TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Bobby Rader / Opening Prayer by: Don Taylor
Morning Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#650 Send the Light
#837 I Need Thee Every Hour

Scripture Reading by: Pierce Balch
#315 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Communion Devotional by: Ken Coleman
Lord's Supper and Contribution

#869 To Canaan's Land I'm On My Way
Sermon: "The Household of God"
Matthew 12:46-50

#643 Sowing the Seed
#881 Mansion Over the Hilltop
Closing Prayer by: David Smith

We will me watching the 3rd season of
The Chosen at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday nights
in the fellowship room.

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 5:00pm — Worship
Wednesday: 6:30pm — Bible Study Classes

July 14, 2024

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

Are You Christian, or Christian-ish?

I read this new article on Jack Wilkie's "Church Reset" substack a couple of weeks ago and knew immediately I wanted to share it here (and would have then if I did not already have something written). It neatly encapsulates some of the very same concerns that I have talked about before. As always, I encourage you to check out his page for more excellent content. BP

Are you Christian, or Christian-ish?

What's the difference?

The Christian-ish is a phenomenon I've grown far too familiar with in my 11 years in the Bible Belt. The Christian-ish are those who will tell you they claim Jesus, but don't show any fruit of their claim.

Christian-ish people assemble with the church… sometimes.
Sundays are hard to give up though, you know? There's so much to do, and the work week is so packed. So the Christian-ish make it when they "can." Long gone is the concept that God gets first place on the calendar and everything else falls in line behind the time we make for Him. There's no time for the event of "assembly," much less the more Biblical habit of "assembling" **(Hebrews 10:25).**

Christian-ish people show little to no visible life change.
They have the same priorities as their non-Christian neighbors. Same way of talking. Same hobbies and interests. Same dress. Same goals for themselves and their kids. Same entertainment. Being transformed by the renewing of their mind is not a consideration. No, they are still conformed to this world.

Christian-ish people are not afraid to say they like Jesus.
Oddly, though, despite their unwillingness to buckle down and really follow Jesus, the Christian-ish still like to appear Christian. They post images of Bible verses or religious quotes to their social media. They like politicians, athletes, and celebrities who say positive things about God.

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

Steve Ward is at home and continues with health problems.

Yalonda Jackson, Zannie Stroughter's daughter, has health problems.

Continued Prayers
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Steve Ward, Caitlin Smith, Virginia Cole, Ken Coleman, Joe Edd Stifflemire, Donna Wilson, Jo Ella McKewen, Oscar Cantu, Jennifer Stelly, Ken Coleman, Dr. Hugo Thomas, Veronica Valant

Shut Ins
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Winona Angelle, Catherine Parker, Peggy McIntosh, Lois Watts, Willo Dean Ellis, Debbie Merritt

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Montepuez, Mozambique , Rod Kyle in the South Pacific, Mani Pagidopali in India

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meeting Monday, July 15th at 5:30 p.m.

We are working a new Friends and Family directory. A copy of the old one has been placed on the bulletin board. Please check your name, address, phone number and email to make sure it is correct.

We will have a Houston Food Bank truck on Thursday, July 18th at 8:00 a.m.

We will be hosting a school giveaway on Saturday Aug. 3rd. More information to come.

Elders	Deacons	Minister
Ken Coleman	Zach Arthur	Bryant Perkins
Bobby Rader	Daniel Balch	
Don Taylor	Danny Balch	
Robert Ward	Walden David	
	Gus Tristan	

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"

is the weekly bulletin of the Liberty Church of Christ 3201 North Main, Liberty Texas 77575
Office Phone Number (936) 336-2213; Fax (936) 334-8280;
Minister's (Bryant Perkins) Cell Phone Number (903)407-5737
Website: libertycofc.org Facebook page: Liberty Church of Christ

I ran across perhaps the most extreme example of this recently—a Facebook profile of a neighbor who posted about their love for marijuana, getting drunk, and more, only to throw in the odd Bible verse and church livestream post. The cognitive dissonance is baffling. If asked, I'm certain they would have considered themselves "Christian."

A climate that has been positive toward Christianity, or "cultural Christianity" as it's often called, helped create this cheap grace phenomenon. People could consider themselves Christians without any Christlikeness, church members without any church commitment. It's the illusion of being a branch that has no duty to bear fruit. A child of God without any duty to one's Father.

In fact, there was motivation to do so because nominally claiming Christianity bestowed outward benefit and (a false sense of) inward peace. All the perceived benefits, none of the sacrifice. But the blame shouldn't be placed on cultural Christianity. The blame goes to churches who will not discipline members for a lack of commitment. In fact, many of them actively rearrange their message to keep such people, because discipline would be bad for numbers.

Growing up in a region that was neutral toward Christianity, we didn't have nearly as many Christian-ish people like this. They are a product of a local culture that is positive toward Christianity, a type of local culture almost exclusive to the Bible Belt.

But as my religiously neutral hometown has now slipped into negativity toward Christianity, many of these Bible Belt areas have also begun to move from positive to neutral. Christianity doesn't have the cultural cachet it once did, and will likely have even less of it in the future.

In other words, Christian-ish people probably aren't going to exist within a generation.
When there exists a social cost for being a Christian, the only people who will be Christians are those who are truly all-in for Christ. What that means is, time is running out to choose. The longer a person remains on the fence, the closer they inch to their inevitable abandonment of the faith. Today's Christian-ish are tomorrow's ex-Christians. The lukewarm will be vomited from Christ's mouth.

Make your choice today. Put Jesus first. Repent of lukewarmness. Commit to your local church. Be with them every Sunday and as often as you can in between. Throw out any practices or attitudes that are contrary to God's Word. Bottom line, don't be Christian-ish.