

We are a church with one mission: to grow followers of Jesus through grateful worship, genuine community, and generous service to each other and our world. We believe by loving God and loving people we can have an impact that really matters, and would like to tell you more about that. If you are interested in being a part of what God is doing with us, or just have some questions, **fill out the contact card** or ask the person next to you. **Please feel free to call or email too if you have any questions.**

FAMILY NEWS AND NOTES

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GOD'S FAMILY TIMES

BIBLE CLASSES
Building—9:30 am Sunday

WORSHIP
Building—10:30 am Sunday

GROWTH GROUPS
Grose's -- 6 p.m. Sunday
Irwin's -- 6 p.m. Sunday

BIBLE CLASSES
Building—7 pm Wednesday

Congregation Meeting: Thursday March 9th at 7 p.m.

Daylight Savings Time Begins: Sunday March 12th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead!

Family Covered Dish Dinner: Sunday March 12th after services

Family Game Night: Friday March 17th at 6 p.m. at the building.

Dinner before Class: Wednesday March 29th at 6 p.m.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner for March, April and May:

This is an opportunity to have some great fellowship. Details of how this will work are posted on the bulletin board. Today will be the last chance to sign up on bulletin board, if interested, and your preference in hosting 6 or 8 people. The social committee will divide this list into groups. Please refer questions to Sally or Susan.

Communion preparers needed for July, September, and December. Also people to coordinate the Wednesday meal before class are also needed. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you can serve the body in one of these ways.

<u>Happy Birthday</u>	<u>Happy Anniversary</u>
3/1 Sharon Mack	3/15 Ray & Fay Umbaugh
3/11 Cliff Brown	
3/17 Marvel Fasanya	
3/19 Carol Morandi-Delimpo & Callie Grose	
3/20 Gary Minser	
3/21 Ray Umbaugh	
3/24 Paula Irwin	
3/29 Ron Duriez & Alexis Stutzman	

Announcements for family news can be written on the back of an attendance card and placed in the collection basket or a hand written note can be given to Doug, Paula, or CJ.

FAMILY MATTERS

Indiana

Church of Christ

724.463.7240

February 26, 2017

5 Ways to Be Political the Way Jesus & Early Christians Were Political (Part One)

By Dr. Benjamin Corey

Some say that Christianity by nature is political.

To a great degree, that's absolutely true— though I think we must be careful to not simply leave it there as if Christianity is political in the way the world is political— because it's not. Christianity is political precisely because it declares that "Jesus is Lord."

When the first Christians began to utter that now central confession of the Christian faith, it was absolutely a political statement. Originally the popular saying was "Caesar is Lord," so to replace Caesar with Jesus was not just political in nature, it was actually an act of political rebellion from the system these early Christians found themselves in.

Another famous term Jesus used was "Kingdom" which is also political— it's hard to flip a page of the Gospels without Jesus referring to it, and some of the central teachings of Jesus are directly related to how things work in his political world.

While one of the very first acts of Jesus was to categorically reject political power, there was certainly a political edge to his ministry.

The word politics itself refers to "policies" that impact the general public, and while neither Jesus nor the early Christians told the government the best way to do things, they most certainly spoke out on how people ought to be treated. Thus, as we revisit Christian origins and those who founded our religion, here's 5 ways to be political the way Jesus and early Christians were political:

1. Critique the political landscape in as much as you are attempting to show the world that the principles of God's Kingdom are radically different.

As Christians we must not engage the political arena out of loyalty to a nation or political party. We must not become people who blindly carry the water for a political group. Jesus and the early Christians avoided this entirely— they were focused on building God's other-worldly Kingdom that operated on a completely different set of principles than any nation then or now.

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Nathan Irwin and family as they are in Lyon, France for language training, and for the direction of the Lord in their search for new teammates, a place to settle and a purpose for their mission among the Muslim world.
- For Mary Fasanya's asylum request to be granted and for the girls as they are in the USA without their husband and father. Also for Ezekiel as he is in Nigeria without his wife and daughters.
- For Mayleen Niehenke's visa approval to come to the United States from the Philippines and for a sponsor so that the procedure can be quickly expedited.
- Bill Tonkin who is at Indiana Square Personal Care Home, 1703 Warren Road. Lois says cards and visits are always welcome.
- Wayne, Abbey Chi's uncle, who is in a Florida hospital with cardiac problems.
- Jason Canose for healing. Thanksgivings that he is now at home recuperating and receiving physical therapy.
- Louanne Brown for healing of her vision in her right eye which has been impeded by at least 50%. Also for peace and acceptance that the eye may never get back to "normal" since it is no better or worse at this time.
- Nick Ruffner, John & Gail Gromley's step grandson, who had another round of chemo in his treatment for leukemia in January.
- Kathrine, Lin & Jo Broadway's (former members) daughter-in-law, who has been diagnosed with cancer and anticipating surgery in February.
- Janet Anoyke's mother in Ghana who recently suffered a stroke.
- Jay Stenman, Louanne Brown's husband, who suffered a concussion the week of January 15th.
- Hailynn Magas has been diagnosed with Type1 Diabetes. Pray that the family can learn and adjust to a new diet and insulin testing and injections.
- Emma Sesock for healing from a fall. Thanksgivings that she is doing better.
- Doris Ruffner who is now home from the hospital recovering from pancreatitis.
- Marilyn Magas who is in the Kittanning hospital for treatment of medication adjustments. There is a possibility that she will be home Monday or Tuesday.
- Cliff Brown was hospitalized last week. He is now at home but dealing with heart problems.
- Linda Biller Post, Jimmy Biller's mother, whose leukemia is no longer in remission. She will be receiving chemo treatments.

Prayer requests can be added to the family prayer book

Instead, when we critique policies or rebuke leaders, may we do it out of loyalty to Kingdom principles and a desire to show the world that so many national political values do not line up with Kingdom values. We must critique in as much as we're showing a difference between the two.

2. Don't confuse the calling to prophetically rebuke power to that of wanting/attempting to assume power.

The quest for power has the ability to suck you in— and once it does, it re-wires your brain to a degree where you'd be lucky to ever get it back. We must remember that even though Jesus and early Christians spoke out on policies that impacted people (politics) they did not get caught up in a quest for political power or positions.

Politicians may be able to make sweeping changes in policy, but we are the ones who are able to make sweeping changes in culture— and changing culture is what brings the most effective and longest lasting change to the world. This is precisely why Jesus and the early Christians focused on being culture changers instead of culture rulers.

(The remainder of Dr. Corey's article will appear in next week's bulletin. I hope that this will provide some needful 'food-for-thought')

Sermon for February 26, 2017
"A Good Word for Martha"
Luke 10: 38-42