



# Blackfoot Church of Christ

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## **The Pattern of Doctrine that Frees from Sin**

Joe R. Price

The apostle Paul said the word of Christ forms a pattern of doctrine that must be preached, believed and obeyed. It is a pattern of teaching that is apostolic, not creedalistic: "Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you heard from me" (2 Tim. 1:13). This apostolic pattern is formed by "the words of our Lord Jesus Christ" that accords with godliness (1 Tim. 6:3). Those who refuse and oppose the pattern of the gospel can only offer the world a formless, shape-shifting message that lacks the power to save sinners from sin's bondage and death. By denying the "doctrine which accords with godliness," one is left with the obsession of "disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth" (1 Tim. 6:3-5).

The inspired apostle wrote in Romans 6:17-18: "But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness." The "form" or pattern of doctrine (teaching) to which the Romans had been delivered was none other than the gospel of Christ, the "power of God unto salvation" to all who believe (Rom. 1:16). The verse plainly says they were freed from sin when they "obeyed from the heart" the pattern of teaching that was preached to them. That pattern includes faith that Jesus is the Christ and confession of the same (Rom. 10:9-10). It also includes being "baptized into Christ Jesus, into His death" and into death to sin (Rom. 6:3-4). The sinner who does not obey the gospel pattern of how to be saved remains lost in sin (Mk. 16:15-16).

Instead of apologizing for obeying doctrine to be saved, let us proclaim it abroad. Man's false doctrine corrupts the Bible teaching of faith, grace, obedience and salvation. "God be thanked" for the pattern of the gospel. It frees sinners from the bondage and death of sin when it is believed and obeyed from the heart (Rom. 6:17-18).

## **Baptism and Marriage**

Joe R. Price

The New Testament commands water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 10:47-48). It is an act of faith in Christ, an expression of love for Him, by which the sinner puts on Christ and is saved (Jno. 14:15; Acts 8:12-13, 16; Gal. 3:27; 1 Pet. 3:21). Its motive is clearly stated: "for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:37-38).

However, Meghan Markle, the fiancée of England's Prince Harry, will be baptized for a different reason. You see, Harry's grandmother, Queen Elizabeth, is also the head of the Church of England. Markle was not raised Catholic, but she attended a Catholic high school. It has been announced that she will be baptized and confirmed in the Church of England prior to the wedding, in an apparent nod to the queen ("Meghan Markle Will Be Baptized Into the Church of England Before Her Wedding to Prince Harry," Diana Pearl, [people.com](http://people.com)).

Baptism is not a church ceremony. Baptism is not a way to secure a relationship, or to cement the legitimacy of a marriage. Such are selfish, sinful reasons, and not at all worthy of Christ. Water baptism must be the action of faith by one who knows Jesus is the Christ, and is convicted of his or his sins against God. Baptism is for one whose godly sorrow for his sins has prompted repentance (Acts 2:37-38). It begins one's relationship with Christ, not one with a man or woman (Rom. 6:3-4).

Markle is also divorced. Previously, this would have meant they could not have a wedding in a Church of England church. But, the Archbishop of Canterbury has no problem with it. Of course, it is God, not the archbishop, who approves or rejects marriages (Matt. 19:4-6, 9). Without the God-given right to remarry, adultery ensues.

The approaching royal wedding reflects culture's disdain and rejection of both the purpose of baptism, and the permanency of marriage. How can we celebrate that?!

## Marijuana, Five Years Later

Joe R. Price

Marijuana enthusiasts celebrated Colorado's legalization of this psychoactive drug in November 2012. Five years later, data shows its legalization was not a moment for celebration. Here are some of the facts:

"Five years of retail pot coincide with five years of a homelessness growth rate that ranks among the highest rates in the country. Directors of homeless shelters, and people who live on the streets, tell us homeless substance abusers migrate here for easy access to pot.

"Five years of Big Marijuana ushered in a doubling in the number of drivers involved in fatal crashes who tested positive for marijuana, based on research by the pro-legalization Denver Post.

"Five years of commercial pot have been five years of more marijuana in schools than teachers and administrators ever feared.

"An investigation by Education News Colorado, Solutions and the I-News Network shows drug violations reported by Colorado's K-12 schools have increased 45 percent in the past four years, even as the combined number of all other violations has fallen,' explains an expose on escalating pot use in schools by Rocky Mountain PBS in late 2016.

"The investigation found an increase in high school drug violations of 71 percent since legalization. School suspensions for drugs increased 45 percent.

"The National Survey on Drug Use and Health found Colorado ranks first in the country for marijuana use among teens, scoring well above the national average" ("EDITORIAL: The sad anniversary of Big Commercial Pot in Colorado," November 5, 2017, gazette.com).

It is disingenuous to conclude marijuana is harmless, and that its legalization strengthens society. Legalized marijuana weakens the social order. It harms both mind and body. It weakens self-control, and impairs judgment and motor skills (2 Tim. 3:3; 2 Pet. 1:6; on more physical effects, see "Cannabis," Wikipedia). Getting high on weed will not produce the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). Remember, just because a thing is legal, does not make it moral, righteous and good.

## Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Brenda is recovering from surgery and is feeling much better.
- David's brother Bobby and Debbie's dad are being treated for blood clots in lung
- Michelle, Brenda's Daughter has Bell's Palsy and is undergoing treatments for it.
- Kass' Grandmother has Lung Cancer
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- Chad & Kass will be traveling back from CA today
- Tom & Kate plan to travel to CO this week
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Bible class tomorrow night 7:00pm at Chad and Kass' on evangelism

**For prayer requests, call or text**

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

## Assignments

<b><u>Today</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Ross Ward <b>Song Leader</b> – Tom Mitchell <b>Lord's Table</b> – David Porter <b>Sermon</b> – Ross Ward	<b><u>Wednesday</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Ross Ward <b>Song Leader</b> – David Porter <b>Invitation</b> – Ross Ward
<b><u>Next Sunday</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Ross Ward <b>Song Leader</b> – Chad Mitchell <b>Lord's Table</b> – Tom Mitchell <b>Sermon</b> – Ross Ward	<b><u>Next Wednesday</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Ross Ward <b>Song Leader</b> – Chad Mitchell <b>Invitation</b> – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ  
370 North Shilling Ave.  
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

### **Meeting Times:**

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM  
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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