the right to tell his creator, "You can't tell me what to do!"

This attitude is present when a professed Christian tells an elder, a preacher, a

concerned brother or sister, "You can't tell me what to do!" However, God has given full license and authority to all Christians – especially elders – to relay what He has said on any matter and the faithful in humility will respond, "Your will be done and not mine" (Matt. 18.15-17; Acts 20.26-27; Gal. 6.1; 2 Tim. 4.1-4; Titus 1.9; Heb. 13.17, etc.). It is past time that some brethren remember the words of Saul as he first believed in Christ: "What shall I do, Lord?" (Acts 22.10) As one can see, Saul's statement is the opposite of the attitude some possess.

This mindset *must* never exist in the life of a Christian. If one develops this damaging and arrogant attitude he *must* totally abandon it or else forfeit his salvation. BG

For when dreams increase

Aaron Kemple

Because much talk comes from dreams and things of no purpose. But let the fear of God be in you.

(Ecclesiasts 5:7, Bible in Basic English)

For when dreams increase and words grow many, there is vanity; but God is the one you must fear.

(Ecclesiastes 5:7, English Standard Version)

You and I may have all kinds of ideas and "dreams" that come to our mind, but that does not mean they are all good ideas or great directions we should travel. Those ideas and dreams can lead us in a thousand different directions, and we have to develop discipline in how we deal with those ideas and plans.

There are many directions we can go in our business and in our homes, and many new things we can buy or try. What can happen is that we can dive into 20 or 30 things that sound like a great idea to do, and

we end up not doing anything well at all. We could learn a lesson from Nehemiah. It seems that in chapter 1-2 he spent months praying and developing a plan for rebuilding Jerusalem's walls. And when he returned home, he did several days of surveying Jerusalem with just a few people (Nehemiah 2:11-15). He wasn't talking to a lot of people. He developed a firm plan, and then spoke to the leadership.

Nehemiah didn't just stroll into Jerusalem, stand on the rubble, and confidently proclaim to all that he had an awesome idea about rebuilding the walls. He was disciplined and formulated the details of the plan in prayer before he started talking much about it.

Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode.
(Nehemiah 2:12)

Again, just because you have a good idea that pops into your head doesn't mean that it is a good idea to share with others. That good idea might take you and others in the opposite direction from the last great idea you had. Take time to be silent, take time to pray, take time to plan. Ask wise counsel from a very select few.

The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD. All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit. Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established.

(Proverbs 16:1-3)