

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

June 3, 2007

Do-it-yourself religion

by David King

"Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another" (Rom. 15:14).

"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith . . ." (Jude 20).

Have you noticed in recent years that we increasingly live in a do-it-yourself culture?

Home improvement retail centers have become hugely popular, catering to a growing desire for people to tackle home projects themselves ("You can do it; we can help!").

Instead of relying on a small number of traditional news outlets for their news, such as TV networks and newspapers, more people are now seeking out their own sources of information on the internet.

Auto repair, stock trading, health and fitness, even preparing their own wills — people today are accustomed to making their own decisions and carrying them out. Sometimes this do-it-yourself approach can get people in trouble. But on the whole, it's a healthy development that allows people to take greater responsibility for their welfare.

Religion in America has not escaped this shift to individual decision-making. Mainline denominations have been in steady decline over the last few decades, as people turn to other modes of religious expression, usually those that emphasize personal responsibility and distributed authority structures. The old model of centralized hierarchies dictating all aspects of spiritual life is losing its appeal, giving way to more loosely structured organs that

allow people to tailor their religious life to suit their own needs.

Of course, this cafeteria-style approach to religion sometimes yields some pretty weird results. But despite the occasional eccentricity, this development in religion is still a positive thing. It allows people the freedom to conduct their own search for truth, unobstructed by denominational bias or restrictions. When honest hearts confront the word of God, only good can come of the encounter.

As our opening texts indicate, this do-it-yourself approach is not merely preference; it is pre-eminently Scriptural. We are encouraged to build up ourselves, and to admonish one another. We don't need a hierarchy of highly trained specialists to do it for us. God believes that His people are capable of managing their own spiritual welfare, with only a minimum of external guidance at the local level.

That's why this trend toward do-it-yourself religion can work to our advantage. Historically, our approach to religion has always emphasized the role of individual responsibility above rigid corporate command-and-control. In the past, that made us pariahs in the religious community. Today, however, this approach should have strong appeal to people who are rejecting the old structures and looking for something that provides them with a greater stake in their own spiritual growth.

One caution: "Do-it-yourself" does not mean "do it without God." The whole objective here is to seek reconciliation with God, on His terms, not to abandon Him.