

What This Church Offers

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, ALL CHURCHES ARE NOT THE SAME! If your idea has been “a church is a church is a church,” then let us challenge your thinking. This church is different.

The greatest single difference between this congregation and many other churches in our area is that we are striving to be the New Testament church. We truly want to be a church of Christ. Our organization, work, and worship are patterned after the ideals stated in the New Testament. Most modern-day churches are not at all interested in being a first-century church in the twenty-first century. They are more concerned with what people desire in a church, instead of what God wants.

All around us are churches who have resorted to gimmickry and gadgetry to add to their numbers. Rather than “holding fast the word of life” (Phil. 2:16) they offer the public food, fun, and frolic. Their programs turn their churches into Country Clubs or sports arenas. Is this what the Savior of the church had in mind when He announced His plans (Matt. 16:18) to build His church? The New Testament reveals a noble, spiritual design.

Our offer to the community is quite straightforward and simple. We offer the Gospel of Christ and its message of salvation (Rom. 1:16,17). In today’s religious atmosphere, that makes this congregation unique! The Gospel has always drawn sincere people to Jesus. If entertainment, recreation, social events or political activism is what someone is looking for in a church, then they will not be interested in what we are offering. They might give us an initial look, but they will not stick around here for very long. Nearly every week someone tries us on and realizes we do not “fit” them.

This is why we do not have a Family Life Center or a gymnasium. It is also the reason why we do not offer prizes for attendance, sponsor ball teams, cook barbecue, or operate a daycare. These kinds of things are simply out of place in a New Testament church. The Lord’s church wasn’t designed by Him for these things.

If someone is looking for a church to fill their social calendar, then we are not the place for them. If they are wanting a pulpit that will be devoted to a discussion of current political issues, then our Gospel sermons and Bible teaching will not appeal to them. We make no apology for this. We simply recognize that we are not everyone’s cup of tea. We wish we did appeal to everyone who visits with us, but the reality is we are not attractive to everyone we meet.

However, if people are searching for a church that will challenge them to grow spiritually by faithful teaching from the word of God, then this church will fit them well. If they are looking for fellowship with God through worship, Bible study and interaction with other saved people, then we are the place for them. We are “not ashamed of the gospel” (Rom. 1:16) so we continue to preach this primitive message to our fashionable generation. We realize this emphasis makes us rather quaint in the landscape of contemporary churches. Some will say, “You folks remind me of the way church was when I was a kid.” Others will find us quite boring, unexciting, and uninspiring.

Our aim is not to please men, but God. If that goal appeals to you, then, in the words of Moses to his Midianite brother-in-law, “come with us and we will do you good” (Num. 10:29).

- by Mark W. White

Abraham Lincoln said of Americans:

"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us."

Let's Talk About 'ME'!

An old joke tells of a fella who had a blind date with a young lady. He spent the whole evening talking about himself. Finally, near the end of the date, he said: "I've talked about myself enough. Now you talk about me." Ouch! That's the first and last date for that guy!

Unfortunately, that joke is played out too literally in these days. Seems folks have lost the skill of common and courteous conversation. So often people spend most of their time talking about themselves, their families, their activities and interests, etc. Have you noticed how seldom certain individuals ask about you, your work, or your family?

This self-centeredness has been encouraged and promoted on the pages of social media. Facebook and similar sites are overrun with people talking about themselves; posting flattering pictures of themselves; telling about their own achievements and those of their children and relatives. There is a new narcissism that exceeds anything ever seen before.

God's Word warns that a person is "not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think" (Romans 12:3). We are urged to "consider one another" (Hebrews 10:24), and to do things that will "edify one another" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). We should "look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (Philippians 2:4). Paul's example was of one who was "not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else" (1 Thessalonians 2:6).

Personal pride and selfish arrogance have no place in the heart of a Christian. Let's be careful not to follow the current trend of 'self-ism'. Think!

- by Greg Gwin