



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

May 11, 2010

The Christian Is To Be Different

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33

There was a time when preachers and teachers taught forcefully that Christians were to be different from those in the world. Many passages were cited, including 2 Corinthians 6:17, “Therefore come out from them, and be separate, says the Lord.” However today, there is an element - - even in the Church - - that is saying, “We ought not to be different. Instead we need to blend with people as they are, and not be a ‘stand out’ in our appearance or actions.” Sadly, this is totally opposite to what the Bible teaches. Consider the following:

1. **Our Language.** While the world takes the name of the Lord in vain, tells dirty and suggestive stories, gossips and maligns - - the Christian is to shun all this and use the tongue to glorify God and edify people (Matthew 12:36-37); Romans 1:29-30; 1 Timothy 4:12).

2. **Where We Go.** While the world is drawn to places of drinking, gambling and various illicit activities - - the Christian is concerned about good morals and a good example. 1 Thessalonians 5: 22, “Avoid every kind of evil.”

3. **How We Dress.** While the world strives to see how little it can wear, the Christian is concerned about modesty at all times, and is aware of the Bible’s emphasis upon lust and the shame of nakedness (Matthew 5:28; 1 Timothy 2: 9-10).

4. **Our View of the Sanctity of Life.** While the world seeks abortions, in many instances to hide their sins - - the Christian stands against murder and promotes the sacredness of life. (2 Timothy 3: 1-5); 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20; Romans 13:9).

5. **Our Thinking.** While the world is filling its mind with lust, adultery, fornication, and uncleanness - - the Christian is trying to think on that which is honorable,

clean, and pure. Philippians 4:8, “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

6. **What Is Most Important.** While the world regards self as the most important, and that which is to be satisfied - - the Christians is trying to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. Matt. 6:33, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you as well.”

7. **Our Homes.** While the world is attacking the home and bringing every imaginable pressure upon it to tear it down - - Christians look upon it as a divine institution and a part of God’s plan to meet the needs of man for his happiness. (Matthew 19:1-9; Ephesians 5: 22-33).

8. **Our Benevolence.** While others only think of self, Christians are concerned about the needs of others. James 1:27, “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”

9. **Our Worship.** While others are lured and enamored by the “gods” of this world, Christians worship the true God. (John 4:24; Matthew 4: 8-11).

Need more be said to prove the point that Christians are to be *different*? Those Christians who teach that we ought to just fall in with the crowd (just so we do not appear different) betray their depth of spirituality and faith.

Max Patterson
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A Visitor's Impression by Mike King

After visitors attend our services, does it ever make you wonder what impression was stamped on their minds? Numerous people visit for the purpose of "checking out" our services and to examine that for which we stand. The following article came my way recently and I thought you might also find it helpful and enlightening.

A church newsletter mentioned a man who visited eighteen different churches on successive Sunday. He was trying to find out what the churches were really like. He said, "I sat near the front. After the service, I walked slowly to the rear, then returned to the front and went back to the foyer using another aisle. I smiled and was neatly dressed. I asked one person to direct me to a specific place: a fellowship hall, minister's study, etc. I remained for coffee or served. I used a scale to rate the reception I received. I awarded points on the following basis:

- 10 for a smile from a worshipper
- 10 for a greeting from someone sitting nearby
- 100 for an exchange of names
- 200 for an invitation to have coffee
- 200 for an invitation to return
- 1000 for an introduction to another worshipper
- 2000 for an invitation to meet the Minister

On this scale, eleven of the eighteen churches earned fewer than 100 points. Five actually received less than 20. The conclusion: The doctrine may be biblical, the singing inspirational, the sermon uplifting, but when a visitor finds nobody who cares whether he's here, he is not likely to return.

Your first response may be that this is being extreme or ridiculous, that no visitor would be so meticulous. Maybe not, but you can be assured of the fact that they note everything. They observe from the time they initially drive by or upon the parking lot. Impressions can be formed by their preconceived notions. They notice everything from how well the grounds and building are kept to how neat and modest the worshippers dress who are arriving. It is very significant to visitors how warmly they are received and to just be recognized as not being a regular member. We all make some of the same observations when visiting ourselves on vacation. Since we do not get the "second chance to make our first impressions." we must insure that it is positive. This is where church growth begins and every member plays a part. *copied*

SHORT N SWEET

A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination, and looked at the old pages as he turned them. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible, and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed between the pages. 'Momma, look what I found,' the boy called out. 'What have you got there, dear?' his mother asked. With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered: 'I think it's Adam's suit!'

YOUTH NEWS

- Please remember to sign the list in the foyer if you plan to attend the picnic/camp-out at the Wall's on May 21st. If you will be bringing a guest please mark that as well.
- This month's Youth Devo is scheduled for Sunday night, May 23.
- Area Wide Youth Meeting Sunday, June 13, at the Hwy 15 Pontotoc Church of Christ

For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Linda Griggs, will undergo bypass surgery Tuesday, in Tupelo. She is expected to have at least 4 bypasses.

The Shane Nance family, are facing a long recovery time for the injuries they received during the recent tornados.

Nicki Weaver, is suffering from rheumatoid arthritis which has affected her eyes. Her eyes will have to be dilated for the next 2 weeks.

Richard Adams Sr., is recovering from sinus surgery.

Marie Yancey, (sister of Sue Marques) to have surgery on her leg on May 13th. This is the fourth surgery for her on this leg. Please remember her.

Continual Prayer List

Mable Erwin, Donna Weeden, J.A. Thornton, Connie Walton, J.D. Stroud, Vernice Clemmer, Wayne Jernigan, Dee Cox, Tom Elliott, Terry Young, Bobby Montgomery, Jean Drummond

Shut-Ins

Lessie Bryant, Billy Joe Garner, Laura Mae Harris, Belle Cross, Raymond & Amy Vest,

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Sue Collins, Shane Hutton, Corrine Hall, Willie Jackson, Dessie Lee Allred, Mattie Golden, Eunice Mabry, Faye Owen & Anna Davis

Military List:

David Wilhite-Navy-Florida Barry Wilhite-Marine-Navy –Virginia, Jimmie Stutts-Air Force—California, Tiffany Erwin– Army-Fort Campbell, KY; Aaron Raines-Army, Afghanistan; Jamie Vansandt, Alaska; Michelle Montgomery, Fort Leonard, Missouri, Jim Vest-Afghanistan

BIRTHDAYS

May 13.....Carl Smith

May 19.....Bobby Marques

May 22.....Will Bowlin

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

May 20.....Bill & Karen Botts

THANK YOU

Words cannot express how we feel about our special family— here at the New Albany congregation. Throughout Mother's struggle with cancer you have been here to do whatever asked to do. Thank you so much for all the prayers, calls, visits, and food. They were all appreciated. But especially thank you for the continued support. Also, the flowers were so beautiful. Continue to pray for us as we deal with our loss.

*In Christian love,
The Mary Montgomery Family*

Our Words cannot express our thanks. Thank you all for the donation and the many prayers. Rhonda is at home, but still has a long recovery, and Wade will be going to Atlanta soon for spinal cord rehab.

*All our Thanks and Love,
The Nance , The Ford & The Peeler Families*

EVENTS IN MAY @ NA

- Mike King will be here the weekend of May 16th.
- Picnic/Campout at the Wall's, May 21st. Please sign-up by May 16th if you plan to attend.
- Gospel Meeting May 30-June 2 with Jesse Robertson as guest speaker. Sunday, May 30, will be an all day service, with a meal following morning worship and an afternoon service at 1:15. Monday– Wednesday at 7:00PM.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ladies' Day @ the Ashland Church of Christ, May 15. Registration from 8:00-9:00. Rhonda Jones will be the guest speaker. Lunch will be served.

Gospel Meeting @ Hwy 178 Church of Christ, New Albany , May 16-20. Terry Wallace will be the guest speaker. Mon. –Thurs. night @ 7:00p.m.

Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.org>

OUR RECORD

Sunday School	114
Sunday A.M	138
Sunday P.M.	97
Wednesday	105
Contribution.....	\$2,750.66
Budget	\$3,305.70

TO SERVE

Scripture	Dean Dillard
A.M. Prayer	Jerry Gibson
Closing Prayer	Ronnie Griggs
P.M. Prayer.....	Ray Kennedy
Closing.....	Bobby White
Wed. 5/19.....	Bill Lyon
Wed. 5/19.....	Carl Smith
Usher & Lock	Bill Botts
Greeters.....	B & A Pounders

PANTRY ITEM: TOILET PAPER

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....	9:30
Morning Worship	10:30
Evening Worship.....	6:00
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00

Elders

Richard Jennings	534-6671
Troy Robertson.....	534-3491

Deacons

Bill Botts	316-2422
Greg Clayton	538-0791
Roger Clayton.....	534-5240
Andy Clemmer	816-5887
Harold Russell	534-4648
Randy Wall.....	316-9255

Minister

Office.....	534-4649
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A BIBLE TOWN ACROSTIC

The name of Jacob's youngest son.
(Genesis 35:18)

A Stone that told what God had done.
(1 Samuel 7:12)

A saint who showed great unbelief.
(John 20:24)

One who to God poured out her grief.
(1 Samuel 1:15)

A man to save his life who fled.
(Genesis 19: 18-22)

A queen who filled another's stead.
(Ester 2:17)

A king who had God's witness slain.
(Matthew 14:3-11)

And a man whose prayers stayed the rain.
(1 Kings 17: 1)

He lived the longest here below.
(Genesis 5:25)

Initials give a place you know.

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