

## Youth NEWS



**Today!** Plan to attend the May Youth/Family Devotional hosted by the FitzSimmons Family this evening following services. Please bring desserts or drinks.

- **Class promotion 1st grade through high school begins Sunday, June 4**
- **Area-wide Thursday Teen Summer Series “Putting God First” begins June 8. See full schedule on hallway bulletin board.**
- **Hensel Camp, June 11-17**
- **Peach Valley Christian Youth Camp July 16-21**



## Education NEWS

### In Search of the Lord’s Way

The lesson for Sunday, June 4 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, “A Friend to Jesus.” Everyone needs friends. The best friend you’ll ever have is Jesus Christ. Jesus knows what it means to sacrifice himself out of love for His friends, and the Lord Jesus wants to have you as one of His friends.

### SUNDAYS

**Bible Classes .....9:00 AM**  
**Morning Worship .....10:00 AM**  
**Evening Worship ..... 5:00 PM**

### Tuesdays (September through May)

**Men’s Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM**  
**Ladies’ Bible Study..... 10:00 AM**

### WEDNESDAYS

**Midweek Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM**

### EVANGELIST

Ronnie Scherffius

### SUPPORTED WORKS

James and Emily Cammock  
*Hamilton, New Zealand*

John Moore

*Bible Land Passages*

Cecil Shaw

*Ocho Rios, Jamaica*

Student Support

*Southwest School of Bible Studies*

THE MIDTOWN MESSENGER IS THE WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST, 5901 N. MAIN, VICTORIA, TEXAS 77904 . 361-573-0030  
[www.midtowncoc.org](http://www.midtowncoc.org)

NEWS AND  
INFORMATION  
FOR MID-  
TOWN  
MEMBERS AND  
FRIENDS

# The Midtown CHURCH OF CHRIST Messenger

MAY 28, 2017

“CLIQUEISH CHRISTIANITY” by Ronnie Scherffius

**C**lique—we’ve all heard the term and generally when we hear it a negative mindset takes over. The word *clique* is defined as “a narrow circle of persons associated by common interests or for the accomplishment of a common purpose; generally used in a bad sense” (Webster’s Dictionary, 1913). The etymology of *clique* is interesting; it is from an Old French term meaning “a sharp noise” but also a “latch” or “bolt of a door.” It has been suggested that in English *clique* carries the sense of either “latching together” or perhaps “bolting/locking others out.” Whatever its original use, today it refers to small exclusive groups drawn together because of common interests and are not openly receptive.

We all remember high school; all of the popular kids, that guy/girl that everyone wanted to be, the best athletes, the best looking boy and prettiest girl were in the clique. In fact, you were nobody if you were not in some kind of clique. Admittedly, the term *clique* is a bit overused, after all, not every group is a clique. Just because people are drawn together because of interests or similarities does not make them cliquish, neither does a clique exist just because a person does not fit into a group. It is the exclusive and restrictive nature that makes a clique.

What about in the Lord’s church? Let’s just make it personal—what about the church at MidTown? Have we allowed cliques to develop among us that hinder us from being a true Christian family? Christians are people and no doubt it may sometimes be the case that we associate with members with whom we feel most comfortable. Perhaps it is the similarities in work, family, or personal interests that draws certain people together. It may also be that one’s age, marital status, education, social

or financial status causes Christians (perhaps unknowingly) to develop into pockets or groups that in time can become exclusive in nature—*cliques* among God’s people.

Cliques forming in the local congregation lead to favoritism, politics, slighting brethren, and let’s just be honest—sinning against others by judging them unworthy of our love, devotion, and fellowship. James admonished, “My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons [*partiality*]. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? [*judges with evil thoughts—NKJV*]” (James 2:1-4) Notice the concluding thought here, some Christians had *become judges with evil thoughts*. In other words, from corrupt reasoning (grounded in a cliquish and/or prejudice attitude) they had

unjustly judged others. How can brotherly love continue if we look at others as less than ourselves, or if we show preference to some over others? Additionally, what is the motivation to save souls when one holds a cliquish view of Christianity?

One of the great dangers of *cliques* (whether they be of an exclusive nature or simply groups of people associating because of similar interests) is the neglect of brethren. Furthermore, an atmosphere is created from which a greater fault of partiality, preference, and even prejudice can develop. Thus, Paul admonished Timothy, "I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another [*prejudice*], doing nothing by partiality [*preferring one to another*]" (1 Tim. 5:21).

Another passage of Scripture which, if Christians would follow with great earnestness, would completely eliminate the atmosphere and existence of cliques (whether perceived or real) is found in the book Romans: "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another" (12:10). Consider the ending of this admonition, *in honor preferring one another*; it likely does not mean what you perceive! The term *honor* here carries with it the sense of giving honor to whom honor is due and refers especially to our brothers and sisters in Christ, but the phrase *preferring one another* has the idea of setting the example! In other words we should go before one another setting an example of honoring each other. With such an attitude among Christian brethren no clique could possibly find a home!

We should each ask our self these questions: "Do cliques exist among the brethren at MidTown?" or "Is there a perception of cliques among the brethren at MidTown?" Either way, whether perceived or real, **IF** in your own mind you answered yes to either of these questions then you must also ask yourself the following question: Am I a source or part of *Cliquish Christianity* among my brethren?

To eliminate even the possibility of cliques among us—here are a couple of suggestions, first, during worship services sit in a different place with different brothers and sisters for one month. The next month sit in a different place and the next month a different place. Second, when we have potluck, do not sit with the same people every time but associate yourself with all of your brothers and sisters! In doing so we may discover that the greatest similarity and interest we share is Jesus Christ!

**2017 MIDTOWN SUMMER SERIES:  
ADULT WEDNESDAY CLASS**

**"HEAVEN'S VOCABULARY:  
Words & Phrases of  
Spiritual Significance"**

6/7 *Matt Gibson of Riverside church of Christ, "Faith, Hope & Love"*

6/14 *Bryant Siegel, "Preach the Word"*

6/21 *Jake Fox, "Grace"*

6/28 *Daniel Garza of Adams Street church of Christ, "The Precious Blood of Christ"*

7/5 *Justin Guess of Mathis church of Christ, "Heaven/Hell"*

7/12 *Ronnie Scherffius, "Mystery"*

7/19 *Mark FitzSimmons, "Advocate"*

7/26 *Lupe Escojido, "Hades"*

8/2 *Patrick Hammack of Odem church of Christ, "Repentance/ Righteousness"*

8/9 *Will Cleveland, "Walk"*

8/16 *Adrian Cannady, "Redemption"*

**News**

**& ACTIVITIES**

**Today!**

Ronnie will answer the following bible questions during the evening service:

1. Revelation 20:1-3 spoke of Satan's imprisonment. Besides the figurative language, what was supposed to be the literal application of what took place?
2. A question about the Syrophoenician woman (Mark 7:24-30)...
3. It is a "tradition" at MidTown to say or make it known that the Lord's Supper has ended before the offering is taken. Aren't some traditions just not necessary, for instance, we don't distinguish between the other elements of service, (i.e., prayer, singing) Besides, don't the ones taking the Lord's Supper know the difference already?
4. 1 John 5:16 — What is the sin "not unto death" that we should pray for and life will be given? What is the "sin unto death," for which we should not pray for?

**Monday, May 29**

Everyone is invited to an Ice Cream Party on Memorial Day at 5:30 p.m. at the church building. Please bring dessert or ice-cream.

**Wednesday, May 31**

Plan to attend that Fifth Wednesday Singing. There will be no bible classes.

**Saturday, June 3**

There will be a Men's Breakfast followed by a work day.

- Brookdale Team #4 will meet.

**Keep in  
PRAYER**

**MidTown  
Members:**

Buster Bailey  
Jeff Cannady  
Les Daltry  
Jan Farris  
Faye Henderson  
Dee Gilpatrick

**& Friends  
Family:**

Victor Benitez,  
*brother of Virginia Escojido*  
Bert Haynes,  
*father of Pam Stryker*  
Kim Neel-Farthing,  
*daughter of Joyce*  
Gillette Ferguson,  
*brother in Vernal, Utah*  
June Green,  
*mother of Janice FitzSimmons*  
Amy Jamison,  
*daughter of Terry*  
Keith Lempa,  
*son-in-law of Larry Nuckles*  
Rose Leske,  
*sister-in-law of Sandra Marie*  
Barbara Lopez,  
*mother of Rosalba Barton*  
Liz Lopez,  
*friend of Nina Siegel*

Betty Key  
Kathy Laws  
Susie Mesa  
Betty Mabe  
Sandy Malone  
Ann Pantel  
Glenodine Pitts  
Angela Sneeringer  
Mickey Tisue  
Clark Withers

Janell Marshall  
*mother of Karon Barton's  
sister-in-law*  
Amanda Mueller  
*sister of Amy Harris*  
Fred Porter,  
*brother-in-law of Della Rampley*  
Madeline Posey,  
*family of Julie Posey*  
Sarah Randle,  
*mother of Steve*  
Polly Ray,  
*aunt of Connie Cleveland*  
Scott Reeves,  
*son of Sam and Leta*  
*brother of Sherry Lynch*  
Gary Rush,  
*friend of the Arnots*  
Sammy Snead,  
*brother-in-law of Ronnie Scherffius*  
Prem Verma,  
*father-in-law of Archana*  
Kennedy Young, Sr.,  
*uncle of Naomi Flonnory*

Records You Helped Make  
For the Week of  
MAY 21 2017

**Attendance**

Sunday Bible Class.....136  
Sunday Morning Assembly.....156  
Sunday Evening Assembly.....114  
Wednesday Attendance.....104

**Offering: \$4,928.46**