

In Our Prayers...

**Requester's name is in parentheses*

Jodi James (Jodi James) – Jodi has recently lost two of her friends. Brendan Benally and his sister Audra died in separate incidents on the same weekend two weeks ago.

Bill Harrell (Brandy Wheeler) – Bill has stage one lung cancer. Also, his daughter, Kim, recently passed away due to abdominal cancer. Bill is an elder for the Farmington Church of Christ.

Larry McKesson (Larry McKesson) – Larry is seeing some signs of improvement as he recovers from knee replacement surgery.

Ongoing Health Concerns — Joe Shattuck; Jerry Lacy; Josh Martin; Judy Jones; Brandy Wheeler; Rick Hales; Jan McKesson; Karen Crowson; Victoria Pettigrew; Jesse Charles; Jeff Foster; Terry Wells.

Door for the Word — Ongoing Bible studies & effective means for spreading the gospel in and around Durango this year.

Announcements

Potluck Fellowship The final potluck of 2025 is today. Please join us immediately following worship services for this special time as family in Christ Jesus.

Men's Business Meeting The next business meeting is Saturday, November 8, 7:00 a.m.

The church of Christ in Durango

2100 West 3rd / P.O. Box 633, Durango, CO 81302

www.churchofchristdurango.org | (970) 247-0865

Service Times

Bible Study

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday 7p.m.

Worship

Sunday 10:20 a.m.



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Be Christian

By Nathan Wheeler

The Babylon Bee website uses satire to offer their commentary on the news of the day. One of their headlines is, “Motorcyclist Who Identifies as Bicyclist Sets Cycling World Record.”

As ridiculous as the “identifying as” trend is, it is how many today approach the idea of “truth.” It is common to find this practice in all kinds of contexts. Perhaps nowhere more than in spirituality and religion.

There are encouraging reports that increasing numbers of people identify themselves as Christians in recent national surveys. Even among Generation Z! But how can anyone know if they really are Christians? Is it enough to identify as a Christian, or are there objective proofs to look for?

First, we must remember that some questions belong to the sovereign God alone.

For one thing, only God knows how many genuine members of Christ’s body there are and who they all are. In a

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Be Christian

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context of divisiveness over debatable opinions, Paul counseled young Timothy to remember that “‘The Lord knows those who are his,’” (2 Tim 2:19).

Also, that kind of knowledge – everyone who is “in” and therefore everyone who is “out” – is only God’s business. Only God has enough knowledge and enough authority to judge any other soul. The Apostle Paul cautioned judgmental brethren in Rome, “Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls,” (Rom 14:4; also, Jam 4:12).

Second, we must remember that Lord Jesus has authorized his disciples a limited role in making judgment calls about the authenticity of another’s claim to be a Christian.

It was the Lord who taught us to be on the alert for “false prophets, who come to you sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves,” (Matt 7:15). He taught that we “will recognize them by their fruits,” (v. 16). Given the context of the Sermon on the Mount, those “fruits” are according to the values Jesus teaches in that Sermon. A little later, the Apostles taught that contradicting their gospel message is the only “fruit” that shows someone is not a Christian (Gal 1:6-7; 2:4; 1 Jn 4:3). This is relatively rare among the population of professing Christians. So, Jesus also taught that unmasking wolves must not become our primary concern (Rev 2:2-4).

Finally, we must remember that the Lord has called the Church to the positive work of helping more people to know and serve Him (Matt 28:18-20). The Church has been sent out into this world as harvesters not as policemen.

Let us make sure, then, that neither you nor I are resting on our identity as Christians. Let us make ourselves busy being Christians in the time that we are given.

Who Is from God?

1 John 4:1-6

1. C _____ are from God.
2. L _____ C _____ are from God.
3. D _____ of the Apostles are from God.
4. Therefore,
 - A. Recognize
 - B. Refuse
 - C. Remain

Weekly Bible Reading Schedule

Oct 27	Mon	John 6
Oct 28	Tue	John 7
Oct 29	Wed	John 8
Oct 30	Thur	John 9
Oct 31	Fri	John 10