

together to become a large movement in the 18th and 19th century called “the Restoration Movement.” Members of this movement generally believed that restoration was the means to bring about the unity that Jesus prayed for before he left this earth (John 17: 20-21).

Churches of Christ today continue to strive to be involved in this “restoration-unity” emphasis. Each congregation is autonomous with local elders, yet connected by one Spirit to each other. They also share the belief that weekly observance of the Lord’s Supper on Sunday follows the apostolic pattern (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 11:20). The power of prayer is emphasized (Acts 2: 42; I Thess. 5:17) as well as the importance of singing, “making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Eph. 5:19; Col.3:16).

The Britton Road Church of Christ was established in 1941 in northern Oklahoma City. We strive to follow Christ. We seek to be undenominational. We are committed to Biblical teaching. We strive for unity among all. We welcome people of every age, race, nationality, sex, and status. We are eager to help all people achieve God’s spiritual goals for their lives.

Presently, the church is organized with five elders and eleven deacons. Our average attendance is about 250. Rob McElroy is the pulpit minister. Charlie Powell is the outreach minister. Travis Frost is the youth minister.

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**OF THE BRITTON ROAD
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

by Ron Bever

Churches of Christ are a group of undenominational churches who are striving to follow Christ and to restore the church as He originally designed it. This includes restoring the church's teachings, practices, spirit, purpose and unity.

It is generally believed by members of the churches of Christ that if they strive to obey the apostle Paul's call to live with love, humility, gentleness, and patience, they can "preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4: 1-3). With the "bond of peace" as their badge, they can pursue God's desire for "one body and one spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all, through all and in all" (Eph. 4: 4-6). The importance of unity is underscored by Jesus when he prayed that "they may all be one. Such unity, according to Jesus, is crucial in convincing the world to come to faith in him (John 17:21).

There were many local congregations throughout the Roman empire in the early days of the church. These churches had been established by God's inspired writers who proclaimed the same Gospel message (Gal. 1:6-9; I Thess. 2: 13; Jude 3). This "good-news" message was essentially that God had sent His only Son to redeem men from their sins, and that through obedient faith in Christ they could have the assurance of eternal life (John 3:16; Romans 5: 6-11; I Peter 1:3-5; I John 1: 1-4).

Obedient trust in Christ was based on evidence presented by the early Christians and is recorded in the New Testament. First, God announced that Jesus was His son at Jesus' baptism (Mark 1:9-11). Then, Jesus showed that He was God's son by His supernatural miracles, His authoritative teaching, and His sinless life (John 20: 30-31, I Peter 2: 21-15). Final proof that Jesus was God's son was demonstrated

when God raised Jesus from the dead, after he had been crucified on a Roman cross (Acts 2:32-42; Romans 1: 4).

When people throughout the Roman empire submitted their lives to the Lordship of Christ by obedient trust in Him, God added them to His one body, the church (Acts 2: 41, 5:11; I Cor. 12: 12-13; Eph. 1:22-23). Later, the Apostle Paul would travel among the many local churches throughout the empire and call the members of these churches his "brothers and sisters" in Christ.

Although these churches often had their unique church problems, Paul could still rejoice that they were united as one universal church. They had given their lives to Christ and allowed their obedient faith to "count for righteousness" (Rom. 4:5). They had responded to the good news of God's grace and love, by turning from their past sins, confessing Christ as their Lord and Savior, and being immersed in water for the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2: 36-38; Acts 3:19; Acts 18:8; Acts 22: 16). They were then given the Holy Spirit as a gift (Acts 2:38, 5:32; I Cor. 6: 19-20). The presence of the Holy Spirit gave these early Christians the power to live the Christian life (Eph. 1: 19-21; 3:16-20) and to produce the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

These churches were constantly warned by the inspired apostles of Christ that Satan would try to destroy their congregational unity by bringing in false teachings (Acts 20: 28-30; I Tim. 4: 1-3; II Tim. 4: 3-4). History reveals that this happened. The message was indeed changed and the church was changed. Soon few people could identify the true apostolic church.

Throughout the centuries there were lone voices striving to restore both the New Testament church and its original message of salvation. These single voices joined