

December Birthdays		December Anniversaries	
2	Al Olguin		
5	Gabriel Davis		
5	Judy Taylor		
14	Sybil Atha		
23	Teclia Cunningham		
25	Linda Beek		

December 29, 2024		
Greeters:	Ken Davis	Terry Reader
Announcements:	Len Gates	
Song Leader:	Kelly Beek	
Opening Prayer:	Len Gates	
Closing Prayer:	Terry Reader	
Lord's Table:	Terry Reader	Ken Davis
	Joe Autry	Dan Greene
Coordinator:	Stacey Moss	



**When you visit us...** December 22, 2024

You can expect to find your friendly neighbor, assembled to worship God the Father, and proclaim the love and grace He has given to us; and remember Jesus, the Christ, our example—our Savior. We will strive always to provoke love and good deeds of one another.

As in the 1st Century New Testament Church, our worship to God is simple - without mankind's rituals. You will find a wholesome respect for the Word of God as inspired by the Holy Spirit. We study only the Holy Scriptures—no human creeds will be used by us.

In addition to the worship of our Creator, we strive to fulfill our Savior's stated plan for us by sharing His Gospel message with this community and throughout the world.

Sermons every Sunday will be based wholly upon the Word of God. They will be Christ - centered and Biblically based so we can develop a deepening relationship with God through our understanding and personal involvement with Him and His truth in our everyday life.

Pulpit Minister—Stanten Sikes  
P.O. Box 1479 \* 16310 County Road 306 \* Buena Vista, CO 81211  
(719) 395-8753 \* email: mvccbv@hotmail.com  
www.mountainviewchurchofchrist.org

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
10:00 am ....Bible Class	7:00 pm.....Devotional
11:00 am.....Assembly	or Bible Class
Noon.....Fellowship Meal	
1:30 pm.....Devotional	

**Mission Work Areas**

Quito, Ecuador  
Mazatlán, Mexico  
Reitoca & San Carlos, Honduras

**New Prayer Requests**

Marilyn Bartlow – has had a mini-stroke and is still struggling with vision after shingles got into her eyes. Please keep her in your prayers.
Teresa Gradv – has been in the hospital due to pancreatitis, however, she was released. She continues to improve, but is still dealing with pain. Also, they will need prayers for their financial situation. Please keep her and John in your prayers.
Jonathan Longstreth (Stewart's Grandson) – His esophagus surgery went well. He has gone home and is doing well. Please continue to keep him and the family in your prayers.
Jim & Judy Taylor – remember them in your prayers as there is unrest in Mexico with the cartels.

**Long Term Prayer List**

Stanten Sikes – TIA and testing	Richard Pedrie
Ian Stewart	Greg Pyle
Gary Stewart	Ron Hansen
Marilyn Bartlow	Norma Bartlow
Joan Lawrence	Betty & Danny Sidebottom
Diane Spomer – Cancer	Crystal & JJ Autry and family
Kelly Mortensen (Toni G's dad)– kidney cancer	Lola Gates (Len's mom) – recovering from her fall – will likely have surgery
Dane Tate (Stanten's brother-in-law) – recovering from a fall	Jean Riffel (Marion's sister) – fall and other problems
Glendell Tims (Glenda's mom) – recovering from broken hip	Richard Inyang (preacher at Stanten's brother's church) – severe burns
David Reader (Terry's uncle) – at home with hospice.	Mike Cavasos – heart issues - testing

**Elders**

Stanten Sikes (719) 207-0629  
Ian Stewart (720) 878-2919  
Terry Reader (719) 427-7141

**Deacons**

Stacey Moss (719) 207-0588  
Ken Davis (719) 748-8654  
Kelly Beek (719) 342-5856  
Len Gates (719) 207-0039

If you have bulletin information or updates, please send them to Terry or Linda Reader

- Terry's contact (719) 427-7141 [tldr1960@yahoo.com](mailto:tldr1960@yahoo.com)
- Linda's contact (928) 965-5708 [lntrader@q.com](mailto:lntrader@q.com)

## Is Primitivism Still Relevant

Greg Chandler

How do 21st century Christians know the acceptable and appropriate way to worship God, determine the work of a church, and live in a culture seemingly far removed from the one in which the Apostles of Jesus worked and taught? While there are many variances, the basic answer to this question is chosen from two different philosophies: 1. Using the New Testament as a pattern by imitating what is found within it; 2. Using the New Testament as a guide, allowing practices to adapt to modern culture.

The first of these philosophies can be described as a primitivist approach. With the word *primary* as its root, this idea seeks to mimic the practices of those from an earlier time; namely, it patterns practices after commands and examples found within the New Testament. The idea is taken from the teachings of the apostles, such as what the apostle Paul wrote to Timothy: "Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus" (II Timothy 1:13). In this philosophy, "authority" plays an important role. Advocates insist that before a practice can be carried out, there must be proof that it flows from direct teaching or an approved example given within the New Testament. Beliefs or practices that do not meet these criteria are thus viewed as unauthorized and excluded.

While this method of seeking authority has never been mainstream, recent years have seen some of its former advocates dismiss the approach. CENI (command, example, necessary inference), the term to which some have relegated the idea, is viewed as unsustainable. Instead, some who once sought authority in this way have moved on to the second philosophy of adaptation. Such a move beckons the following question: "Is primitivism still relevant?"

In answering this question, it is important to first understand God's view of His commands. Four times within the recorded words of Jesus, He states, "Keep My commandments" (Matthew 19:17; John 14:15, 14:21, 15:10). In the remainder of the New Testament, the same idea is given on nine more occasions. The word *keep* is more than obedience; it means to guard. To guard means keeping change from occurring. Consider this from the standpoint of a museum housing a prized painting. If valuable enough, guards are placed at the painting for two primary purposes: 1. They are not to allow it to change owners (theft); 2. They are not to allow change of subject (vandalism, etc.). Their purpose is to keep the work of art just as the artist created it. God makes it clear this is how one is to view His commandments.

The New Testament also gives a hearty endorsement to using examples as a means of learning how to keep the commands. Consider the words of Paul to the Corinthians: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ" (I Corinthians 11:1). Not everything recorded in the New Testament is given for duplication. For example, the Corinthians were given precise instructions for an assembly where tongue speaking was employed (see I Corinthians 14). Just a few verses earlier, Paul taught that the ability to

speak in tongues would end when the Bible was completed (I Corinthians 13:8-10). Since the situation changed, the commands are no longer applicable. Such occasions are minimal within the New Testament. Using examples to establish authority is found in situations where "plain old Christians" in no special circumstance are under consideration. In these cases, the example provides a picture of how commands are to be carried out until the Lord's return.

If commands and examples are not the way of establishing authority, what is the alternative? One idea would be that God will communicate what He wants in means other than the Bible; however, this idea contradicts Paul's teaching that the completed word of God is "the perfect" (I Corinthians 13:10). It would imply that the Scriptures are insufficient for modern instruction. If this idea is dismissed, the only other alternative left is to determine authority by what the current generation of thinkers considers important. In such a situation, the Bible is viewed as important but not exclusive. While general principles can be gained from it, it is up to modern Christians to determine what is considered acceptable based on the present conditions of society. This philosophy allows humanity to determine what is acceptable and unacceptable based on its own views.

A survey of the Bible does not support the conclusion that God has left it up to His human creation to establish its own authority. Old Testament accounts of Noah's ark, Israel's tabernacle, and multitudinous instructions on feasts, sacrifices, and dealings with one another show God delivering minute details that He fully expected to be carried out. New Testament instructions to both individuals and churches reveal a similar focus on fulfilling God's plans to His specifications. Never are these details viewed as some sort of rote legalism; instead, they demonstrate a love for God as well as faith that His way is the best way.

Centuries ago, the nation of Israel struggled during the time when judges ruled its land. The summation of its problem is found in one statement: "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." May modern Christians find comfort in knowing that God's expectations do not change with each new generation. The teachings given to "plain old Christians" in the 1st century to make them more like Jesus Christ are the same teachings that will make those of the 21st century like Jesus Christ. May each Christian cling to these in faith, knowing that they are the way to please God and to become more like Him.

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Terry & Linda Reader have eliminated their home phone. If you need to call them, you will have to use their cell phones.

Linda – (928) 965-5708

Terry – (719) 427-7141

From Glenn Orr  
(Mike Cramer's friend)

Stanten Sikes,

WOW, what a blessed occasion spending today with you and your congregation of believers. Thanks to our Heavenly Father and Mike Cramer. As many, I am familiar with the story behind "It Is Well With My Soul".

Many hours in the past month, I have wrestled with accepting and submitting my heart completely. I've been okay knowing my wife was in heaven and all that I believe heaven to be, no tears, no pain, no sickness. Still, I'm having difficulty meshing emotions of missing my wife and "well with my soul".

Your teachings today have brought me closer, thank you and God.

Sincerely in Christ,

Glenn Orr

719-628-9791

705 Oak Street

Del Norte, CO 81132



We invite you to stay for our **Weekly Fellowship Lunch & Afternoon Devotional!**  
We hope you'll stay and eat, fellowship and worship with us immediately following morning services.

### For your calendar.....

Weekly Fellowship Luncheon	Sunday – 12:00 Noon
1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday Singing	Jan. 1, 2025 – 7:00 PM