

**August 1, 2021**

## Looking for the Good

*by Rickie Jenkins*

Look for the good, the church will only be what we seek to see. Christ looked for the good in people. Remember the woman who was washing his feet? While Simon thought she was despicable, Jesus saw her differently. Paul looked for the good in the church at Corinth. Despite the fact they were influenced to turn against him, he reminds them repeatedly that he told others good things about them (2 Corinthians).

Consider, shepherds need to look for the good in the flock. It is too easy to just settle into a bunker mentality. That is, when problem after problem bombards, just pull in and hide. It is also easy to measure people by their past failures. If a local church goes off the rails a little bit, it is easy to judge this church to do the same. Wait a minute, people can change. Their failures of the past do not mean they are that way presently. And just because one congregation strayed does not mean another will. Each, the individual and the congregation, must be taken on their own merits. Shepherds do not have the luxury of jaded eyes. They must always be looking for the good in the flock. The flock will only be what shepherds try to see.

By contrast, the flock must be looking for the good in the shepherds. It may seem surprising, but shepherds are people too. They have flaws and faults too. Shepherds want to be seen through eyes of the good they do, not

through jaded eyes. Just because I may have had a bad experience with a shepherd in another place, does not mean our shepherds will be the same way. Shepherds need the trust of the flock. They need the confidence of the people. At times we may not agree with their judgment. At times we may not understand why they acted a particular way. We need to realize they may possibly know something we do not. We need to be looking at the good for our shepherds. Shepherds will only be what the flock tries to see.

Also, brother to brother, sister to sister and brother to sister. We need to work on only seeing the good. Anyone can find faults. It takes the eyes of Jesus to see the good in one another. Yes, we may have been wronged. We may have been hurt. But the Holy Spirit still said, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgive one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Eph. 4:32). No local church will exist peacefully without eyes to see the good in others. Even if there is a disagreement, we must still look for the good. The church will only be what we try to see.

But wait, someone says, "That sounds a lot like just ignoring the wrongs and the sins people." In the same chapter that says we are to "bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, endure all things," the Holy Spirit said, "Love does not rejoice in wrong but rejoices in

## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

**We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.**

## Important Dates

**Bulverde is having their summer series "Gifts We Can Use For God" each Thursday through August 19.**

**Youth Lectures - O'Connor Road, San Antonio, August 6-8**

**Mark your calendar! Our next gospel meeting will be September 12-15 with Mike Walls.**

*If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.*

truth.” We can be honest about the flaws and sins of others while seeing only the good. We are not totally depraved people. There is good to see despite the sin or mistakes we may make.

I can seek to see nothing else. When I fail, I feel miserable. To do otherwise leads to cynicism, jadedness, bitterness and eventually hate. Yes, I will sin. Yes, you will sin. But Christ died for us. So, there must be some good there. We are only going to see it if we are looking for it. The church will be no better or different than what we are looking for. The same is true of the family relationship.

## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** is at home recovering from surgery and seems to be doing a little better.

**Doug Adair** is struggling with back pain. His second opinion still recommended surgery.

**Jerry Richardson** is still undergoing cancer treatments.

**Nancy Richardson** is doing better but still dealing with breathing problems.

**Karen Hallmark** has improved but is still struggling with her health and her eyes, as well as asthma.

**Dinah Williams** continues to be homebound due to mobility issues. She had a small fire at her house last week and is staying at the Comfort Inn while repairs are being made.

**Bobbie Gibbons** continues to be limited by balance and breathing issues.

**Tyler Hairston** has cancer and has exhausted all conventional treatments.

**Dorothy Steadman** is continuing to recover from her recent stroke. She is staying with Hank in Houston.

**Audria Trammel** will be undergoing a biopsy August 3.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

*“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”*  
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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