

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

THE TKN RULE

A friend of mine tells me that when his children were younger, they had many wonderful discussions at their dining table. There was just one rule concerning the conduct of their conversation--they called it the "TKN rule." Before saying anything you had to ask yourself three things: Is it **True**?, Is it **Kind**?, and Is it **Necessary**?--TKN.

He said that sometimes someone would begin to say something when another family member would then yell out "TKN, TKN!" meaning that it did not meet criteria for proper discourse at the table. He also tells me that there were many times when they would eat in silence simply because no one had anything to say that would fit within the TKN guidelines.

That got me to thinking. Maybe we should adopt the "TKN Rule" in all of our speech--especially when talking about others. Imagine what our communication with others would be like and what we would be portraying!

Is your speech always **true**? I have often told my kids and the kids I teach at church camp that if you do not know something to be true, then don't say it. Otherwise, you could be spreading rumors or gossip. Try from now on to speak only things that you know for a fact are true. "**Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor**" (Eph. 4:25).

Is your speech always **kind**? Do you use edifying and uplifting words when speaking to and about others? Too much of human communication is focused on the negative aspects of others and on tearing people down. Christians need to live and speak above that. Try from now on to speak good things about others, and when a correction or rebuke is required, deliver it tenderly and with a proper spirit. "**Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt**"(Col. 4:6).

Is your speech always **necessary**? Too many times we speak just to say something and end up saying many needless things. And too often, it is the unnecessary things we say that can be the most misunderstood and do much harm. Try from now on to speak only things that are necessary and beneficial. "**Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification**" (Eph. 4:29).

Friends, if we all would adopt the "TKN Rule" in our lives, then all of our conversations would be most wonderful! "**Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things**" (Phil. 4:8). Yes, meditate and speak on these things!

- Edd Sterchi, gospel preacher, church of Christ, Jackson, Missouri

IN THE BIBLE WE'LL DELVE IN 2012

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SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: HARVEY ALLEN

PM: HARVEY ALLEN

JOIN US IN
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY!

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge;
because thou hast rejected knowledge,
I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me:
seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God,
I will also forget thy children.” Hosea 4:6

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

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SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

To be announced

EVANGELIST

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Miles Johnson, Richard Ramkinson, Margaret Herring, Wilson Burton, Betty Mathis, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier.**
- **Judy Walker’s** respiratory problems have become pneumonia. **Connie Richbourg** has pneumonia also and **Floyd** isn’t feeling so well himself.
- **Jason Parks** is home with a migraine, but **Marshall Mancuso** has relief from his kidney stone, and **Gwen Pittman’s** eyes seem to be doing some better.
- Prayers are requested for Paige Hicks, a friend of Jones Gamble, and **Dorothy Williams and Mike**, friends of **Tommy White**.
- Continue to remember **Jones Gamble’s sister, Margie** who continues to be treated for kidney problems, a recent transplant is being rejected.
- Keep all these, and **the church here**, in your prayers. Our thanks and gratitude to those who watch, and work and pray for the church here.

"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us:" - 1 John 5:14

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- Sunday is the first Sunday luncheon and men’s business meeting afterwards. Hope you remembered to turn you clocks back also!
- Remember to **send cards to our visitors**. **Marshall Mancuso** had had a bunch of nice cards printed, and **Jones Gamble** faithfully gets visitor cards posted with addresses. So help out yourself! Send a card, invite people to visit, then send more cards! Postage for a post card is \$.32, Send 3 for a dollar and keep the change!

"But GROW in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."
- 2 Peter 3:18

IN THE BIBLE WE’LL DELVE IN 2012

**“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord,
shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;
but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” - Matthew 7:21**

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.” - Philippians 4:8,9

Note that the apostle says “**DO**”. We *all* must be *doing* the things told us by the apostles in the Bible. Read your Bibles, learn what God wants of us and then **do it!** All of it!

Man's Duty—To "Prove All Things"

Men are prone to go to extremes. This has always been true. Paul seems to have been guarding against this tendency when he wrote, "**Despise not prophesyings; prove all things; hold fast that which is good**" (1 Thess. 5:20-21). In his day, there were those who claimed to "prophesy" by the Spirit, and did; and there were those who claimed to "prophesy" by the Spirit and did not. The result was that, at least, some "despised" all "prophesyings" by reason of the false claims of the pretenders. Such a wholesale rejection of all "prophesyings" was unreasonable and unsafe. It was wrong. It is not right either to reject the true because some is false or to accept the false because some is true. Paul indicated the safe course: "**Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.**" If there had been no evil mixed with the good, the admonition to "prove all things" and to "hold fast that which is good" would not have been necessary.

What is the meaning of the word "prove?" In this connection it cannot mean that the genuineness of "all things" is to be established, for the simple reason that the "all things" to be "proved" are not all genuine. It rather signifies to try, to put to the test. The word is employed elsewhere in the New Testament in this sense (Luke 14:19). It means that we should examine everything we hear before we receive it or reject it, as the case may be. At this point, Adam Clarke said, "Whatever ye hear in these 'prophesyings' or preachings, examine by the words of Christ, and by the doctrines which, from time to time, we have delivered unto you in our preaching and writings. Try the spirits — the different teachers — by the word of God."

In the words of the prophet, "**To the law and to the testimony! if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them**" (Isa. 8:20). The conduct of the Bereans was in keeping with the spirit of the command under consideration, for we read, "**Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the scriptures daily, whether these things were so**" (Acts 17:11 ASV). The people of Berea put what they heard to the test, using the scriptures as their standard of examination. They acted rightly and wisely.

Why will people not do the same today? It is common for the message of a modern preacher to be accepted without thought, testing or investigation by those who are his friends religiously, and just as common for the same message to be rejected, without consideration, by his prejudiced religious enemies. These two unreasonable extremes are two of the most unmitigated curses of Christendom.

Let it be observed that this passage which allows the right also enjoins the duty of proving, testing, and investigating what is heard. It does not permit one to be an indifferent and passive listener. This some seem to prefer. They attend the services, not to be taught, not to bring into use any faculty of discernment or testing, but to be impressed, and that without effort on their part.

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1 ASV). All professed Christians should endeavor to become "**fullgrown men, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil**" (Heb. 5:14).

- B. C. (Benton Cordell) Goodpasture, 1895-1977, Gospel Preacher