

## SUNDAY MORNING

### Announcements

Bill Brittenham

### Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

### Lord's Supper

Rodney Ellis      Dave Massey  
Cory Easley      Sonny Monaghan

### Prayers

Mark Davis      Jerry Schnelle

## SUNDAY EVENING

### Announcements

Bill Brittenham

### Song Leader

Jack Calvert

### Lord's Supper

Rodney Ellis      Dave Massey

### Prayers

Jon Barry      Pete Rowland

## WEDNESDAY

### Announcements

Clay Morris

### Song Leader

Cory Easley

### Prayers

Rodney Ellis      Jackie Jamison

### Invitation

Bill Brittenham

## ABOUT US

### Elders

Jack Calvert      Rodney Ellis

### Deacons

Jon Barry      Bill Brittenham  
Mike Davis      Dave Massey

### 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.

[WWW.TXKCHURCH.COM](http://WWW.TXKCHURCH.COM)

## 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; Acts 8:35-30

**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  
2301 Franklin Drive ■ Texarkana, AR 71854 ■ (870) 772-0746



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## Whose Business Is It How I Live?

Bryan Garlock

Whenever sin is present, too often self-justification for that sin abounds. One such argument often used by people, especially brethren, is that it is none of the church's business how they live their lives. This is the typical response to brethren reaching out to those who are unruly. On the surface these "plausible arguments" (Col. 2.4 ESV) sound persuasive. However, God says otherwise.

**It is God's business how I live.** The inspired writer wrote, "And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account" (Heb. 4.13). Wisdom teaches us, "The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil" (Eccl. 12.13-14). Further Paul told the Corinthians, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil" (2 Cor. 5.10). There is

no doubt about it. Everything we do both privately and publicly is open for our Creator to see. We cannot hide our thoughts, actions, speech, etc. If everything we do is to be done to His glory, then it is His business how we live (1 Cor. 10.31; Col. 3.17).

**It is the church's business.** Those who argue that it is none of anyone's business how they live will concede that God is their judge and claim that "only God has a right to judge my sins or lifestyle". Though often adamantly refuted by those justifying their sinful lifestyle and erroneously so, God says the church has a right to the business of those who claim to be Christians.

Consider the adulterer mentioned in the Corinthian letter. What if he had argued that it was none of the church's business, let alone Paul's business that he was practicing sin? Yet Paul had already "judged" the matter and made it known that the church was to withdraw from the brother who was living in sin. No wonder He wrote concerning this brother, "For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church

## FAMILY TALK

It was great to see all the **Meadors** back Wednesday night.

**Melvin Potts** continues to recuperating from his back surgery.

Please remember **Joey Avance** in your prayers.

**Sherry Brittenham's** sinus surgery went well. She is still in some pain.

**Dee Minter** had several teeth removed this week.

**Dave Massey** has been out with allergies.

**Sydney Rankin** has been sick this past week.

Check out our **Facebook** page, "**Franklin Drive Church of Christ**" ([www.facebook.com/txkchurch](http://www.facebook.com/txkchurch)).



And don't forget our WEB site.

**txkchurch.com**

### Front Page Article (concl.)

whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. Purge the evil person from among you" (See 1 Cor. 5).

Consider that our "rights" in Christ can become stumbling blocks to others. For instance, in the first century as Jews were converting to Christ, some were having trouble with the foods they could now eat (in opposition to the foods they had to refrain from as a Jew). Paul said, "Take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble" (1 Cor. 8.9-13). It seems as a Christian "our business" is pretty important.

Consider the teachings that we should share in joy and sufferings together. "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together" (1 Cor. 12.26) and "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep" (Rom. 12.15). For us to share in the ups and downs of life, we must intimately know each other and each other's business! It is impossible otherwise.

The Scriptures are replete with passages commanding the church to hold her members accountable. Concerning the elders, God said, "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls..." (Heb. 13.17). Concerning the brethren, Paul commanded, "if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should

restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6.1-2). Two things are necessary when dealing with brethren: help to restore those in sin (requires "getting in one's business") and bearing one another's burdens (again, requires understanding one's business). Elsewhere Jesus said, "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector" (Matt. 18.15-17). Notice that when one brother sins against another, that business remains between them unless the brother in sin does not repent. In that case, Jesus says, it eventually becomes everyone's business! Further, brethren, we should be thankful to God that others are concerned for our souls.

Paul said, "Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us," and "For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat," and "...If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed..." (2 Thess. 3.6, 10, 13-15). Brethren, the scriptures on this point are overwhelming! None of these passages make any sense whatsoever if we do not have the right to be in the business of each other's life. We must understand that

accountability between brethren is vital in keeping the church pure.

**It is our neighbor's business.** How we conduct ourselves as followers of Christ will influence people for either good or bad. Notice the admonitions: "...walk properly before outsiders..." (1 Thess. 4.12), "...let your light shine before others... (Matt. 5.16), "...keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable..." (1 Peter 2.12), "...walk in wisdom toward outsiders..." (Col. 4.2) and finally we learn that if and when our conduct does not match what we believe and teach, "The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you" (Rom. 2.24).

**It is our business.** God teaches us that what we do is our business. "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? —unless indeed you fail to meet the test!" (2 Cor. 13.5). Elsewhere Paul said we ought to aspire to live quietly, mind our own affairs and work with our hands (1 Thess. 4.11). To mind our own business means not to be busybodies or gossips (see 2 Thess. 3.11; 1 Tim. 5.13). It does not negate the commands to expose a sinful lifestyle. Finally, Paul taught, "For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's" (Rom. 14.7-8). Remember that we are the Lord's. We have been bought with a price (1 Cor. 6.20). Let us live like it!

It is absolutely necessary that we live our lives with the understanding that what we do is not only seen by God, but by others. God is clear on this matter. Our sin and lifestyle is everyone's business! BG