

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.

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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

FAMILY NEWS AND NOTES

Congregation Meeting: THIS Thursday March 9th at 7 p.m. The meeting was moved from Tuesday to Thursday this month.

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

Family Covered Dish Dinner: Next Sunday March 12th after services. Bring a favorite dish to share with everyone.

Family Game Night: Friday March 17th at 7 p.m. at the building. Bring snacks and drinks to share and your favorite game. Please note time change from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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

Check your mailboxes for new phone lists and address sheets. Please edit these and let Paula know if there are any errors to your phone number or address so that we know that they are accurate.

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.

Happy Birthday

- 3/1 Sharon Mack
- 3/11 Cliff Brown
- 3/17 Marvel Fasanya
- 3/19 Carol Morandi-Delimp & Callie Grose
- 3/20 Gary Minser
- 3/21 Ray Umbaugh
- 3/24 Paula Irwin
- 3/29 Ron Duriez & Alexis Stutzman

Happy Anniversary

- 3/15 Ray & Fay Umbaugh

Announcements for family news can be

FAMILY MATTERS

Indiana

Church of Christ

724.463.7240

March 5, 2017

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

By Dr. Benjamin Corey

5. 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 otherworldly Kingdom that operated on a completely different set of principles than any nation then or now.

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.

4. 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.

3. Don't wait for government to solve problems—get busy participating in solutions.

Certainly the Bible prescribes certain functions/responsibilities for earthly rulers. Throughout the Old Testament God commanded kings to tend to certain things, such as ensuring redistributive justice for the poor, the widow, and the orphan, and welcoming immigrants. We must not wait for government to solve problems. Government is exceedingly slow and often inefficient.

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.
- 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.
- Cliff Brown was recently hospitalized. 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.
- Marilyn Magas who came home from the Kittanning hospital on Friday. She is "not up to speed yet" as she adjusts to new medications.
- Fran Mumau, Tyler Mumau's grandmother, for comfort and peace in her decision to stop chemo treatments for lung cancer since she is down to 97 pounds and surgery on her brain tumors is not an option. She is very frail and weak.
- Dixie Kirk, sister in law of Dan & Debbie Kirk, who was recently hospitalized with pneumonia. She is at home but is to have further testing done on March 1st for two spots that were discovered on her lungs.

Prayer requests can be added to the family prayer book

The early Christians didn't wait for government- they got busy thinking of solutions. For example, early Christians dealt with poverty by sharing their wealth in-kind, rejecting personal ownership of property, and redistributing wealth to the poor and needy. While government can— and I say, does, have a legitimate, biblical mandate to ensure such things— we must not wait or place hope in that. Instead, we must get busy working toward solutions all on our own.

2. Speak loudest not on the issues most important to you, but those which impact the marginalized, forgotten, and the thrown away.

Jesus and the early Christians didn't get involved politically to speak for themselves; they spoke out on the issues that most desperately impacted the marginalized, the forgotten, and those that culture had thrown away. Jesus spoke forcefully on caring for the hungry, the naked, for immigrants, for those in prison, etc. Want to speak out politically? Fine— but speak out primarily on the issues that impact culture's forgotten and thrown away.

1. Rebuke the religious leaders who collude with political power-holders to oppress people in the name of religion.

Speaking out politically is primarily an issue of speaking to secular government. However, all throughout history there have been religious leaders who colluded with government powers for either money, fame, power, influence, or other non-Jesusy desires.

While I believe speaking out on politics and even criticizing political leaders is part of the Christian tradition (John the Baptist was a political prisoner who was executed for rebuking the King's sexual immorality), Jesus held his sharpest rebukes for the powerful religious leaders who tried to oppress others by enforcing their rigid religious rules on everyone else.

In fact, Jesus spent most of his time rebuking this particular group because he was far more concerned with how religious leaders were treating people than how secular political leaders were treating people. It got so bad that they actually used their influence with secular political forces to have Jesus tortured and murdered.

No one hated Jesus more than religious leaders who were knee-deep into secular politics. Is Christianity political by nature? Most certainly— but it's not political in nature the way the world is.

As Christians, I hope we'll continue the tradition of being "political" but in as much as we are political the way Jesus and early Christians were political. When we speak, may we do so in order to demonstrate the Kingdom of Jesus is totally different. When we rebuke power, may we resist the allure to become power. When we identify needs, let us be the first in line to offer a solution and support. As we speak on issues, may we speak the loudest on the issues that impact those with less privilege than ourselves.

Most of all, for those of us who want to be political the way Jesus was political, may we save our harshest rebukes for our own religious leaders who collude with the powerful in order to coerce others in the name of "religion."