

## FITTING IN

Michael Pickford

Many folks want to “Fit in.” They want to be accepted, to not feel like an outsider. Perhaps there’s a healthy measure to this desire, but all too often people get themselves into trouble by trying to “Fit in” with the wrong crowd. Young people experiment with smoking, drinking, and drugs; often so they will “Fit in.” “You shall not follow a multitude to do evil” (Exodus 23:2).

Similar admonitions are given to Christians in the New testament, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of

God” (Romans 12:2).

But we should want to “Fit in” in the church. We should feel comfortable being around other Christians and enjoying spiritual blessings. It should be a pleasure to serve God and have good clean fun. But to “Fit in” in Christ we must first GET in Christ. In Christ is the only place where salvation is located (2 Timothy 2:10). We are told how to get in Christ, “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:26-27). Are you living in such a way as to “Fit in” in the kingdom? 🔍

Welcome to our services and thank you for visiting. If you have any questions about our beliefs or practices, please don’t hesitate to ask.

God has not only commanded us to worship Him, but has also told us how, in His word. **The elements of our services, as prescribed by God’s word, are as follows:**

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD’S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



- [www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Radio program on wgns. 15 minute sermon every Sunday morning from 10:45 - 11:00.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Men’s Training Class, 3:30 pm, Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men’s Business Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evenings following services.



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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“They...searched the scriptures daily...” –Acts 17:11

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## FALSE PLANS OF SALVATION

Michael Pickford

The Bible teaches only one plan for salvation. One must hear the Gospel (Romans 10:17), believe the Gospel (John 8:24), repent of sins (Acts 2:38), confess faith (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized (Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16). Man has concocted some plans of salvation contrary to this God given plan. False plans of salvation are...

**Deceptive.** Those who teach man-made plans use “Smooth words a flattering speech to deceive the hearts of the simple” (Romans 16:18). Some of these words include those of Martin Luther which states “Faith only is a most wholesome doctrine, and full of comfort.” Faith only salvation would indeed be comforting if it were true. But it is not true. It is clear from scripture that Jesus is the Author of eternal salvation for only those who obey Him (Hebrews 5:8-9). Obedience is essential! The Lord Himself said “Not everyone who says to Me ‘Lord, Lord’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). Don’t be deceived!

**Destructive.** In order to promote a false plan, one must first pervert those passages of scripture that reveal the true plan. They seek to destroy Mark

16:16 so that it says exactly opposite of what it actually says “*He who believes and is baptized will be saved.*” They seek to destroy Acts 2:38 so that it says that baptism is done because one has already been forgiven. But the text still says baptism is “for” (Grk: “Unto, Towards”) the remission of sins. Acts 22:16 is just as clear: “*Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*” Baptism is the point at which Christ’s blood connects with and erases our sins (Revelation 1:5; Ephesians 1:7).

**Dominant.** False plans of salvation seem to be the dominant plans accepted by the religious world. Some think that this many people surely can’t be wrong. But remember, the majority is not our standard for truth; God’s word is our standard for truth (1 Peter 4:11; 2 John 9). Long ago God said to His people Israel “*You shall not follow a crowd to do evil*” (Exodus 23:2). The Lord Himself taught it would be the majority of folks who went down the wrong path (Mathew 7:13-14). God has given a plan for righteousness, but sadly the majority seeks to reject God’s plan and establish their own (Romans 10:3). Many follow their destructive ways (2 Peter 2:1-3). Don’t you be one of them! 🔍

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## COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00  
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

## NECESSARY DIVISION

Michael Pickford

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity” (Psalm 133:1), but “Can two walk together unless they are agreed?” (Amos 3:3). God certainly desires for all of His children to walk together in unity and to enjoy the pleasantness of it. But sadly unity is not always possible. Jesus Himself taught that He came to bring, not peace, but a sword (Matthew 10:34-39). A sword is used to divide! Is Jesus teaching that it is His desire for folks to be divided? Absolutely not! He’s teaching the simple fact that there will be some who will accept the truth and others who will not. This will force division, even among the closest relationships (Matt 10:36-37).

God allows us to differ in matters of opinion; in fact, He commands that we get along and dwell in unity regardless of our personal opinions (Romans 14:1-13). But sadly, there are times when brethren choose to believe and teach error. Romans 14 does not apply to these situations, as it only applies to “doubtful things” (Romans 14:1).

When someone teaches error, and after being taught the truth will not repent of the error, he is to be divided from those who are adamant about sticking to the truth. The false teachers are to be marked and avoided (Romans 16:17-18). There’s good reason for this; if they are allowed our fellowship they are apt to convince others of their error, thus causing others to lose their souls.

Another heart-breaking thing I’ve noticed about all of this is that the ones who take the erroneous positions are often willing to be in harmony with those who differ with them. When those who want to stick with the Gospel (2 John 9) insist on breaking their fellowship with the false teachers (2 John 10), they are represented as impatient trouble makers who insist upon causing division among brethren. Sadder still is that souls will be lost over error (Gal 1:6-9; 1 Peter 2:1-3). Let us strive to stick strictly and boldly to the Gospel. If we’ll all do this, we’ll enjoy that pleasant unity the Psalmist spoke of. ☞

### SUPPLYING FOR CHILDREN

Children have a great many needs: Food, clothing, love, discipline, care, attention, etc. But there’s something else they need – God’s word. This is something many children today are not getting, and we are putting forth a stronger generation that “Knows not God.” The responsibility falls to the fathers to make certain God’s word is instilled in their children (Ephesians 6:4). Yes, it’s often the women who serve the Lord and pass on the truth (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15), but when the father is a member of the church, there’s no reason for him not to do the teaching. Implant the word in their hearts and save their souls! (James 1:21). -MP



## SERMON NOTES

Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.

### Wanted: A Good Man!

Introduction:

I. \_\_\_\_\_

II. \_\_\_\_\_

III. \_\_\_\_\_

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Kenny Johnson  
Reading: Ezekiel 22:29-31
- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Opening Prayer.....Michael Pickford
- Lord’s Table:  
Lead.....Kenny Todd  
Serve.....John Nelson  
Serve.....Ben Reagh
- Closing Prayer.....Frank Anderson

##### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Lord’s Table.....Kenny Todd

##### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Invitation.....Ben Green

*Home Bible Studies  
Available Upon Request!*

##### GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

**Obey Today!**