

## SUNDAY MORNING

### Announcements

Cole Meador

### Song Leader

Jack Calvert

### Lord's Supper

Mark Davis    Bryan Garlock  
Clay Morris    Bill Brittenham

### Prayers

Daniel Allgor    Melvin Potts

## SUNDAY EVENING

### Announcements

Cole Meador

### Scripture Reading

Jack Calvert

### Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

### Lord's Supper

Mark Davis    Clay Morris

### Prayers

Bill Brittenham    Gerald Eaton

## WEDNESDAY

### Announcements

Bill Brittenham

### Song Leader

Bryan Garlock

### Prayers

Cole Meador    Mark Davis

### Invitation

Clay Morris

## ABOUT US

### Elders

Jack Calvert    Rodney Ellis

### Deacons

Jon Barry    Bill Brittenham  
Mike Davis    Clay Morris

### Evangelist

Bryan Garlock

## SERVICE TIMES

### Sunday

Bible Study .....9:30 A.M.  
Worship .....10:15 A.M.  
Worship .....6:00 P.M.

### Wednesday

Bible Study .....7:00 P.M.

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## 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; Romans 10:9-10

**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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## “Can We Build and Maintain Dining Halls as Individuals?”

Bryan Garlock

Nowhere does Scripture authorize a local church to fund, build, and maintain a dining hall (also known as a fellowship hall) out of its treasury. Furthermore, regardless of what interpretation you take about Paul's teaching in First Corinthians chapter eleven, the fact remains that the brethren were instructed twice to “eat at home” (22, 34), and interestingly, this is the pattern in Scripture (Acts 2.46). Some ask the valid question: “Since the church cannot sponsor a dining hall for the brethren to eat in, may individuals donate the money to build and maintain these facilities?”

For the sake of argument, let us assume that individuals can fund and maintain a dining hall. However, will the same individuals who built the facility make provisions to furnish and maintain it (repairs, remodeling, insurance, utilities, furniture, etc.) the facility for the duration of its use? What will happen when these

individuals fail to maintain the building due to their death or relocation? What happens when there are scriptural issues between the church and the individuals who own the building and those individuals leave and/or are disfellowshipped? Whatever the case, in time it may come to belong to the church — logistically speaking.

Along these lines, what if the individuals disagree with any decisions the church and/or eldership makes about the use of the building? Even more so, what if they decide to refuse use of the building due to those disagreements? What if they use the building for personal gatherings and events, despite the church opposing such things? Remember, the building belongs to the individual and technically the church cannot tell them that they cannot host their daughter's

## FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Bonnie Allgor, Maxine Burnham, W.H. McFerrin, and Francine Davis.** Cards, calls and visits are ALWAYS needed and appreciated.

**Ladies Bible Class:** The next class will be on Tuesday, **Jan. 14, 2020.** There will be no class in December.

**Sonny Monaghan** is home recovering from surgery.

**Elizabeth Eaton** recovery is coming along well.

**Amanda McWhorter** is home recovering from her surgery.

**Please pick up some invite cards and ask for Bible studies. See Bryan if you need any help with home studies.**

(continued from page 1)  
sixteenth birthday with fifty of her closest friends!

Perhaps the individuals decide to rent out their building throughout the week to a business or others who are in need of a large facility for gatherings. Will the community start calling the church building asking for the going rates to cater large parties? While these things may seem farfetched, anything goes when the church has no say over the use of property. In fact, this writer is aware of a situation where an individual

bought a storage building for the church to store its property. Years later that same individual decided to sell his storage building, causing the church to have to make other arrangements!

Now, let us be consistent. If individuals can own and operate a dining hall on church property, can they own and operate a business, and for that matter, in the actual church building where the saints assemble, as long as the individual funds the business? Book store? Coffee shop? If not, why not? But, why stop there? If they can have an individually-funded dining hall, they can have an individually-funded basketball goal. Why not have an individually-funded gymnasium or an individually-funded playground or an individually-funded baseball field? And what about an individually-funded bus for individually-funded trips? Ultimately, where does it stop?

For the sake of argument, again, let us assume that none of the above happens in the lifetime of the individuals who donated their own money and resources. What will the next generation do with the individually-funded building? Even more so, the fact that the facility was built and maintained by individual funds may be lost on the coming generations. This author is aware of another situation where a family built a dining hall and upon their passing gifted the extension to the church. The burden of maintenance of these facilities now falls on the church!

However, again, for the sake of argument, and to be fair, let us assume that none of the above occurs. It is, in fact, possible that the

church's work and the individual's work would remain separate. But is it probable?

Can individuals fund and operate a dining hall? Absolutely. Can individuals fund and operate a dining hall on church property? It is not wise. It is not logistically possible. It creates too many problems down the road. Let us just be content to keep spiritual things spiritual and social things social!

This author is thankful for the insight of various wise and godly men in writing this article.

### In Him

Bill Brittenham

**Eph. 1:3** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*

Sometimes the smallest words in our language can convey very powerful messages. The verse above contains two such words; "**every**" and "**in**". It is clear from Paul's writing, that he is talking about all – every – nothing excluded, when he uses the word "every". And he plainly tells us that the location of all those spiritual blessing is in Christ. Two questions come to mind from this verse. First, "What does it mean to be 'in' Christ?". And second, "How do we get 'in' Christ?"

Jesus Himself answers the first question. In John 14:6, He says, "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one*

*comes to the Father but through Me.*" In chapters 9 and 10 of John, Jesus tells us that He is not only the Divine Shepherd, but that He is the door to the sheepfold. In John 15, Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. Surely we understand that branches cannot remain alive unless they are growing from the vine. "In Jesus" then means that as Christians, we are a part of Him. Being "In Him" we have access to the truth, the secure sheepfold and even the Father Himself. "In Him" we are living branches able to bear good fruit for our Father. We also have access to redemption, forgiveness, an inheritance and the gospel. (Eph. 1:7-13) And Peter says in 1 Pet. 1:4 that we even become partakers of the "divine nature". It is overwhelming the blessing that are found "in Christ" and everyone should desire earnestly to be found in Him.

And that brings us to the second question of how we get in (into) Christ. **Gal. 3:27** gives us a clear simple answer to our question. "*For all of you who were **baptized into Christ** have clothed yourselves with Christ.*" This verse explains 1 Pet. 1:4 and how we become partakers of the divine nature. If we are "in" Jesus and He is the "divine" Son of God, we then share in His nature. That is the goal Jesus and the Father have for us. Being baptized into Jesus, we then strive to be like them. We live our lives growing into their nature. Their goals are our goals. And their nature transforms us into true children of God.

One more question. **Are you IN Christ Jesus?** Have you been baptized into Christ so that you have access to EVERY spiritual blessing – especially in heavenly places, but also while we are in this life?