

## EXCLUSIVISTS?

About a month ago we had a visiting preacher who proudly identified that many in their community identified their congregation as the church who helps people.

He said there were still a few who said that they were the group who thinks they are the only ones going to Heaven. He went on to say, "Yeah, there are still some of those out there." It was followed by a pregnant pause and a highly condescending look.

I have no question but that the only people to go to Heaven will be in the church of Christ. Question is whether the Church of Christ (those with the sign on the door) is the same subset of people?

If you go back to issue 44 of The Christian Array, you will note that I do not think we need to give comfort to any 5 talent elders of the Church of Christ who produce 1 talent results. There is a good chance they are not going to like judgment day.

On the other hand the iconic African Lydia who has never heard of Jesus nor has been baptized, but "does instinctively the things of the Law" (Romans 2:14) may fare well on judgment day. It is not reasonable that she would be doomed to Hell because we did not do our job.

Every personal evangelism encounter is a judgment call. If you think someone is fine where they are, there is no need to try to convert him or her to something else.

If you are going to try to convert someone, you must by definition conclude that they are not in good shape where they are. You cannot make a judgment as to what will actually happen on judgment day, but you must conclude that they will be better off in your religious group than in their religious group or what's the point?

If you are going to form a social group, that is one thing and it doesn't matter where you attend. Any religious group meets that requirement, and the best one is the one with the most parties.

If you believe that you and your local leaders can make new rules according to your preferences (whether sincere or not), you do not have Jesus' church, you have your personal church. If God has said one thing and you decide something else, how do you think you will do on God's judgment day. Will you tell God He can't enforce His rules because you decided something else?



## EXCLUSIVIST, Page 2

However, the Church of Christ is formed around the idea that all inspiration was given to us in the first century and that we are to speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent. What other basis can there be for Christian unity other than respecting the word of God?

If that seems reasonable to you, let's list a few teachings that it will lead you to:

1. Baptism of consenting adults by immersion.
2. Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
3. Faith without works is dead
4. Local autonomous control of elders (no national organizations)
5. No instrumental music
6. Eternal reward in Heaven
7. Eternal punishment in Hell
8. Restricted divorce and remarriage
9. No homosexual acts approved
10. Weekly communion

I am starting a list of religious groups which follow that set of Biblical principles:

1. Churches of Christ (at least most of them)
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .

I would invite you to give me the names of other groups which follow that simple list of Biblical teachings. If you can identify any, let me know and I will print them.

Just so you know, I am aware that some sub-groups within some denominations keep the denominational name but follow the listed teachings. I would suggest that they are still wearing the name (i.e. Baptist) and functionally supporting the remainder of the denominational



## It may be exactly right, but it is not our place to judge it.

ation's teachings. That is my judgment. I do not know what God will say about them on Judgment day, but I would be concerned about them.

I am now going to presume that you agree that the list of teachings are scriptural and that you cannot name a denomination which follows the teachings.

If that is in fact true, then you are not in a position to give anyone outside the Church of Christ (other than the iconic African Lydia) comfort that they will be in good shape on judgment day. If that is in fact true, then you are an exclusivist.

The thing to do now is figure out how to say it so that it doesn't immediately turn prospects off.

**First thing to know is that you cannot in fact know what God will say to anyone on judgment day.** We can say the Bible says this and you are teaching something else, so you are putting yourself at risk by going against God's word. We can say that someone is not following Biblical teachings so we cannot give them comfort that they will do well on judgment day.

What we cannot say is that the only people who will go to heaven are the members of the Church of Christ. **It may be exactly right, but it is not our place to judge it.**

## Houston Area Churches of Christ Welcome You!

For directory  
[www.houstonchurchesofChrist.org](http://www.houstonchurchesofChrist.org)

Brothers in Christ,

How much do you think it would cost to advertise on 10 highway billboards in the Greater Houston Area? Try \$20,000 - \$40,000 a month. One billboard costs \$3000 - \$8000, depending on the location.

What if we could advertise on 10 billboards for \$1000, \$500, or even as low as \$250 a month?

Impossible! You might say. Not so! The answer is really quite simple, **NUMBERS & UNITY.**

There are over one hundred Churches of Christ in the greater Houston area. If every church contributed to the effort, we could expose our message to over 27 million views (looks) a month for \$250 a month. Wow! Have we ever unified and made a bold statement to the city of Houston that the Lord's church is alive and well? You know the answer, don't you? Everyone else is making statements. We have the truth. Let's make a statement, a **BOLD** statement. We are God's vehicle to save the world.

What can we accomplish with a Billboard Campaign?

- Revive our members
- Give positive exposure to Churches of Christ
- Attract non-members
- Drive traffic to our websites
- Create more opportunities for conversations about Christ and his church
- Bring more unity & fellowship to our brotherhood
- Save Souls

# THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION

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## Proposal:

Though 100% participation is ideal, 50 % participation would be fabulous.

100 churches - \$250 month for 4 months

50 churches - \$500 month for 4 months

30 churches - \$850 month for 4 months

25 churches - \$1000 month for 4 months

20 churches - \$1250 month for 4 months

- Every church of Christ in the Greater Houston area will be listed on the directory ([www.houstonchurchesofChrist.org](http://www.houstonchurchesofChrist.org)) with a link to your church website.
- The billboards will be located on major highways (59 north & south, 45 north & south, I-10 east and west, 290, Beltway 8, 610 loop, 225), and would rotate to new high traffic locations every 60 days.
- The pricing requires a four month commitment.

We are aware that the timing of this proposal may not be favorable for some. Please pray that God will bless our efforts. We want to avoid debating the merits of the proposal at this time, and if you choose not to participate, we fully understand. If we do not receive at least a 25% commitment of participation from all of the churches, we will not move forward.

With 25% or more participation, we will include **all** of the Greater Houston Area Churches of Christ in the directory unless exclusion is requested.

Who is the originator of this idea?

Brothers in Christ concerned about the Church of Christ, with no hidden agendas or financial motivation.

Questions may be directed to:

Gary Smith – Fifth Ward Church of Christ , 713-762-2654, garysmithdiscovery@yahoo.com

David Duncan – Memorial Church of Christ, 713-464-0271, dduncan@mcoc.org

John Tillman Jr. - Garden Oaks Church of Christ, call and get info to put in here.

***Psalms 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!***

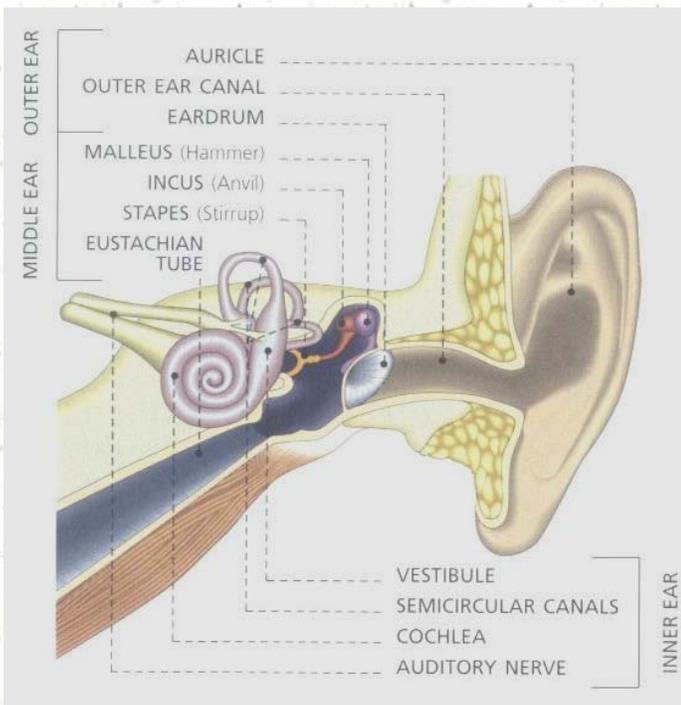
## IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION! - HEARING

We normally consider hearing not nearly as complex as seeing, but it is very complicated in itself. The discussion of the ear and hearing involve direct hearing thru the ear, indirect hearing thru the bones and outer ear, and balance.

Most sounds reach you through this route, but this kind of hearing is supplemented by vibrations conducted through the bones of the skull to the inner ear. You hear your own voice mainly through this secondary kind of hearing.

Additional hearing occurs through the Auricle or outer ear. It has been demonstrated that you cannot tell if sound is coming from directly in front of you or directly above you if your outer ear is covered.

Surely the complexity of hearing is impossible for cells to design for themselves. It required a highly intelligent inventor and designer.



Sound is funneled into the ear by the outer ear, going down the outer ear canal and hits the ear drum. The graphic shows the complex design of the ear drum. Sound waves hit the drum and cause it to vibrate. The vibrations pass through the hammer, anvil, and stirrup into the Cochlea.

Tiny hairs that line the Cochlea change the vibrations in the fluid into nerve impulses (electric signals) which are transmitted to the brain along the auditory nerve. The brain interprets the electrical impulses as not only sound, but also the direction of the sound. No one (except God of course) knows how the brain does this!!!!



**"Now let me get this straight,  
the Arabs get the oil,  
and we have to cut off the ends of our what!"**

# 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 first posted 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.

We will discuss this any place, any time, and in any forum. (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.