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# CHRISTIAN ARRAY

RESTORING THE RESTORATION  
IN OUR GENERATION

AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION IN SUPPORT OF STRICT CONSTRUCTIONIST BIBLICAL TEACHINGS

NUMBER 14

MARCH, 1991

AN OPEN LETTER TO:

"REV." DOUGLAS HARPER  
ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"REV." TOM TEWELL  
MEMORIAL DRIVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"I find it totally unacceptable. It advocates sexual behavior that the Christian community for nearly 2000 years has viewed as immoral." "Rev." Douglas Harper, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

"I believe the ordination of homosexuals into the ministry is not in accordance with biblical authority. The report opened the door to allowing the church to condone sexual relationships outside of marriage. I believe marriage is the foundation of sexual intimacy. Justice-love is a cop-out. ... congregants are angry and embarrassed... preached against the report..." "Rev." Tom Tewell, Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church.

"fundamentally good with some flaws in it." "Rev." Doug Ensminger, Central Presbyterian Church.

As you were quoted and was discussed on page E1 of the March 9, 1991 Houston Chronicle, you are discussing a new Presbyterian report which "recommends that the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. alter its traditional morality to allow premarital and extramarital sex... calls the church to 'justice-love', or an egalitarian system that accords homosexuals and women the same rights as men. All persons, whether heterosexual or homosexual, whether single or partnered, have a moral right to experience justice-love in their lives and to be sexual persons. ... recommends ordaining homosexuals... should develop services for blessing same-sex unions..."

The question is, what is your problem? You seem to be generally complaining that the Presbyterian church is not following what the Bible said 2000 years ago, but is rather choosing for itself what it will preach in the future. All that this means is that the Presbyterian Church plans to teach something that is nonscriptural.

Does not the Presbyterian Church already believe in the "four pronged approach" as a basis in determining what to believe and teach?

Are not the "four prongs" of this approach scripture, tradition, experience, and reason? Can not this be reasonably stated as God's scripture, man's tradition, man's experience, and man's reason? Do not tradition, experience, and reason clearly

teach by implication that they are unscriptural? If something were taught in the scriptures, wouldn't anyone simply say that it is in the scriptures? This means that God is only 1/4 of the Presbyterian formula for decision making. Each of you as a minister of the Presbyterian Church teach the correctness of this philosophy by your roles and position in your denomination.

Let us look further. The Presbyterian Church teaches sprinkling. The Bible teaches the Baptism by immersion. (Acts 8:38)

The Presbyterian Church teaches the sprinkling of babies. The Bible teaches baptism after the repentance of sins. (Acts 2:38)

The Presbyterian Church teaches that you cannot fall from grace. The Bible teaches that you can fall from grace. (Gal. 5:4)

The Presbyterian Church teaches it is O.K. to have a man made name for the church and divisions in the church. The Bible teaches to not follow man made names and to not have divisions. (I Cor. 1:10-17)

The Presbyterian Church teaches that they can update the teaching of the Bible by reason, tradition, and experience. The Bible teaches that anyone who does not abide in the teachings of Christ does not have God. (II John 9, Rev. 22:18-19)

The point of this is that you need to decide who you are.

If you want a religion where man's reason, experience, and tradition are followed by a majority vote, you need a new attitude. You need not be mad. You need to simply state your personal preference, let the committees vote, and happily go along with the majority rule.

You need to follow "Rev." Doug Ensminger's lead and start promoting the new rules as "fundamentally good with some flaws in it". You need to get with the program.

If you choose to do this, just do one thing. Don't imply to those putting their trust in your lead that it has anything to do with God's scriptures. Premarital sex, extramarital sex, homosexual conduct, and same sex marriages are so far from being

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compatible with the scriptures that no one would need scriptural references to know that they are wrong.

Tell those who are following your lead that you have chosen to abandon the teaching of God's word in favor of participating in a denomination who accumulates teachers according to their own desires. (II Tim. 4:3) Tell them to pray that when they get to judgment day that there will be a jury, and the jury will be loaded with Presbyterians. Tell them that if judgment day is according to the scriptures, they are going to be in trouble.

However, if you are going to complain that the proposed new Presbyterian practices are not according to scriptures, your complaint is only valid if you are willing to follow the scriptures. You need to start following the God's scriptures, not man's traditions, man's reason, and/or man's experiences. I have listed several items where the teachings of the Presbyterian Church are clearly not in accordance with the New Testament. How many more are there?

I would like to make a request of you:

1. Let me know if any of the items mentioned above as in the scriptures are not as stated. Let me know and I will print an apology on the front page of this newsletter.
2. If they are as I have stated and you can give a logical reason for not submitting to the scriptures rather than personal preferences, let me know and I will print the reasons on the front page of this newsletter.
3. If they are as I have stated, let me know any reason that makes it O.K. to preach by word and example otherwise to those following your lead. Again, I will print any reasons on the front page of the next newsletter.
4. If you can give no reason for not following the scriptures, will you search the scriptures, determine what the scriptures say to do, and do it?
5. If you submit to what the scriptures say, will you use your influence to preach the

simple New Testament truth to your congregation?

Nothing can be more important than this. Each of you are in very influential positions acting as the spiritual leaders in your respective congregations. Your submission is not a solitary act. You set a major example to all of your congregation. If you are wrong, you are very wrong. Can you afford to not follow the scriptures? II John 9 says you cannot afford to abide in other teachings. James 3:1 says that you are personally under the gun.

I pray that you will consider these words and throw them away. You will not get to heaven on my opinions or anyone else's. Pick up your Bible and read the scriptures and learn only truth from the scriptures. It is my personal conclusion that a fresh study will reveal what is generally called the church of Christ today. As you can tell, I am a member of a local church of Christ.

Do it for yourself, your congregation, and me. If there is any way in which the church of Christ does not submit to the scriptures, let me know, I will print it. If there is a group closer to the scriptures, I will join it. If the church of Christ most closely follows the scriptural teachings but needs improvements, I will publish it. Your church and mine teach a very different form of Christianity. Both of us cannot be right. If I am wrong I would really appreciate your assisting me in finding the truth. I assume that you have the same attitude.

If the church of Christ most closely follows the scriptures, and the Presbyterian Church has departed from the scriptures more than the Galatians who were falling from grace in Gal. 5:4, I pray that you will consider submitting to simple New Testament teachings.

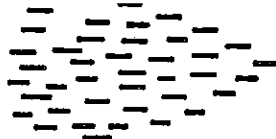
Please call or write at any time.

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## THE FLOCK



Sheep without an effective leadership tend to mill about making little progress toward any goal. Sometimes they just fall asleep.



Sheep with an effective leadership tend to move together towards a goal. Minor differences are not always solved, but become unimportant in the mutual striving toward a common goal.



Guess what the results say is missing from this picture.



# CHRISTIAN ARRAY



## 1991 Spring High School Weekend

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

### APRIL 5-7, 1991

#### Friday, April 5

- Registration, Welcome Center, Zellner Hall, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Attend select classes
- Visit Admissions, Financial Aid, Business, or Personnel offices
- Attend daily assembly, Moody Coliseum, 11 a.m.
- Campus tours (on request), Welcome Center, Zellner Hall
- Devotional, Campus Center, 9:30 p.m.

#### Saturday, April 6

- Registration, Campus Center, 8 a.m.-noon
- Welcome Assembly, Moody Coliseum, 10:30 a.m.
- Music auditions and twirler/flag tryouts\*
- Parents Reception
- Athletic visits
- College open house (hosted by ACU's five colleges)
- Academic advising
- Financial aid seminars
- 1991-92 ACU junior varsity cheerleader finals\*\*
- Campus tours
- Honors Program
- Youth Ministers Program
- High school singing group competition\*\*\*
- Entertainment features (Flying Cats, HIS Singers, '91 Drama Spectacular, Reflections, Daybreak, Seekers of the Word, In Him)

- Jazz band concert
- Musical concert
- Devotional, Beauchamp Amphitheatre, 9:30 p.m.

#### Sunday, April 7

- Early departure breakfast, Campus Center, 7 a.m.
- Worship and communion service, Biblical Studies Building, Beauchamp Amphitheatre, 8 a.m. (*Speaker: Doug Conder*)

#### Housing

Make your own arrangements or call us at 1-800-888-0228 or (915) 674-2650 (Admissions). If you stay in a dorm, be sure to bring your own bedding and bath accessories.

#### Meals (all you can eat!)

Continental breakfast .....	\$2.10
Breakfast .....	\$3.20
Lunch .....	\$4.45
Dinner .....	\$4.70

#### Early departure breakfast on Sunday

Coffee .....	25 cents
Donut .....	25 cents
Juice .....	50 cents
Milk .....	50 cents

\*For music tryouts, call the music department at (915) 674-2199 for an audition/tryout schedule.

\*\*For cheerleader tryouts, call Jamie Brophy at (915) 674-2772 for reservations. Space is limited.

\*\*\*For high school singing group competition information, call Kellie Curtis at (915) 674-2650.

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# CHRISTIAN ARRAY

## ILLOGICAL GOSPEL?

THE GOSPEL OR GOOD NEWS IS THAT THE GOD WHO CREATED OUR UNIVERSE SENT HIS SON TO DIE A CRUEL DEATH ON A CROSS THAT WE MIGHT EACH HAVE REMISSION FROM OUR SINS AND THE HOPE OF AN ETERNAL LIFE IN HEAVEN.

GOD DOESN'T JUST ASK FOR THE PHILOSOPHICAL BELIEF IN A LOGICAL CREATION. HE ASKS THAT WE BELIEVE IN AND SUBMIT TO THE TEACHINGS OF AN ILLOGICAL SITUATION

CONSIDER FOR A MOMENT THE ILLOGIC OF THE SITUATION. THE CREATOR AND OWNER OF THE UNIVERSE SENT HIS SON TO THE EARTH, NOT TO LEAD THE LIFE OF MOSES AS SON OF THE MOST POWERFUL RULER ON EARTH, BUT AS THE SON OF AN HUMBLE WORKMAN. OUR KING JESUS HIMSELF NEVER OWNED A CASTLE OR HOME, OR ANY OTHER MATERIAL POSSESSIONS OTHER THAN THE CLOTHES ON HIS BACK. AN ALL POWERFUL GOD SENT HIS SON TO BE KILLED BY A FEW ROMAN SOLDIERS AT THE REQUEST OF A FEW HYPOCRITICAL JEWS. IN LIGHT OF THE PERMANENCE OF DEATH ALL AROUND US, WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS DIED, ONLY TO BE RESURRECTED BACK TO LIFE THREE DAYS LATER. JESUS WAS NOT A GREAT LEADER BY WORLDLY STANDARDS, HIS FOLLOWING EVAPORATED COMPLETELY BEFORE BEING KILLED BY THE MOST SHAMEFUL PUBLIC SPECTACLE OF DEATH EVER DEvised.

EVEN THOUGH THE SITUATION MAY SEEM ILLOGICAL TO THE WORLD AROUND US, WE ARE CALLED TO PARTICIPATE IN A DEMONSTRATION OF OUR BELIEF IN THE GOSPEL. I COR. 3:18 TELLS US THAT WE MUST BECOME FOOLISH ACCORDING TO WORLDLY WISDOM TO BELIEVE THE GOSPEL. WE ARE CALLED UPON TO DISPLAY OUR BELIEF IN GOD IN A WAY WHICH SEEMS FOOLISH TO THE WORLD.

WE ARE CALLED UPON TO REGULARLY PARTAKE OF UNLEAVEN BREAD WHICH IS TO US THE CRUELY CRUCIFIED BODY OF CHRIST. WE ARE CALLED UPON TO PARTAKE OF THE FRUIT OF THE VINE WHICH IS TO US THE BLOOD OF CHRIST WHICH WAS SHED ON CALVARY'S CROSS. THIS IS THE GOSPEL OF THE CROSS, IT IS OF TRANSCENDING IMPORTANCE.

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ADDRESS CORRECTIONS REQUESTED

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## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"In the absence of clearly defined goals, we are forced to concentrate on activity and ultimately become enslaved by it." Chuck Coonradt

## SONS AS MINISTERS?

In the February 1991 issue of Firm Foundation, Dowell Flatt commented in the article titled "Fewer Entering the Ministry" that of those entering, 32% of their fathers were preachers and 6% were elders. There are at least four times a many elders as ministers in the brotherhood.

This means either that the son of a preacher is 21 times more likely to become a preacher than the son of an elder; or that the son of an elder is 21 times less likely to become a preacher than the son of a preacher.

## EVENTS CALENDAR:

### AREA WIDE YOUTH EVENTS:

1991 SPRING HIGH SCHOOL WEEKEND, ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, April 5-7, 1991

BIG THREE BIBLE BOWL AT ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, April 13, 1991

BIG THREE BIBLE BOWL AT HARDING UNIVERSITY  
April 27, 1991

SECOND ANNUAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE DAY  
Presentations of Christian education by  
Christian colleges  
11-24-91 @ 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Memorial, 900 Echo Lane, 464-0271

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