

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2025.12.28

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Brad Bunyard

Title: Evangelists

Recording:



For so hath the Lord
commanded us,
saying, I have set
thee to be a light of
the Gentiles, that
thou shouldest be
for salvation unto
the ends of the earth.

Acts 13:47



Speaker-PM: Patrick Hite

Title: A More Convenient Time

Recording:



AND AS HE REASONED OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS, TEMPERANCE, AND
JUDGMENT TO COME, FELIX TREMBLED,
AND ANSWERED, GO THY WAY FOR THIS
TIME; WHEN I HAVE A CONVENIENT
SEASON, I WILL CALL FOR THEE.
ACTS 24:25 KJV

Graciously Unapologetic, 12/29/2025 By Sam Bunyard

Many who were present at the feeding of the five thousand continued to seek Jesus, but He was not impressed with their motivation. He told them, "You seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled" (Jn. 6:26). Jesus was not interested in people with these hearts following Him as disciples. Later, He purposefully increased the difficulty of His teaching to see who really cared about knowing the truth, and who was only interested in the physical/social benefits of discipleship.

"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws Him; and I will raise him up in the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore, everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me" (Jn. 6:44-45). Jesus made it clear that the only way to become His disciple was to first learn the word of God. This also means that those who follow God's word accurately are those who become disciples!

Jesus went on to talk about the meal that people should be concerned with, not bread and fish, but a spiritual meal of Christ's flesh and blood (6:53-58)! This is to say that we should completely rely on Jesus for sustenance, like the Israelites in the wilderness (vs. 32-33). This is what true discipleship really looks like – not a preoccupation with physical benefits, but a real concern for our relationship with the Savior.

Many complained at this teaching, and though Jesus recognized that they were offended (vs61), He did not walk it back or apologize. Jesus wanted the kind of disciples that were willing to keep coming back to Him for the truths to sustain them (vs68-69)! Like Jesus, our words should be with grace (Col. 4:6). But we should never apologize for the demands of truth – and we must prioritize Him as the food that gives us life!

When Would I Split a Church? 3/1/1993 by Floyd Chappellear

There are a few things that God hates. One of them is "he that soweth discord among the brethren" (Proverbs 6:19). That should be a sobering thought. Being responsible for a division is a terrible thing.

On the other hand, what God desires for his children is to seek peace and unity actively. To accomplish this is no easy task, to be sure. In fact, the Lord says that we must be willing to "endeavour to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). Harmony within a church may be difficult to achieve, but it is possible where men and women love the Lord and His church. In view of the thoughts of the first two paragraphs, one is made to wonder what "issues" one would be willing to split a church over. From my perspective, there aren't very many.

I would never split a church over a matter of opinion (or one that I perceive as such).

I would never split one over that which I regard as "semantics."

I would never split one to keep a preaching job.

I would never split one over a matter of faith that does not require me to violate my conscience.

I would never split His people because of "respect of persons."

When faithful saints truly love God's work and His people, they will do all they can to avoid splitting a church. What, then, does this say about those who have few qualms about splitting a church? 'Nuff said.