

IN TOUCH

COMEBACK CHURCHES COME BACK TO THEIR FIRST LOVE!

Dear Friend:

Yesterday I walked back to the soccer field at the church to ask the coach/trainer a couple questions. While standing around I saw a friend from the Sunbury area and told him about the New Albany Presbyterian Church using our shelter house area to worship last Sunday. In brief he said, "It's too bad these churches break-off when they disagree with a denomination, they ought just to stay together on what they agree with." I didn't say much (plus I didn't want to debate with other parents around.) I thought about it later but I could have at least said: "Where do you draw to line? Do you stay in a denomination that does not believe in all the truths of the Bible, does not believe in the inerrancy of scripture that does believe in gay marriage, that does not believe the Great Commission is the most important job of the church?" These are just a few reasons New Albany Presbyterian had to break away.

But on to my real point today: comeback churches must come back to their first love – love for God and loyalty to and love for His Word. In the words of Dr. John MacArthur: "Consider the spiritual ground that is lost when the church surrenders biblical authority. If Scripture does not speak with absolute, inerrant authority, the offer of justification by grace through faith cannot be extended to desperate sinners."

Churches are known today more by their attempt to appeal to culture than their purity to God's call to holiness. Pastors exegete Hollywood movies rather than Scripture, pastors preach their vision rather than God's direction for living a holy life for Him. Again, MacArthur says: "Seeker – sensitive churches often look and feel more like a rock concert or a burlesque show than a worship service." Personally, I would prefer our church appeal to God more than the culture. Appeal to God first, and only. Read the book of Acts the culture was attracted to the church, not vice versa.

It is not going to be an easy or quick road back for the church in America to recover from Covid 19 and all the fallout, but we cannot go on forever operating at half capacity. The culture needs us, the culture needs a church that loves God first and loves His Word and is loyal to it.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer: Norma Willis (in rehab), Shut-ins, Someone You Know Who Needs Jesus

Events: Worship: 9:00 am (temporary), Pecans for sale - \$6 per lb.