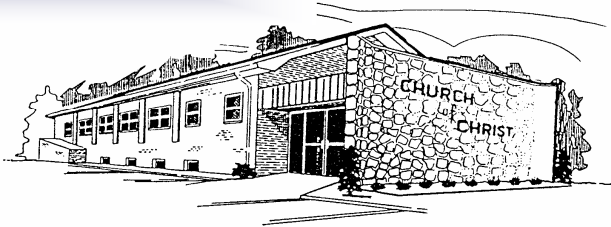


Teaching them to observe
all things...Matt. 28:20



The St. Joseph Observer

July 11, 2010

The St. Joseph Church of Christ

Charlie McGee, Minister
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Schedule of Services

Sunday School
9:45

Sunday Worship
10:45

Sunday PM
5:00

Tuesday Ladies' Class
9:00 AM

Wednesday Bible Study
6:00

Elders

Leo Conkin 925-7688
Clyde Daniel 428-2322
Charlie McGee 861-5811
Steve Parsons 465-7901

Deacons

Dave Hipskind 468-4735
Eric Ramso 465-5965

Ladies' Prayer Chain

Kim Batson 428-7281
Barb Conkin 925-7688
Gayle Daniel 428-2322
Jan Mundy 473-1505

Consider Others Better Than Yourself

Philippians 2:1-4

I'm sure you have heard the old adage, "Never talk about religion or politics in a social gathering." Unless you're in the mood for a fight, those words are good advice. Those two topics are fraught with deep-seeded emotion in all of us. We have strong feelings when it comes to how we live and what we believe. Views that oppose ours imply that we are the ones that must change. And if we change what we believe, that implies that we must have been wrong. And nobody wants to be wrong. And even if we don't feel that it is a matter of right and wrong, it may be that we view the opposing opinion as infringing on our "rights."

That brings me to the crux of the problem. In the end, no matter the reason for the disagreement, at the heart of it is the fact that if I give in to another's opinion, then I don't get what I want.

I constantly struggle with this conflict. It's not natural to put other people first; to "consider others better than ourselves." At the very least, aren't we equals? Does one person have to be "better" than another? No, it doesn't have to be that way. Jesus asks us to **CHOOSE** to be that way; to **CONSIDER** others as better than ourselves; to treat them as being better. That means there are times when I must acquiesce to the desires and opinions of others.

If we been encouraged from being united in Christ, if we have received **ANY** comfort from the love of God, if we have **ANY** fellowship with God's Spirit, then we should feel compelled to consider the interests of others. God certainly considered our interest and well-being when He decided that he wanted to redeem us, to reconcile us to Himself. If we have **ANY** appreciation for what God has done for us, we should want to please Him by having the same love and being one in spirit and purpose.

Our country is terribly divided over opinions about how things should be done. We're divided over opinions about what the constitution does or does not allow for. If you listen to broadcasts by people on the right or the left, you can't tell any difference in the heat of their voice as they ridicule and humiliate their opposition. I hear people on the right talk about the fact that this country was founded on Christian principles. Then immediately turn around and with hate in their voice lambast those on the left.

Likewise, I hear people on the left talk about how we must be tolerant and inclusive then immediately explain in extremely unkind and hateful words how they can't stand those on the right and intentionally exclude them.

Neither side seems interested in the well-being of the other. Both make it clear that they hate the other. And both seem to work at keeping the division alive. It almost seems that unity can only happen if we all think alike. We can only like each other and care about each other if we share the same ideas and opinions. I don't believe that is what our founding fathers had in mind.

And I am absolutely certain that isn't what Jesus wants from us. He expects us to be united in Him. He never asked us to agree on everything. But He does expect us to have common purpose, to be unselfish, considerate, humble and loving.

—Charlie McGee

Please remember in prayer...

- Members with Health Issues Leo Conkin, Warren James, Virginia Kowalski, Vanessa Matthews, Jim Smith, Lee Wallis, Juanita Weatherford
- The Military Nick Hastings, Ian Matthews
- Our Church The Buildings & Grounds Committee, our Elders & Deacons, our members

Announcements

VBS

July 25-29 6-8 PM

Invite your friends & family now!

We Need You!

Adults:

Kids:

Please Sign Up Now



Sign up for you & your friends to attend VBS! There will be prizes for members who bring the most visitors!

—to provide cookies

—to provide items for Indiana Group

Congregational Calendar

July

11	12	13  Vanessa Matthews <i>Ladies' Class</i>	14	15  David Irwin	16	17  Will Fisbeck
18	19	20 <i>Ladies' Class</i>	21	22	23	24