



# The Sword

*“And take... the sword of the Spirit,  
which is the word of God.”* Ephesians 6:17

“The Sword” is published weekly by the OAK GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST, as a teaching and information tool for the congregation. Articles are intended to encourage the study of God’s Word every day! — Jack W. McNiell, editor

**Volume 17 - March 14, 2010 - Number 11**

## **“Parents, Obey Your Father”** *by Wayne Jackson*

Children are the most vulnerable creatures on earth. In the Encyclopedia of Biblical and Christian Ethics, the following astute observation is found:

“The human infant is by far the most helpless of all young mammalian life and consequently requires an inordinate amount of care if it is to be nurtured successfully” (R.K. Harrison, ed. Revised Edition. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1992. p. 302).

Sadly, many are not nurtured successfully. Some are the consequence of procreative irresponsibility, and many more are left to rear themselves. They are plugged into the social engineering of a godless pop culture where adolescent sex symbols are encouraged and the popular TV sit-

coms represent a lifestyle of self-indulgence — an “ideal” bed-swapping environment in which the motto is, “Oh my God, let’s have a baby.”

When Paul addressed a “Greco-Roman” culture in which child-rearing left much to be desired, he revealed that which transcends time and is divine truth. God’s plan for parents will always meet the needs of children — in any age and culture.

Human wisdom does find, however, its way into the hearts of even Christian parents. Let us evaluate our thinking in light of God’s Word.

The apostle wrote, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right” (Eph. 6:1). In this clear statement, Paul conveys the divine will that there is a specific relationship between children and parents. Children are to obey their parents, be-

cause God has designed the home with this order. “Children” are those who need nurturing, for they are developing; they require instruction and correction (Eph. 6:4). They are not peers at this stage. There is an authority–subjection relationship in God’s family plan.

This authority is delegated by God, and a parent must exercise that authority with respect to God who gives it. No parent can demand, with intrinsic authority, this or that of a child. Too many parents act as if they are “the Creator” and the child is “the creature.” Parenthood is a gift from God (Ps. 127:3); faithful parents exercise limited, God-given authority for a God-given purpose.

Paul also taught that God’s domestic arrangement involves a special role for parents – authority in action. This is the communication of instructions and the application of correction; children are to listen and obey. Parents must assume the role decreed by God. They must provide instruction and correction, training their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4; cf. Matt. 15:19). When parents are not parents, children still grow up, but their spiritual development is compromised.

Paul reminds us that the Christian family includes spiritual responsibilities. The parent-child relationship, and the exercise of the parental role, are designed by God to mature a per-

son who is sensitive to spiritual realities – a person who accepts his own spiritual responsibilities. Children need to learn “what is right” (Eph. 6:1). They must learn that obedience to the Lord is the ultimate motivation for all behavior (Eph. 6:1). This is accomplished by parents who regularly teach their children to obey out of a sense of duty to the Lord.

Obedience is not mere compliance. Obedience means listening and doing what is required for the right reasons. According to the Lord, this is best taught early. Wouldn’t you agree?

So that we may help our children learn to obey the Lord from the heart – the seat of behavior – we must teach them obedience from the earliest of years.

This spiritual quality is taught by the parents who:

- Give clear expectations, some of which are morally inflexible.
- Provide consequences to disobedience that are fair and clear.
- Show consistent follow-through with rewards and punishment.
- Demonstrate a concrete example in that parents themselves are obedient to the Lord.

Parental responsibility means helping your kids go to heaven. It takes time, attention, and divine insight. Be there for your children – be a Christian parent.

## NEWS AND NOTES:

### OUR PRAYER LIST:

#### Congregation:

- Michelle Hopper had outpatient surgery last week—her prognosis is positive.
- Please remember in your prayers all who have been sick, bereaved or in the hospital recently: Marjorie Alley, Freda Bentley, Lloyd Cooper, Irene Jennings, Jim O'Connor, Wendell Osborne, Alberta Petering,

#### Friends & Family:

- Karen Schaberg, sister of Nancy Moore, has been diagnosed with lymphoma.
- Wendell Osborne is improving after heart bypass surgery.

### ITEMS OF INTEREST:

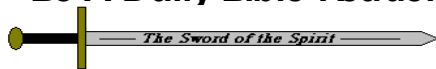
#### Oak Grove:

- Men's Business Meeting Sunday Evening.
- April 11-14: Gospel Meeting with Marvin Rickett
- Ladies' Class 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at 10 AM.
- Personal Evangelism II each Sunday 4:45–5:30 PM.

#### Local Area:

- March 14-17: 39th St. Gospel Meeting
- March 20: 39th St. Saturday Seminar
- March 21-24: Blue Springs Gospel Meeting

**Keep Your Sword Sharpened  
– Be A Daily Bible Reader!**



## SERVING ONE ANOTHER:

### LEADING IN WORSHIP: *March 14*

Announcements: Claude Andrews  
Usher: Walter Reed  
Lord's Table: Vernon Logan  
West: Tyler Jenkins – Peyton Jenkins  
East: Dixon Liljegren – Ryker Shelley

#### Sunday AM

Song Leader: David Wiesemann  
Opening Prayer: Dustin Hall  
Second Prayer: Vint Hall  
Scripture Reader: David Wiesemann  
Sermon: *Deuteronomy 6:4-9*  
"Parents Teaching Their Children"  
Closing Prayer: Glenn Wyman

#### Sunday PM

Song Leader: Dustin Hall  
Opening Prayer: Hershel Hunt  
Sermon: *Mark 1:9-11*  
"The Baptism of Jesus"  
Closing Prayer: Walter Hutcherson

#### Wednesday Night:

Song Leader: Tyler Jenkins  
March 10  
Devotional: Claude Andrews  
Closing Prayer: Dean Evatt  
March 17  
Devotional: Vint Hall  
Closing Prayer: Eugene Jenkins

### OUR CURRENT RECORDS:

#### Wednesday: *March 3*

Bible Class 73

#### Sunday: *March 7*

Bible Class 85  
AM Worship 101  
PM Worship 82  
Contribution \$1,758  
Budget \$2,020

*The King James Version is requested for  
pulpit, classrooms, & scripture reading.*

## Work Program 2008-2009

Team	Leader/s	Next Assignment
1	Jack McNeil	Mar. 28
2	Roger Stephenson	April 4
3	Walter Hutcherson	April 11
4	Vernon Logan	April 18
5	Dustin Hall	April 25
6	<i>Roy Smith</i> Tim Smith	<i>Mar. 14</i>
7	Justin Liljegren Dixon Liljegren	Mar. 21

### WHO WE ARE:

The Oak Grove Church of Christ is independent of any denominational organization. We are not associated with any national or world headquarters. Yet, we cooperate voluntarily with our sister congregations in the Lord's work and fellowship.

The church of Christ is noted for its emphasis upon returning to New Testament Christianity and for its desire to *"be perfectly joined together in the same mind and ... judgment..."* (1 Cor. 1:10). We try to follow the basic, innocent faith that was proclaimed on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

If you are earnest about learning more by means of studying the Holy Bible and obeying what it says, you will truly find a home here at Oak Grove Church of Christ.

## Oak Grove Church of Christ

104 SW 6th Street,  
Oak Grove, MO 64075 (816) 690-4599  
www.ogchurchofchrist.org

### Head of the Church:

Christ (Eph 1:22; 5:23; Col 1:18)

### Elders: (1 Tim 3:1-7)

Claude Andrews  
Walter Hutcherson  
Richard Petering  
Lowell Smith

### Deacons: (1 Tim 3:8-13)

Darrell Andrews  
Dean Evatt  
Vint Hall  
Hershel Hunt  
Leland Reed  
Tim Smith  
David Wiesemann

### Preacher: (2 Tim 4:1-5)

Jack W. McNeil  
Office: (816) 690-4599  
Cell: (816) 522-2584  
ogchurchofchrist@embarqmail.com

### – Schedule of Services –

#### Sunday:

Bible Study – 9:30 a.m.  
Worship – A.M. 10:20; P.M. 6:00

**Wednesday:** Bible Study – 7:00

**Bi-Monthly:** "House to House / Heart to Heart"