

WARM FUZZIES

I am continually amazed at the number of churches which exist under names like "Church of the Rock". Why does someone joint and financially support the "Church of the Rock"?

As churches such as the iconic "Church of the Rock" seem to be popping up all around, it would be reasonable to say that these independent "boutique" churches are growing. They are growing while the Churches of Christ are declining. The January 2010 issue of the Christian Chronicle gives the headline "Membership decline is No. 1 story of 2009".

Whereas it is hard to generalize about what other people do, I want to suggest that attendees at the "Church of the Rock" get a warm fuzzy from attendance and sponsorship. It fulfills their natural desire and feeling of responsibility to worship God, and more or less lets them do it on their own terms. If the "Church of the Rock" teaches something they do not like, they can simply go to the "Church of the Tree" or whatever.

How does the Church of Christ compete with the "Church of the Rock"? First thing is that we can stop being judgmental that others are probably not going to Heaven because they are not following the Bible. Then we can be as warm and fuzzy as the Rock people. That seems to be what a number of our congregations are doing.

However, there is a problem with this beyond the fact that they are not following the Bible.

When they are warm and fuzzy, they are warm and fuzzy with no baggage.

When we are warm and fuzzy, we are still stuck with the Church of Christ reputation. Not only are we stuck with the Church of Christ reputation, but some of our members will not cooperate and go on insisting that people be baptized for the remission of sins and the such like.

If we abandon our Biblical basis and become warm and fuzzy competitors, we have the worst of both worlds. We lose our scriptural basis and nobody is going to like us anyhow. For the Churches of Christ, it is the sure path to declining membership. Seems like that is what we are doing.

What we see with some regularity is that when congregations want to become warm and fuzzy, they drop "Church of Christ" off their name, presumably for this very reason.

If the Church of Christ is to grow, it would seem that being warm and fuzzy is not the way to do it. It is appropriate to be friendly, but the church of Christ must remain true to the basic to "speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent" if we are to have a sound foundation for growth.

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION!: RESORPTION OF ROOTS

Teeth are a very complex subject and a clear demonstration of the design of a higher intelligence.

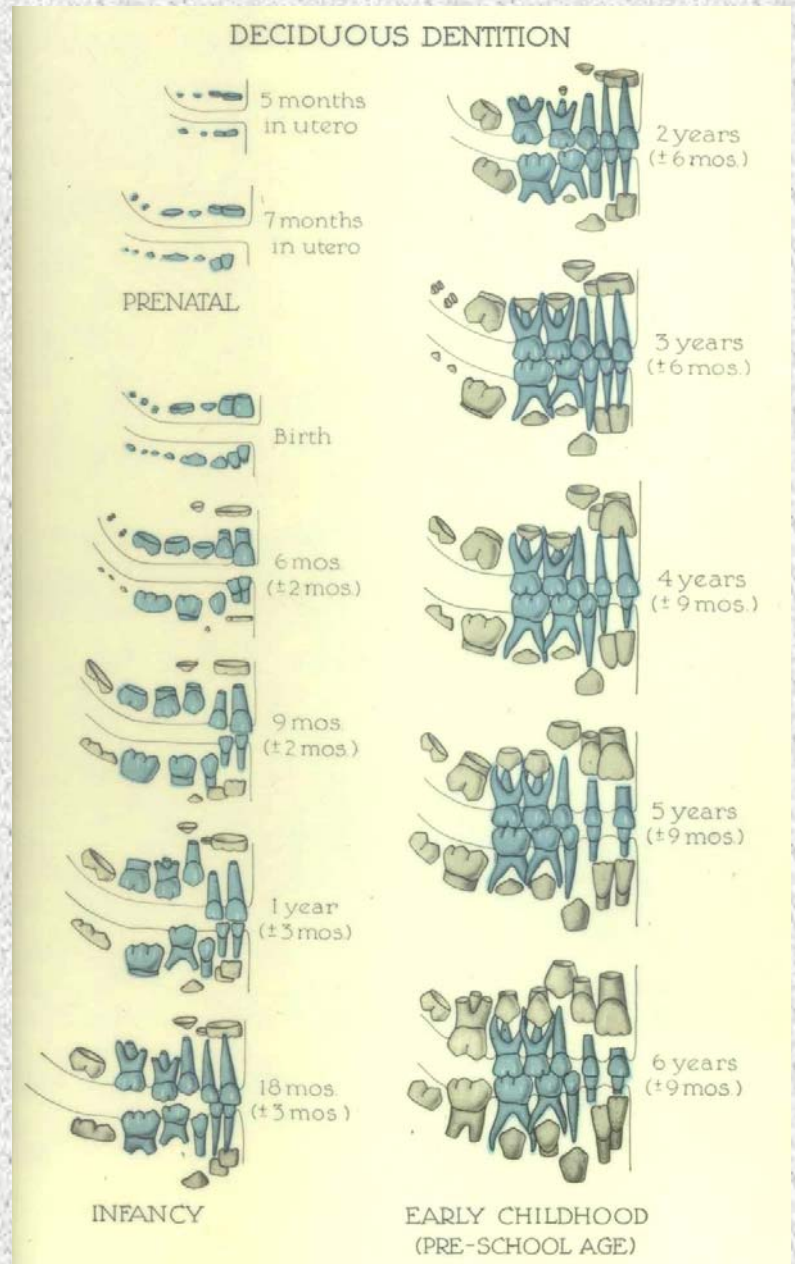
Rather than discussing the obvious complexity of teeth in general, we want to discuss a specific thing which happens. It is called resorption of roots. When a baby tooth falls out, it is very short and it seems like it just lets go of a jaw bone or something. You know an adult tooth comes in quickly afterwards, but you probably don't (as I didn't) really think there is a specific connection.

In the graphic on the right, the left hand column the first 2 images describe the development of teeth before the child is born. The third graphic is at birth. The remaining graphics describe the development of teeth from birth to about 6 years old.

Notice first the front tooth in the fourth graphic (left column) and note that the baby tooth is in fact a tooth with a long root, and the starting adult tooth is already below it at six months old.

In the right hand column note the adult tooth grows below the baby tooth, and the root of the baby tooth progressively dissolves as the adult tooth grows. Finally one day the baby tooth is so short that it has no more support and falls out.

Can you imagine any way in which the bottom of the baby tooth knows how to dissolve as the adult tooth approaches, without being told to do so by an external intelligence? It would be impossible! This is truly one of the miraculous proofs of God which we take for granted.



E-MAIL ADDRESSES

THE GOALS OF BCE PUBLICATIONS ARE TO PROMOTE SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION AND TO REINFORCE OUR YOUTH AGAINST THE ATTACKS OF EVOLUTIONISTS. THIS NEWSLETTER IS CENTRAL TO THESE GOALS.

CENTRAL TO THE NEWSLETTER IS A SUBSTANTIAL CIRCULATION TO MAKE AS MANY MEMBERS AS PRACTICAL AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND THE NECESSITY FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEM.

WE HAVE HAD A STANDING REQUEST FOR E-MAIL ADDRESSES ON THE LAST PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER, BUT THE RESULTS ARE NOT MAKING SUFFICIENT PROGRESS IN BUILDING A MAILING LIST.

AGAIN, IF THIS SEEMS TO BE A WORTHY GOAL TO YOU, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ALL THE CHURCH RELATED E-MAIL ADDRESSES YOU HAVE. IF YOU ARE CONCERNED THAT WE MIGHT OFFEND SOME PEOPLE, WE WILL. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT SOME BLUNT STATEMENTS WILL NEED TO BE MADE ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IF WE ARE TO COLLECTIVELY RESTART CHURCH GROWTH. IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT OUR BELIEFS, SEE thearray.org FOR EXACTLY WHAT WE BELIEVE.

BEYOND THAT WE ARE NOW PLANNING TO PAY COLLEGE STUDENTS TO TRY WITH THEIR CONTACTS TO COLLECT CHURCH RELATED E-MAIL ADDRESSES. OUR GUESS IS THAT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WILL GIVE THEM DIVERSE CONTACTS WHICH MOST OF US DO NOT HAVE.

IF YOU HAVE OTHER SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW TO SOLICIT E-MAIL ADDRESSES, WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING THEM.



THE CHARLIE SCHULTZ PHILOSOPHY



The following is the philosophy of Charles Schultz, the creator of the 'Peanuts' comic strip.

You don't have to actually answer the questions.

Just read straight through and you'll get the point.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Chessman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America pageant.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

How did you do?

The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday.

These are no second-rate achievers.

They are the best in their fields.

But the applause dies...

Awards tarnish..

Achievements are forgotten.

Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile...
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special!!
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

Easier?

The lesson:

The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials... the most money...or the most awards.

They are simply the ones who care the most.



"Be Yourself. Everyone Else Is Taken!"

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION

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WHAT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS NOT

A local group of Christians who believe that the Bible can be updated by contemporary council decisions.

A church which receives the permission from an earthly headquarters to plant a new congregation..

A church which attempts to duplicate a 19th or 20th century pattern for a church.

A church which believes you can pick and choose what part of the Bible you want to believe and follow only those parts.

A church which believes that we should judge that we are all in a community of believers as long as we say we believe in Jesus, irrespective of what we do and preach. A church which should assure all others that they are saved.

A group who makes decisions based on popularity rather than scriptural basis.

A group which simply skips over Acts 2:38.

A group which finds more convenient ways to simulate baptism.

A group which votes on what it suits them to believe and preach or a group which believes that they are still getting direct revelations from God.

A group who believes we are here to entertain ourselves.

WHAT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS

The church of Christ is a local group of Christians which try to speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent.

The church of Christ tries to reestablish the first century pattern and teaching of the New Testament era at each location.

The church of Christ tries to reestablish the scriptural organization of the church at each location.

The church of Christ has members who believe they are following the scriptural teachings as best they can.

Church of Christ members believe that we should not judge others' eternal reward, but that it is not reasonable to give comfort to others who follow their own preferences rather than teachings of the Bible.

A non-instrumental body as instruments were available in the first century and not used, and not used for several centuries.

A group who teaches Acts 2:38.

A group which teaches baptism by immersion for the remission of sins as that is what is taught in the Bible.

A group which believes all revelation was given in the first century.

A group which believes we are responsible to take the Gospel to the world.

MONEY PAGE

GUARANTEED CHURCH GROWTH

If your congregation does the following, BCE Publications guarantees that it will grow.

Poll your congregation three times at 6 months intervals with the following results:

- 50% of the members know who their elder is
- 50% of the members will say that a minister is their friend
- 50% of the members will say that they are uplifted by the song services
- 50% of the men will say that their input is considered before physical decisions are made
- 50% of the members will say they are an important part of the work
- 50% of the members will say they are aware of the goals of the congregation
- 50% of the members will say that they know what their part is in achieving your goals

GUARANTEE: For the first congregation which does this and does not grow by at least 10%, we will send \$1000 to the church related children's home of your choice in your name.

I have never met a person who said that if they did this their church would not grow. If your congregation is not growing, what have you got to lose? (Offer made since 2001)

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION?

We will offer \$100 to the first person who can explain how we could have violated the first law of thermodynamics and have come into existence without God.

We will offer \$100 to the first person who can explain how we could have violated the second law of thermodynamics and have existed forever without God. (Offer posted since 8/08)

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION!

This publication continues (since 1991) to make a standing offer of \$100 to the first person who can give any reason (1 or more) as to why atheistic evolution is a better explanation for the universe and/or life than creation by God, The Father of Adam, Abraham, and Jesus; as revealed in the Bible.

We will also give you \$100 if we cannot give you 12 reasons why atheistic evolution is impossible as an explanation for our existence.

(Offer posed since June, 1991)

RUN AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT:

We will offer \$100 to the first person who can refute the logic that a person can in fact run at the speed of light as presented in the September 2009 issue of this newsletter.

THE MONEY PAGE:

This page may seem odd, even irreverent to offer money for something like this. It is 3 simple statements on church growth, that we cannot be here without God, and evolution is not possible. The steadfastness of putting money on the line for this is to try to be of assistance against those who would discourage church growth, believe in atheism, or promote atheistic evolution.

The page is intended to be a continuing reinforcement.

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

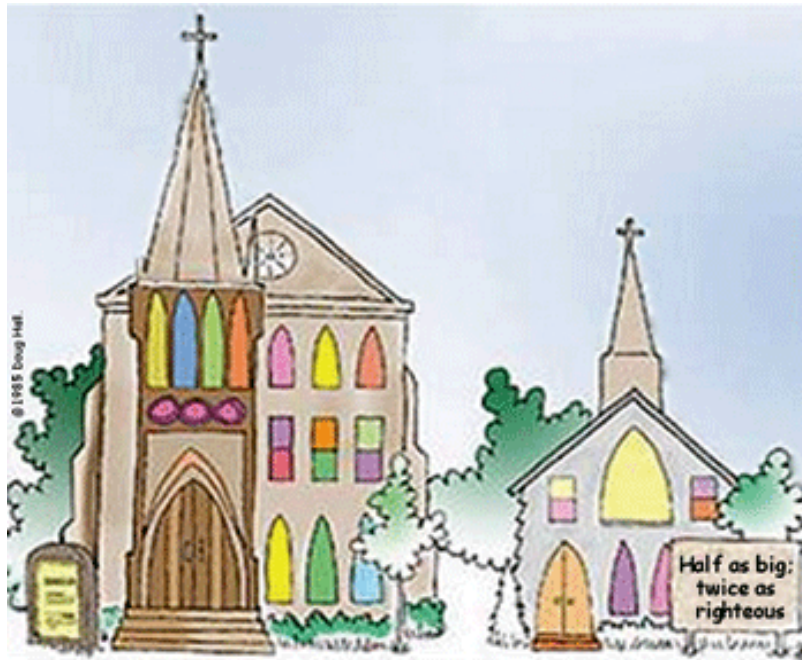
DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION

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The Christian Array Newsletter

This newsletter will be sent to members of the church on a monthly basis as an attempt to promote area wide activities and church growth. If you do not want to receive this newsletter, send an e-mail to info@thearray.org and it will be stopped.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive this newsletter, send their e-mail addresses to info@thearray.org. All past copies of the newsletter can be found on the website "thearray.org".



E-MAIL ADDRESSES

A goal of this newsletter is to develop a mailing list of as many members of the church as possible and to communicate church related information to as many members as possible. In that light, we would appreciate:

1. Your forwarding the church member e-mail addresses which you have.
2. Sending the directory of the congregation you attend or any other directories which you might have.
3. Give us an idea of how to collect church member e-mail addresses.

This information will not be sold or used for any purpose not mentioned herein.

The Christian Array is dedicated to support the sustained scriptural growth of the churches of Christ. It is published by BCE Publications, a 501(c)(3) organization with Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E. as editor. BCE is solely responsible for the content. Any announcements, requests for publication, or comments should be e-mailed to info@thearray.org.