



EASTSIDE  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH

# The Link

NOVEMBER, 2010

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### What's in the Name?

Earlier this month I was asked what I thought about a Christian not wanting to be called a Christian. "Was this denying Christ?" This is a kind of question more Christians ought to be asking. This may take some time to unfold but worth setting my mind toward some ideas and thoughts.

I think the hardest part about a question like this is that there are multiple definitions to the term 'Christian.' There is a text book, dictionary definition and there is a cultural definition.

- [Wikipedia](#): A **Christian** is a person who adheres to Christianity, an Abrahamic, monotheistic religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, who Christians believe is the Messiah prophesied in the Hebrew Bible, and the son of God. Most Christians believe in the doctrine of the Trinity ("tri-unity"), a description of God as Father, as Son, and as Holy Spirit. This includes Roman Catholicism, Orthodox Christianity, and the vast majority of Protestantism.

Wikipedia's definition was good and helpful to frame the basic definition, but even here there is an inclusion of some who are most likely not 'Christian'

- [Merriam-Webster](#) (online): a **Christian** is one who professes belief in the teachings of Jesus Christ.

This is a simpler definition (and weaker) than the previous but there is still the question; who is Jesus Christ. This question has to be answered. Culturally there are many people named Jesus Christ just like there are many people named Paul Thompson, but historically the Jesus whom the disciples were first called 'Christians' was a singular historical figure.

- The Mormon Jesus has a brother named Lucifer
- The Islamic Jesus was only a man (prophet) and didn't die on the cross.
- The Jewish Jesus was a Rabbi.
- The Bible Jesus is God.

Most of these issues are important and critical, but misdirect from the intent of the question. This question came from a believer of the Biblical Jesus and a desire to be identified as a follower of Christ. When I read about the disciples first being called 'Christians' in Antioch (Acts 11:26) I find that they were called this because they were behaving like followers (bond-servants) of Christ. They were not called Christians because of they were baptized, because of their nationality, or church membership, they were given the title of 'Christian' because they followed Christ, they didn't take on the name 'Christian'.

Where I think the name Christian is the right name given to followers of Christ today, the cultural definition of Christian is most likely offensive to a bond-servant of Christ. Unbelievers and non-followers of Christ who call themselves Christian and want others think of them as being Christian has me longing for a better identity from this cultural definition. When I have travel at home or abroad and communicate about being a Christian I'm learning that I must better define what that means. The Christian Nation idea has done as much damage to the name as anything. America and Christian are culturally synonymous to many in the world. Meaning; what America produces is what Christians endorse and do. This most likely sickens both the producers of evil and the true bond-servant of Christ. The only ones this may not sicken are the lukewarm, half-hearted, followers of self who what to be called Christian and not have any of their worldly pleasures removed from them. Thus polluting the term Christian.

**Summary:** I am not offended when I'm called a Christian, I just look to better qualify what that means. I'm a follower of Christ as defined by the Bible. I'm growing especially fond of the Apostle Paul's common name he identified himself with; a 'bond-slave' or 'bond-servant of Christ.' To be called a bond-servant means I am not my own, I belong to another, I adhere to His teachings and ways. I belong to Christ. I don't get to live however I want and attach the name of Christ when it feels safe and beneficial to me. If I belong to Christ, as a bond servant, I'm His to do with as He pleases and brings glory to Himself.

A Fellow Bond-Servant of Christ,

Paul Thompson <><

<http://bridgebloggin.blogspot.com/>  
<http://esbctwinfalls.com>

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204 EASTLAND DRIVE N.  
TWIN FALLS, ID 83301

#### OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY—WEDNESDAY

8:30 A.M.— 1:30 P.M

THURSDAY & FRIDAY

OFFICE CLOSED

#### WEBSITE:

WWW.ESBCTWINFALLS.COM

#### OFFICE EMAIL:

dawn@esbctwinfalls.com

#### PAUL THOMPSON, PASTOR

HOME:(208) 733-7562

E:MAIL

paul@esbctwinfalls.com

#### JOHN MARTINEZ

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

HOME: (208) 733-5763

E-MAIL:

John@esbctwinfalls.com

#### CHURCH SERVICES

##### SUNDAY'S

9:15 A.M.

##### SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:30 A.M.

##### WORSHIP

6:30 P.M.

##### EVENING SERVICE

#### TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

1:30 P.M. - PRAYER IN  
REQUA HOME

#### WEDNESDAYS

7:00 P.M.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY  
THE ROC  
KID'S CLUB  
LADIES BIBLE STUDY

#### THURSDAYS

1:30 P.M.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

6:00 P.M.

MAGIC VALLEY SINGLES  
WOK N GRILL

#### 1ST SATURDAY

9:00 A.M.

SONNY BUNCH  
PERKINS RESTAURANT



## SUPPORT FROM HOME



### 2010 CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

Dear Church Family, Thank you for being willing to adopt a Soldier for Christmas. Unfortunately, I do not have individual names to give you as yet. We will be adopting approximately 20 single soldiers from the Magic Valley who do not have family to encourage them while they are deployed.

#### SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT TO SEND

**Jerky-(beef only), Trail Mix, Hard Candy, Chocolate Candy-(ok), Nuts, Microwave Popcorn, Cookies, Small individual packaged treats, Powder flavored drinks for water, Individual coffee packets and Flavored Creamers, Christian DVD Movies, Christmas Cards, Card of encouragement, Letters from your family, Phone Cards, Sports Magazines, Pocket Bibles**



There is a packing slip in your box, use blue or black ink, press firmly so all information transfers to all copies. Print clearly a detailed list of the items you put in your box. There is no weight restriction so if it fits in the box great. Please return your box and packing slip to the church office by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Shipping cost has been paid by the generosity of an anonymous donor. If you have any questions please contact Dawn Edgar at the church office 734-7041.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR  
MAGIC VALLEY SOLDIERS**



### Happy Birthday

- 6 **Bradley Kinch**
- 11 **Marylin Boss**
- 15 **Julia Martinez**
- 17 **Ruth Kozielski**
- 19 **Beau Boss**
- 21 **Renee Thompson**
- 30 **Silas Thompson**



### Happy Anniversary

**November 18th  
Marc & Shelly Yung**

**November 20th  
Wendell & Audrey  
Kinch**

**November 24th  
Bob & Gen Ennis**

## Like Job's Commitment

The oft-repeated statement in the New Testament from Habakkuk's Old Testament declaration, "the just shall live by faith"(Habakkuk 2:4) is no flippant after-thought that he came up with to challenge our imagination. Are you doing it? You see, there is a depth of meaning there that is staggering in its implications.

Just how far are we supposed to take that idea forward? One of the three repetitions that the Apostle Paul recorded in the New Testament is Hebrews 10:38, and he added a meaningful phrase to the end of it that seems to lock the door behind us, once we start on the journey suggested by that statement: "Now the just shall live by faith, *but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.*" Wow! It reminds one of Hebrews 11:6: "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him".

"Just how far does this "living by faith" concept have to go", you may be asking, again. Ponder, then, Job's long-running encounter with God, and Job's summation of his own position: "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him" Job ---13:15a. As he must have confirmed, by faith, we can know, today, that "all the promises of God in [Christ] are 'YES' and in Him, AMEN" II Corinthians 1:20.

Gene Lawley - Adult Men's Class Leader

### **Mind's Attention ~ Heart's Affection**

#### **"Heritage or Tradition?"**

Christian churches carry unique, as well common traits. With some uncontestable idiosyncrasies, one can walk into almost any evangelical church on a Sunday morning and be met with a taste of familiarity or comfort that allows them to participate with some level of ease. In other words, there are lot of things we just do the same as other churches.

Clearly the most common characteristic within our own denomination has to do with the nature or flow of elements within the worship service. One can typically expect that Music, Prayer, Scripture and Preaching will all be in place to some extent. However, one congregation may give emphasis to exhortation and prayer, another giving the bulk of their time to extended music and an emphasis on the reading of the Word. Although, the main elements are present, all are treated with broad interpretation as to their use, placement and prominence.

This consortium of elements is what we might refer to as our heritage. These would be the Distinctive that set us apart from another denomination or perhaps another faith-practice altogether. But, the manner in which a particular congregation handles each of these elements could better be defined as culture or tradition; for example: one church uses computer technology and another none at all; this is a cultural difference because it relates to their practice and not the immutable characteristics of God in them.

I have shared with you in the past that I was adopted at birth. When I came to live with the Martinez family in the great state of New Mexico, I became a part of a culture that was rich in traditions from food to clothes styles, colloquialisms, accents and the like that set us apart from other families and even our extended family who resided in Central and Southern California. My uncle Luther Martinez from the Bay Area, might enjoy a plate of hearty enchiladas, but would never dream of topping it with a fried egg; a New Mexican culinary distinctive, and geographically cultural mark of the Martinez clan in New Mexico.

Adopted into a Hispanic family, at first glance most would say I fit the part, but in reality my biological origins are Middle Eastern. My biological heritage is defined by my physical features such as skin color, height, ethnicity and genetic background, etc. However, my cultural heritage is Hispanic, because I speak Spanish, I identify with the Martinez family and that is who I am by cultural practice. Heritage deals more with immutable facts and culture with practices preferences and traditions.

This is exactly how it works in the Church. Our congregation has a heritage that identifies our genetic make-up as it were, as believers and followers of Christ; filled with the Holy Spirit at our spiritual birth. God is our Heavenly Father, and we know Him through His Word and by faith we have been adopted into His family.

Similarly, denominationally as Southern Baptists we have a heritage, but within each congregation we identify with a culture or tradition that is unique to our corner of the Church - cultural traditions that are too numerous to list here but range from, teaching preferences, music styles, program choices, and the list goes, that set us apart from our sister churches across town and the country. We are Eastside Southern Baptist Church by practice (culture/tradition) and adopted Children of God by heritage.

Heritage can never be substituted for tradition and culture, they are not the same; but the critical element in our practice, is that we cannot allow culture or tradition to overshadow our heritage which is in the One in which we live and move and have our being. Acts 17:28 As we raise the value of our culture and traditions over who we are in Christ, we then at that point cease to worship Him with those practices and jeopardize the aroma of Christ to those who are saved and perishing. 2 Corinthians 2:15

Ultimately, our distinct identities and methods of worship and style-preferences are truly for our benefit and profit; if not then why didn't God just say He was seeking those who worship in "**Somalia and Tunics**" rather than "**Spirit and Truth**"? Preferences are for our ease and facility, allowing us to gather and worship corporately with order and unity and for the strengthening of the Church. 1Cor.14:26-40.

Finally, understanding that even within small gatherings, cultural preferences and tastes can vary widely and contain the potential to divide a congregation when worshippers become selfish and take a stand for tradition and set heritage aside for their own personal choices. Be reminded, that no one wins in broken-churches but the evil one.

***"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." - Phil. 4:8***

-John Martinez-

We are on the web  
[www.esbctwinfalls.com](http://www.esbctwinfalls.com)

**EASTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
204 EASTLAND DRIVE NORTH  
TWIN FALLS, ID 83301

### Contact People

#### Children's Sunday School

Helen Requa 736-2964

#### Deacons

Bill Dobson 280-0600

Roger Maxwell 735-1449

#### Nursery

Blake & Christie Burton 734-2700

#### Secretary

Dawn Edgar 734-7041

#### Senior Adult Leader

John Requa 736-2964

#### Student Ministry

John Martinez 733-5763

#### Treasurer

Gen Ennis 733-4028

#### Worship Ministry

John Martinez 733-5763

#### Youth Sunday School

Dan Stieneke 734-7041

### November Nursery schedule

#### November 7th

9:15 am Julie Edwards  
10:15 am  
Ryan Franklin

#### November 14th

9:15 am Christie Burton  
10:30 am  
Stacey Brown

#### November 21st

9:15 am Blake Burton  
10:30 am  
Shari Helman

#### November 28th

9:15 am Blake Burton  
10:30 am  
Nancy Brackett

### BLOG

Our pastors blog sites are  
at.

[www.esbctwinfalls.com](http://www.esbctwinfalls.com)

Then click on their name  
and you will be directed  
to their

#### "Blogger" Site

This is a great way to get  
to know your Pastors on  
a more intimate level.  
Read their thoughts, see  
their stories, post your  
own responses, and ask  
them questions.

### **BENEVOLENCE PANTRY**

#### November

*We need to restock the  
benevolence pantry*

*Please bring  
Macaroni & Cheese*

*Canned Meats*

*Soups*

*Vegetables*

*(no corn please)*

*Please remember to check the  
expiration date*


*Thank you for helping*

*Dawn*

# Eastside Baptist Church

seeking to glorify God



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 1:30 PM Ladies Bible Study	5	6* 9am Sonny Bunch Perkins Restaurant
7 * 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 6:30pm Evening Service	8	9	10 6pm Meal 6:30 PM Adult Study The ROC Kids Club Ladies Bible Study	11 1:30 PM Ladies Bible Study	12	13
14 *9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 6:30 pm Evening Service	15	16	17 6pm meal 6:30 PM Adult Study The ROC Kids Club Ladies Bible Study	18 1:30 PM Ladies Bible Study	19	20
21 *9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 6:30 pm Evening Service	22	23	24 Office Closed	25 * 	26	27
28 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 6:30 pm Evening Service	29	30				

### Scripture Verse

**3"For I proclaim the name of the LORD Ascribe greatness to our God! 4"The Rock! His work is perfect; For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.**

**Deuteronomy 32: 3-4 (NASB)**

* November 6th 9:00 A.M. Sonny Bunch Perkins Restaurant	* November 7th 	*November 14th 5:00 pm Deacons Mtg.	*November 21st 4:30 P.M. Church Council Mtg. 5:00 P.M. Ministry/ Business Mtg.	* November 25th 	<b>"The Link Calendar of Events"</b>
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