

# The Primary Mission Of The Church

By Mike Riley

The primary mission of the church is to change people. Our object should never be that of just winning an argument or making a point. Our goal should never be just to “put down” someone; rather, we want them to change their minds and their lives to conform to the saving gospel of Christ. Therefore, it behooves us to consider how we might get people to change. **There are only three possible ways by which men have ever been changed:**

- 1) By Force
- 2) By Purchase
- 3) By Persuasion

Men and even nations have been changed by the use of physical force. When a person’s life or physical welfare is sufficiently threatened by the use of force, he will usually submit to the will of another. The history books are full of examples of this kind of change. Likewise, if a sufficient price or consideration is offered to most people, they will change their lives to conform to the will of the purchaser. This is readily recognized in the area of wages or even bribes. Man’s conduct is also changed by the power of persuasion. When compelling reasons are given for a different course of action, a person may frequently be convinced to change his mind and conduct.

## The Power Of Persuasion

Now, of these three ways by which man can be changed, which is the way acceptable for use by Christians? It should be obvious that neither Force nor Purchase is acceptable in trying to change others. Neither of these methods has anything to do with changing the individual’s mind. These methods might change his actions but they will not change his convictions. Belief in what is right cannot be imposed on the human mind by either force or money. Even the change in conduct wrought by these methods lasts only as long as the force or the money holds out. The only tool, therefore, left to the Christian is the power of Persuasion! This is precisely as God has ordained it. The apostle Paul stated, “Therefore knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men...” (2 Corinthians 5:11 – ASV).

## Conclusion

While the power of persuasion is all we have, it is enough! The only thing that renders it ineffective is our refusal or negligence to use it. May God always find us busily engaged in using the power of persuasion to change the minds of men for the purpose of their being obedient to the gospel of our Lord (Romans 1:5; Romans 16:25-26; cf. Acts 6:7; Acts 12:24; Acts 19:20).



# STERLINGTON

## Church of Christ



P.O. Box 82  
1095 Highway 2  
Sterlington, Louisiana 71280  
[www.sterlingtoncoc.com](http://www.sterlingtoncoc.com)

Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM  
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM  
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

## Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshiping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

### Elders:

Todd Chapman  
Paul Simpson

### Deacons:

Wayne Fowler  
Billy Granger

### Preacher:

David Garris  
Buddy Hollis

## Those to Serve

### Today

**Announcements-** Lyle Russell    **Opening Prayer-** Wayne Fowler  
**Communion-** Rick Cook        **Closing Prayer-** David Reppond

July 16th

**Announcements-**Todd Chapman    **Opening prayer-** Wes Chapman  
**Communion-** Charles Fricke        **Closing Prayer-** Ronnie Hayes

## Announcements

**—Question & Answer Series:** Our next Question and Answer Series will be scheduled when enough questions are turned in. Give your questions to Don.

**—Children's Home Collection:** Our congregation is collecting items for the Children's Home in Paragould, AR. Collection boxes are by the nursery. A list of needed items is in the foyer.



### Sterlington Church of Christ helping the needy

The congregation recently donated 11 fans to help needy people in our community. Pictured is Wayne Fowler dropping off the fans at the Sterlington PD.

## Please Pray For:

Susie McGough, Carolyn Jones's granddaughter Emma, Steve Toris, Mina & Mae Fricke, Cathy Allen, Chris Switzer, Billy Granger, Laverne Driver, Dwain Flowers, John McDaniel, Dan Ross, Joanne Randolph, Gena Granger, Lorrie McDonald Edwards, Peggy Johnson, Waymon Swain.

**Bereaved:** Families of Emma Morgan, Max Aubel, Darlene Henry, Deb McInturff, Betty Jo Franklin.

## Continue to Pray For:

Linda Garris, Sharon White-Ross, James & Lorene Johnson, Shirley Goodwin, Bobby Barker, Gail Sewell, Malea Zuber, Bobby Simmons, Tricia Muse, Elizabeth Hollis, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross, and Charlie McDaniel Jr.



### July birthdays

- 3 - Carol Granger
- 4 - Jansen Chisley
- 5 - Lilly Delaney
- 6 - Paul Simpson
- 6 - Mary Wyatt
- 9 - David Reppond
- 12 - Oddie Cameron
- 16 - Angelec Brannon
- 19 - Debbie Cook
- 20 - Ronnie Hayes
- 22 - Ethel Ross
- 23 - Randy Manning
- 27 - Donna Binford
- 31 - Whitney Chapman

### July anniversaries

- 21 - Billy & Carol Granger
- 28 - Wayne & Dana Fowler
- 30 - Don & Jean Delukie

