



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

Volume 7

July 5, 2020

No. 27

## Why Is It Called The “Church of Christ”?

- by H. L. Collett

Do you wonder why it is so important that the church be designated properly? Let us give these very simple and very vital reasons:

1. The church belongs to Christ by right of purchase. “To feed the church of the Lord which he purchased with his own blood” Acts 20:28. No other person or thing, therefore, should have any part in the title of the church.
2. The church is the body of Christ. “And he is the head of the body, the church.” (Col. 1:18) The body of Christ is the church of Christ, so it is altogether logical and right that the church be called “the church of Christ.”
3. The church is the bride of Christ. “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great: but I speak in regard of Christ and the church.” (Eph. 5:31 -32)
4. The church operates under the sole authority of Christ. “All power in heaven and earth has been given unto me: go ye therefore...” Matt. 28:18-20. Since it operates by no earthly authority, by what right should it be called after any earthly being or thing?
5. Christ is the Savior of the Church. “Christ also is head of the church, being himself the savior of the body.” Eph. 5:23. So we are obligated to no other person or thing. Why should we desire to glorify any other than the Savior?

## Snarky Comments

Doy Moyer

Snarky: 1) “testy or irritable; short”; 2) “having a rudely critical tone or manner” — Dictionary

Do you find yourself 1) irritated at snarky comments, or 2) making or wanting to make snarky comments? Perhaps, in our irritation over what others say, we ironically fall into that same pit.

I struggle with it. Sometimes I really have hold myself back from firing off a zinger. It’s so tempting. Unfortunately, social media abounds in snark. We are often rude, exhibiting that critical tone or manner, and in so doing hurt our own influence.

We want things to change for the better. We want better relations, better conversations, and better outcomes.

But here’s the thing: snark doesn’t do any of that. It only makes things worse. It causes us to get even more testy, less trusting, and less willing to engage in constructive communication. Everyone walks away angry. Nothing good has been accomplished.

There is room for well-placed irony. But the level of snark so often seen and heard in discussions is well beyond anything like that. It’s rather a deeply hurtful sarcasm.

Snark communicates resentment and bitterness. It makes us not want to take each other seriously, especially when the snarky engagements are between people who don't even know each other. Snarky comments are often based on ill assumptions and fail to give any benefit of the doubt or consider the possibility of misunderstanding. It makes people want to respond in kind, and pretty soon it becomes reviling for reviling, insult for insult—the very sort of drama we are specifically told to avoid (1 Peter 3:9).

This is not what Christians are taught to do. It runs counter to the very concepts of speaking the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), speaking with grace (Col 4:6), and speaking so that no corrupt communication comes out. It runs roughshod over our ability to speak “only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear” (Ephesians 4:29).

Yet consider something further. One who engages in snarky tones, communicating bitterness and resentment, is likely hurting. Why would they act otherwise unless there is something painful deep inside of them? As they lash out, they may actually be crying out for help. Perhaps we can listen to that instead of the snark.

This is why we must avoid answering in kind. The level of hurt will only be driven deeper. Instead, seek to respond in ways that help—far better even not to respond sometimes than to respond in kind and make the divide even more entrenched. Like Job's friends learned, silence can be better sometimes.

Perhaps the one communicating in snarky tones needs some compassion. After all, don't we all need it? As far as it depends on us, then, seek peace. Let us take the higher road. Seek to heal wounds. “A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit” (Prov 15:4).

## Samson's Blind Spot

by Heath Rogers

As it relates to a person's character, the phrase “blind spot” is defined as “an area in which one fails to exercise judgment or discrimination.” Samson was a strong man, and the Spirit of the Lord was upon him to judge Israel, but he had a weakness in his character. He allowed women whom he loved to wear down his resolve and expose secrets.

Many of us are familiar with Delilah doing this to Samson. “And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death, that he told her all his heart, and said to her, ‘No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man’” (Judges 16:16-17). However, this was not the first time Samson had fallen prey to a woman's continual words.

When Samson was married, his wife talked him into telling her the secret of his riddle. “Then Samson's wife wept on him, and said, ‘You only hate me! You do not love me! You have posed a riddle to the sons of my people, but you have not explained it to me.’ And he said to her, ‘Look, I have not explained it to my father or my mother; so should I explain it to you?’ Now she had wept on him the seven days while their feast lasted. And it happened on the seventh day that he told her, because she pressed him so much. Then she explained the riddle to the sons of her people” (Judges 14:16-17).

The first time Samson fell to his weakness it cost him thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothes. He should have learned from this, because the second time it cost him his life.

What is our blind spot? What is our weakness? Have we learned from our past failures and resolved not to expose ourselves to these weaknesses again?