

# Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2025.05.04

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## Sermon recordings

Scan the QR code below with your phone's cam, or visit [oakgrovecofc.org/sermons](http://oakgrovecofc.org/sermons).

**Speaker-AM:** Steve Helterbrand

**Title:** The Cross

**Recording:**



**Speaker-PM:** Patrick Hite

**Title:** Preparation

**Recording:**



But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided to you.

**Matthew 6:33**

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but to us which are saved it is the power of God.

—1 Corinthians 1:18

## News

- Gospel Meeting here with Andy Cantrell June 8 – June 12.
- Gospel Meeting at Hackmann Road, May 30- June 1 with Wilson Adams.

### **Desire and Behavior, 5/1/2025 By Sam Bunyard**

“What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man” (Mk. 7:20-23).

Some say it's not what you do, but who you are. Yet what you do says a lot about who you are! Behavior indicates the kind of heart we have! Thus Jesus said, “by their fruits you will know them” (Mt. 7:20). People with good hearts don't produce rotten fruit, but fruit of the Spirit (Mt. 7:15-20; Gal. 5:19-23)! Wolves do a great job of looking like sheep, but none can pass the fruit test!

So yes, our outward actions are very indicative of what kind of heart we have! But outward actions aren't the only consideration. We can follow the letter of the law and walk the line, but still not have the right kind of heart about it.

The Pharisees understood they shouldn't go around killing people they didn't like, but they were ok wishing they could (Mt. 5:21-22)! They understood they shouldn't cheat on their wives, but they were ok fantasizing about it (Mt. 5:27-28)! If we are to be disciples, we must go deeper than they did (Mt. 5:20)!

Being a disciple isn't just about doing what God wants all the time. It is about changing our desires to be closer to God's desires. This is not an easy process and doesn't happen all at once! It's part of the growth of every Christian. Sin is a result of having the wrong desires and acting upon them (Jas. 1:14-15). Discipleship is about denying our desires and replacing them with Christ's desires (Mt. 16:24).

Let's grow past a hesitant outward obedience, and into obedience from the heart!

### **Authority of Examples, 5/1/2025 By Warren King**

Many find fault with the CENI approach (command, example, and necessary inference) to establishing authority. “Not all commands in the Bible are for us,” they say (true – think ‘build an ark’). “Necessary inference is too vague,” they say (which is only true if we ignore the ‘necessary’ part – which means an inference demanded by the text, as Jesus demonstrated – Mk 12:26-27).

“Examples in the Bible are just descriptive, not prescriptive,” they say. In other words, the examples we read in the Bible are just there for informational purposes, not for the purpose of communicating the will of God. But is this true?

Paul wrote to the church at Corinth that the OT examples of Israel's sins were written for us (1 Co 10:6-11). And he told the Philippians to follow his own example (3:17). Clearly examples are more than theater.

Many would undoubtedly prefer if God simply gave us a list of do's and don'ts. But He didn't. Instead, He communicated His will to us in a lively narrative, full of setting and characters and situations – all with a message for the “honest and good heart” (Lu 8:15), that we might “Discern what is the will of God” (Ro 12:2). Those looking for His will can find it; those looking for an excuse can find that, too.