

## News and Notes

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**


- Dennis Dillon** - Preacher, Parkview church, Odessa, Texas. Esophageal Cancer.
- Nancy Reed** - Various health issues.
- Patrick King** - Hemiplegic Migraine.
- Sandy Craig** - Ongoing kidney problems. Reported this week that she is much improved.
- Jo Ann McLerran** - Back problems/COPD. Doing much better after receiving injections for back pain.
- Glenda Marble** - Faithful Christian at Lexington, Okla. Heart problems.
- Debbie Post** - Wife of Salisbury, Maryland preacher Doug Post - Cancer.
- Sissy Craig** - For spiritual and emotional strength.
- Charles and Linda Pogue** - Congestive heart failure.
- Nancy Verkist** - Ellensburg, Washington. Von Hippel Lindau disease.
- Chuck Verkist** - Ellensburg, Washington. Undergoing treatment for Prostate Cancer.
- Don Smith** - Faithful brother in Christ persecuted for teaching fellow inmates in an Ohio prison.

**APPEAL FOR BROTHER DILLON** - Dennis Dillon, preacher for the Parkview church in Odessa, Texas, suffers from stage 2 esophageal cancer, and is on radiation. Brother Dillon’s Medicare will not nearly cover the high cost of his medical bills. Any financial aid you can send may be mailed to Dennis Dillon, 1706 Rosewood Ave Odessa TX 79761. Brother Dillon is a faithful preacher, a dear friend, and worthy of our aid. Please do what you can to aid him in this time of great crisis.

**KENYA REPORT** - Contributing to the Kenya Fund in recent days were Charles and Nancy Verkist, Ellensburg, Washington; William Schwegler, Mission, Texas; and Ron Skinner, Lexington, Oklahoma. Brother Schwegler sent a special contribution to help with the cost of mailing the late brother Dub Mowery’s books to Kenya. Benard reported this week that the last four boxes of those books have arrived.

**PREACHING THIS WEEK** - Earl Reed will preach at morning and evening worship this Lord’s Day.

Website - <a href="http://www.necocelkcity.com">www.necocelkcity.com</a> Face Book - <a href="http://www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok">www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok</a> You Tube - <a href="http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCXn52ouOrXoQ">www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCXn52ouOrXoQ</a>	
<b>Those Who Serve</b> <b>Sunday Morning, Nov. 26, 2017</b> First Prayer - Earl Reed    Closing Prayer - Patrick King Communion - Patrick King    Offering - Landry Brewer <b>Sunday Afternoon, Nov. 26, 2017</b> First Prayer - Landry Brewer    Closing Prayer - Jerry Brewer	<b>Records - Nov. 19</b> Bible Class.....15 Morning Worship.....16 Afternoon Worship.....12 Contribution.....\$187.00
<b>Weekly Meeting Times</b> Sunday Morning Bible Classes.....9:30 Sunday Morning Worship.....10:30 Sunday Afternoon Worship.....5:00	



# Sound Doctrine

**“But speak thou the things that become sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1)**

Published Weekly By The Northeast church of Christ  
P. O. Box 267, Elk City, Oklahoma 73648

Volume 12, No. 38
Nov. 26, 2017

## “Liberalism”

*Jerry C. Brewer*

The words, “liberal” and “liberalism” are used quite frequently to describe certain persons and practices in the church, as well as in political discourse. What is meant when we use those terms?

As a philosophy, liberalism abhors restraint. In religion, liberalism rejects *Biblical* restraint. Eve was the first liberal when she ignored God’s restraining injunction in Genesis 2:16-17 and ate of the forbidden fruit. Her desires, rather than God’s word, became the standard upon which her decision was made because, for the liberal, there is no higher authority than his own consciousness. Liberalism is a system of subjectivism. Rejecting a “thus saith the Lord”, the liberal becomes a “law unto himself”, subject to no higher law than his own feelings, prejudices, desires, and experiences.

Liberalism also motivated Cain to substitute things of his own choice in worship to God instead of what God had commanded.

And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering. But unto Cain and his offering he had not respect (Gen. 4:3-5).

Why was Abel’s sacrifice accepted and Cain’s rejected? Did God make an arbitrary choice in the matter? Certainly not, for God “is no respecter of persons” (Acts 10:34). God commanded both brothers to offer a blood sacrifice. That is obvious when one considers the statement in the New Testament that says, “By faith Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh,” (Heb. 11:4). To do a thing “by faith” is to do a thing as God directs in His word. “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by

the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). Abel made his sacrifice “by faith” and Cain did not. Cain’s sacrifice was rejected because he was a liberal. He believed he could substitute something of his own choice for what God commanded, and that is precisely the way liberalism today views the church of Christ. Like Cain’s, the liberal’s view of the church is faithless, and is rooted in rebellion against divine restraint.

Liberalism also manifested itself in the 19<sup>th</sup> century through the establishment American Christian Missionary Society in the work of the church, and the introduction of mechanical instruments of music in the worship of the church. That same practice of loosening where God has bound by Eve, Cain, and so-called “progressives” in the 19<sup>th</sup> century characterizes liberalism in our century.

Liberal theology today is all that it was a hundred years ago and carries all its baggage. Our contemporary, liberal brethren are mesmerized by the concepts of postmodern theology. They are engaged in a conscious mutilation of the real meaning of Scripture. Most of them seem to be ignorant of the fact that liberal theology as understood today has its roots in the old modernism which dominated the theological scene at the turn of the century (J. E. Choate “The Poisoned Wells of Digression,” [http://www.bible-infonet.org/ff/articles/church/110\\_12\\_14.htm](http://www.bible-infonet.org/ff/articles/church/110_12_14.htm)).

Liberalism disregards the apostolic injunction that says, “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks unto God and the Father by him” (Col. 3:17). “In the name of the Lord Jesus” means by the authority of Christ as expressed in the New Testament and “in word or deed” means whatever is preached or practiced must be expressly authorized by His authority. Like Cain, modern liberals recognize no divine restraint in the church’s origin and nature. Because it regards man, rather than God, as the source of authority in religion, liberalism views the church as a humanly devised denomination. With such a view of the church, liberalism then opens a Pandora’s box of human innovation in the work and worship of the church that is limited only by man’s imagination, and in so doing brings a curse upon itself (Gal. 1:6-9).

## God Created Male And Female

**Jerry C. Brewer**

Institutions are the sum of their parts and reflect no higher virtues than those that inhere in those parts. Thus, the vices and virtues of civil society only mirror those of its components. An unholy restlessness and unhappiness with God’s order that had been stirring for decades in American society erupted in the 1960s in what was termed a “sexual revolution.” Since that time, we have witnessed a steady decline in morality because the individuals who compose that society have rejected God’s absolute law of marriage.

One manifestation of our moral decline is the increasing rate of teenage illegitimacy. In 2005, the percentage of children born to unwed parents in Oklahoma rose from 25 to 28 percent, which means that more than one fourth of all babies born in Oklahoma were illegiti-

mate. When children bear children out of wedlock at increasingly higher rates, sodomy is approved and celebrated in the highest levels of government, and the word “family” is redefined to mean “two mothers,” “two fathers,” or “a father and a mother” it ought to be evident to anyone who can see through a ladder that we are swimming in a societal cesspool of immorality. How have we come to this? The answer is in the Word of God:

Because that when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. ...And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind to do those things which are not convenient (Rom. 1:21-22, 28).

Paul’s description of the depravity into which the ancient world sank vividly describes 21st century America. Because *individuals* in our society have rejected God’s plan for the family, we are in the midst of a disintegrating *civil* order. The family is the basic unit of any society—the foundation upon which it stands—and no society can long endure when the family disintegrates. The only hope for moral strength in society is for the homes which undergird it to be strong, and they cannot be strong unless they are patterned after God’s order.

When the Pharisees tempted Jesus, asking, “Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause,” He replied, “Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?” (Mat. 19:4-5). God who created mankind ordained marriage “in the beginning” for the best interest of the race.

God said, “let us make *man*, then proceeded to create two genders whom He called “man.” “Man” in this passage is the antecedent of both “him” and “them”—God created man (him) as male and female (them). The female is comprehended in both terms. The Greek has three words that are translated “man”—*anthropos*, *aner*, and *arsen*—the first meaning “mankind” and the latter two meaning a “male” (James Strong, *The New Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of The Bible, Greek Dictionary of The New Testament*). The Hebrew has two such words—*adam*, meaning “mankind” and *iysh*, meaning a “male.” (Strong, *Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary*) When Moses was inspired to write the account of the creation of the human race, he was given the word *adam* which, like *anthropos* in the Greek, comprehends both sexes.

God then took Eve from Adam’s rib and gave her to Adam for his wife and pronounced His immutable law of marriage which Jesus quoted to the Pharisees (Gen. 2:24). The home, composed of male and female, was the first of God’s institutions and serves in this earthly life for the benefit of all humankind. As the home is the foundation of an orderly society, so one male and one female, joined together for life, constitute the foundation of the home itself. No orderly home can exist upon any other foundation. So-called “marriages” between sodomites were never part of God’s law, nor does He condone such perversion today.