



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

[www.nacoc.us](http://www.nacoc.us)

October 16, 2012

## Honesty In The Absence of Integrity

Mike King



“Honesty” & “Integrity”  
(Power & Grace)

Have you ever experienced conflicting standards in your life? We all have met people who were very dogmatic about being sound in doctrine, morally upright, or habit free and violate good judgment in some other realm in life that may be as ungodly, or more unacceptable than, the object of their dogmatic protest. The position they are taking may be absolutely correct and commendable, but there must be a consistency.

*Phillip Gunter*, in an article on honesty, quoted *Charles Swindoll's* book *Growing Deep in the Christian Life* to illustrate the above assertions. He told of a man who bought fried chicken dinners for himself and his date late one afternoon. The attendant at the food place accidentally gave him the proceeds from the day's business rather than their chicken. When they arrived at their picnic site, they sat down to enjoy their chicken to learn that they had a bucket of money (over \$800) rather than chicken.

Immediately the man rose, got back into his car and returned the money to, by then, a frantic manager. “Mr. Clean” became an instant hero. The manager was thrilled and began making arrangements for getting the newspaper personnel there to take their picture and get an article written because “You’re one of the most honest men I’ve ever heard of.” The man quickly responded “Oh, no. No, no, don’t do that!” He then leaned closer and whispered “You see, the woman I’m with... she’s, uh, somebody else’s wife.”

*Gunter* then concluded that “One can be honest and still not have integrity.” We can have accuracy, soundness, the truth, proper worship, salvation, “right church,” but have a haughty, arrogant, self-righteous spirit with which we try to represent those acceptable things and render all powerless. Integrity demands kindness and so does biblical love (I Cor. 13:4). Being a Christian makes demands that we embrace all of the aforementioned elements, and more, but never gives a license to be rude, un-Christlike, or castigate character. Paul told the Romans, who had to contend with the atrocious wrongdoings enumerated in chapter one, that “*Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law*” (Rom. 13:10).

Is this an advocacy of softness of doctrine or standards for the Christian? Absolutely not! It is inconsistent to profess to be a Christian, even when upholding truth, and behave otherwise. Let us not allow our honest and upright performance in life be marred by an absence of integrity that allows ruthlessness.

## “Who Would Vote For Such A Leader”

How many would vote for the Pharaoh that made Israel serve with rigor (Ex. 1:8-14)? Why or why not? This same king ordered the Hebrew midwives to kill all male Hebrew babies (Ex. 1:16). Notice carefully why the midwives did not kill the babies, “*But the midwives feared God, and did not as the King of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive*” (Ex. 1:17). This same king went on to charge his people to throw every newborn son into the river (Ex. 1:22). Now, would you vote for this king?

How many would vote for the Herod that tried to kill baby Jesus? You might recall that Herod, upon finding out that he couldn’t find baby Jesus, decided to have all the male children of Bethlehem murdered (Mt. 2:16). He wasn’t the last leader to feel threatened by Christ. Would you vote for such a leader?

Unfortunately, many, like Judas, are willing to run to the enemy if the price is right, “*And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him*” (Mt. 26:15,16).

How many would vote for the Herod that mocked Jesus (Lk. 23:11)? Was this Herod any different than the political leaders that mock Christ and Christianity today? Would you vote for this Herod? If so, please tell me how you could support him but not simultaneously support his mockery of Christ?

Sadly, how many so-called Christians today are of the same cowardly character as Pilate who thought he could remove himself from all accountability by washing his hands of the matter (Mt. 27:24)? Sorry, but without repentance, the blood of Christ is still on his hands just like the blood of millions of unborn children still stains the hands of many so-called Christians. Any child of God that has voted for or supported those that openly support abortion, homosexuality, and such like things are in need of repentance. If you disagree, please present me with the Bible passage that allows you to support such things!

Brethren, the truth is that people of the same ungodly character as those that have been mentioned are able to reach high positions of authority today because many of God’s people don’t have enough conviction to stand up against them. I am aware that most politicians are not Christian people. I am also aware that there is a difference between what some call a “morally good person” and those that are known to be morally perverted. God recognizes that some are more wicked than others (II Kings 14:(, 22; 21:9, 11; Mt. 12:45).

Let us pray that the day will come when all of God’s people are more concerned with babies (Lk. 1:41) than benefits, more concerned with eternity (Mk. 8:36-37) than entitlements, and more concerned with morality (Pr. 6:16-19; I Cor. 6:9,10) than money (I Tim. 6:10).

I wonder how we would respond if upon leaving the voting booth we were met by Jesus and He said I would like for you to explain to me why you just voted the way you did? Well, now that I think about it, we’ll get the opportunity to answer that question someday, won’t we!

~ Johnny Lance ~ via the Chalmette Church of Christ Bulletin

## YOUTH NEWS YOUTH NEWS

- The Senior Bible Bowl group will meet for competition Sunday Oct. 21st, at the Nettleton Church of Christ. The van will leave following worship Sunday morning and eat at the Tupelo Mall before going to Nettleton.
- A campout and hayride is planned for Nov. 2nd at the Walls lake. If you plan to campout be sure to sign the list in the foyer.
- This month’s Youth Devo is scheduled for Oct. 28th following evening services. *Phil & Paige Young* will be hosting.

## AREA EVENTS

- **Gospel Meeting** Oct. 21-24 at the **Batesville church of Christ**. Speaker: *Dale Jenkins*
- **Gospel Meeting** Oct. 28-31 at the **Skyline church of Christ**. Guest speaker: *David Jones*.
- **Homecoming** Nov. 4th at the **Fulton church of Christ**. Guest speaker: *Jason Jarrett*.
- **Gospel Meeting** Nov. 4-7 at the **Gloster St. church of Christ**. Speaker: *Glenn Colley*
- **Gospel Meeting** Nov. 11-14 at the **Ozark church of Christ**. Guest speaker: *James Watkins*

\* Check the bulletin board for times



**PRAYER LIST**

**Pat Reed**, is at home recovering from surgery to remove infection from around the port in her arm. She is still having a difficult time.

**Kelly Taylor**, neighbor of *Darrell & Patricia Crow*, is in need of heart surgery but his lungs are only working at 19%. Please pray for him.

**Bell Cross**, is awaiting test results. She has not been feeling well.

**Jennie Bell**, is under a doctors care in Oxford for her back problems.

**Continual Prayer**

**Crystal Bickerstaff, Randall Haney, Eleta Grimmett, Taterrin Wilson, Rosie Wilson, Mayala Wood, Rex Lyon, Altha Rogers, Tauso Branch, Perrin Drummond, Connie Phagan, Mary Alice Holloway, Prebble Foster, Brooks Russell, Jack Dunlap, Larry Averett, John Tierney, Tony Cross, Norman Brown, Al Pless, Hugh Collins, Shane Crofts, Terry & Betty Young**

**Shut-Ins**

**Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Belle Cross**

**Nursing Home/Assisted Living: Mattie Golden, Amy Vest, Laura Mae Harris**

**Military List:**

**David & Barry Wilhite, Jimmie Stutts, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Michelle Hamm, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley, Jesse Stroud**

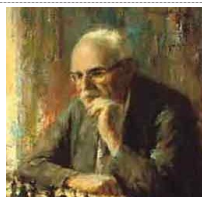
**FALL LECTURES CONTINUE**

Wed. night Oct 17th, *Chad Ramsey* of the Gloster St. church of Christ will be our guest speaker. There will be a potluck meal at 5:45 and services at 7:00pm.

Wed. night Oct. 24, *Mark Lindley* of the Chapman church of Christ will be our guest speaker. There will be a potluck meal at 5:45 and services at 7:00pm. Everyone is invited!

**“I BELIEVE”**

**...that no act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



- October 18..... Rex Bell
- October 27..... Mark Jennings
- October 28..... Erin Wall
- October 29..... Phil Young
- October 31..... Steve Todd

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

- October 27..... Jason & Amy Jennings



**HAITI SUPPORT**

We have been ask to participate in a service project for the Sonlight Children’s Home in Haiti, along with the Beltline Church of Christ in Decatur AL. (*Mike and Sheila’s* daughter *Christy* worships at Beltline.) They have asked if we could help by supplying boy’s coloring books, 24 count crayola crayons, and matchbox cars. These items will be distributed to the Sonlight Children’s Home in Haiti by members of the Beltline congregation. If you would like to help, please bring these items by November 21st.

**FALL CAMPOUT/HAYRIDE**

You are invited to a campout and hayride Sat. Nov. 2nd ,at the Walls lake. Please sign the list that is on the table in the foyer if you plan to attend. Also, mark if you plan to spend the night so *Randy* and *Christy* can make preparations. We appreciate the *Wall* family for hosting this great time of fellowship.



**TRUNK OR TREAT**

Trunk or Treat will be held for our youth Wed. night, Oct. 31st. If you would like to participate please be in the back parking lot at 6:00pm. Prior to Trunk or Treat there will be a chili/hot-dog supper beginning at 5:30pm. You are asked to bring hotdogs or chili, chips and deserts. Everyone is invited. Following these events we will meet at 7:00pm for our 5th Wed. night singing.

## OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....	106
Sunday A.M.....	144
Sunday P.M.....	122
Wednesday.....	105
Contribution.....	\$ 4,281.00
Budget.....	\$ 3,567.55

## TO SERVE

Scripture.....	Clay Ormon
A.M. Prayer.....	Richard Adams
Closing Prayer..	Daniel Drummond
P.M. Prayer.....	Jerry Gibson
Closing.....	Shane Crotts
Wed 10/24.....	Jason McCullough
Wed. 10/24.....	Perry Jones
Usher & Lock.....	Harold Russell
Greeter.....	T & N Robertson



## PANTRY ITEM

Oats/Grits

## 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.....	252-9762
Roger Clayton.....	538-8195
Harold Russell .....	534-4648
Randy Wall .....	316-9255
Lonnie Weaver.....	801-8448

## MINISTER

Mike King.....	507-0625
Home.....	534-6872
Office .....	534-4649

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE

### What My Absence Did

- It made some question the reality of my religion.
- It made some think that I was a pretender.
- It made some think that I regarded my spiritual welfare as a matter of small concern.
- It weakened the effect of the worship services.
- It made it harder for the preacher to preach.
- It discouraged the brethren and, therefore, robbed them of a blessing.
- It caused others to stay away from the church.
- It made it harder for me to meet the temptations of the Devil.
- It gave the Devil more power over lost souls.
- It encouraged the habit of non-church going.

### What My Presence Did

- It caused people to have confidence in me.
- It made people know that I regarded my spiritual welfare as a matter of great importance.
- It has a good effect on the services.
- It encouraged the brethren and helped the kingdom of Christ.
- It caused others to look to Christ for salvation.
- It made my life stronger.
- It removed a stumbling block from the sinner's path.
- It pleased God and I was happy.
- It caused others to say, "He practiced what he preached."



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