

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road

New Albany, OH 43054

www.franklinub.org

Sunday Bible Study 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Service 10:15 am

SEPTEMBER 2021

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

A BIBLIO-CENTRIC RESPONSE TO A 6,000 YEAR OLD PROBLEM
(Note: You really need to read John 4:1-26 first to understand this article.)

Just a few weeks ago the Olympics wrapped-up. When medal winners stepped up on the stand, they were not asked which country they preferred to represent. That issue was already settled. While it was their training and talent that got them there, like it or not, they represented something beyond themselves – a country. In most cases, it was the country that paid their way there, provided training, and care. They stood on a podium and accepted a medal for what they did but they had to identify a country to represent, or they could not be there. Let's equalize a country with a kingdom and transfer this to the spiritual realm.

If you are a Christian, you represent a kingdom – God's kingdom. God's kingdom has red and yellow, black, white, and brown citizens. Citizens of every color and ethnicity. God's intention is that his citizens never lose sight of whose flag (his) they are living under. If they do, they run into many, many problems. One of them is their perspective on racism, culturalism, and classism.

In God's kingdom, in his view, all lives matter. All lives are created in the image of God. Not to be ignored, however, are inequalities that must be addressed. Unborn lives matter, black lives matter, white lives matter, etc. In God's kingdom, there is one umbrella – all lives matter. When you extract any specific scenario and remove it from God's creation – you create your own independent cause. **PLEASE HEAR ME:** We must approach all things from a biblio-centric position; any human inequity causes pain to people created in the image of God. From a Christian point of view, there should be no discussion of sociology not plugged into theology – God's view.

Technically, it is not theologically correct to say: “I'm a White Christian” or an “Asian Christian” or a “Black Christian”. When stated that way, you make your color or culture the adjective. It's the job of an adjective to modify/describe a noun. So, if you put your Christianity in the noun position and your color or culture in the adjective position, you have to keep shaping the noun, so it looks like the adjective that describes it. If color or culture stays in the adjective position, you have to keep shaping Christianity to look white, or Asian, or black, or Latino, etc. That cannot be theological! Biblically, there is no such thing. Your Christianity must be in the adjective position, color or culture must be in the noun position. “I am a Christian who is white, who is black, who is Asian, etc.” As a Christian who is white, I have more in common with a Christian male who is black than a white male who is not a Christian. Huh? Absolutely, the Christian who is black – he and I represent the same kingdom, live under the same flag, and are expected to live the same holy lives. Something that a non-Christian white male cannot understand. In the eye of God, humanity has two “types” of people: saved and unsaved. We are to define our humanity in terms of our faith, not our faith in terms of our skin color, culture, political position, economic, or educational status. Never be so committed to our race that we operate from outside our faith.

Remember – in the title I said you should read John 4:1-26? Here’s why...it is the best example of someone (Jesus) reaching across racial and cultural barriers to bring someone else into the kingdom. There is not enough space to exposit it well, so I must summarize. Jesus a “pure” Jew, encounters a Samaritan woman – unmarried, living with a guy, and had been married 5 times. Jesus was a Rabbi, Jesus lived on the “right side of the tracks” The woman? The definition of unholy and lived on the “wrong side of the tracks”. Jesus gave validity to his sociology because everywhere the woman wanted to make sociology the issue, Jesus steered it to theology – “Let’s talk about you and God.” There were generations of bad blood between the Jews and the Samaritans. Jesus had no intentions of defending past Jewish prejudices because the greater need for this woman, and for all humanity, is to live under God’s flag and to be in his kingdom. Whose kingdom are you in?

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Mike

PRAYER NEEDS

Quinn Fetters (Brain Surgery Rehab), Mary Danforth (Brain Surgery), Afghan situation, Haiti survivors, Dennis and Eliana Scott

Missionary of the Month: Milton and Eric Pacheco (Thailand)

Shut-Ins: Helen Smith, Melvin Burdette, Jeanne Teele, Lorei Lees, Midge Gathers, and Trish Dolejs

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

“Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.”

(Psalm 19:13)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Why We Don’t Just Babysit Children: I nearly cringe if I hear someone say: “We need someone to babysit kids in our nursery or toddler room.” That is what someone does Friday or Saturday night. Our responsibility is much, much deeper. From infancy, a child in our care needs to hear about Jesus. We have children in our nursery weekly. Would you like to learn how to speak about Jesus to nursery age children (we call them seeds and sprouts). Please speak to Ruth Eller, Children’s Ministry Director.

Welcome Our New Music Director and His Family: Dr. Isaac Winland, April, and their daughter, Ellie. April is a music teacher at a Groveport elementary school. Both she and Dr. Isaac are graduates of Marshall University and were members of Thundering Herd marching band. Isaac can play every brass instrument (almost), guitar, piano, keyboard, and organ. He also majored in audio technology (he knows sound boards and computers). His music doctorate degree is from The Ohio State University.

September 5th 10:00 AM: Combined Worship Service at the shelter house with NAPC. Let’s show the unity of God’s church! Reserved parking on the east side of the church. Potential golf cart transportation.

Tutoring Coming to Franklin in Late September: God needs you! Can you add 8 + 8? Can you write a simple sentence? Then you can tutor! Dr. Nega and Pastor Mike are starting tutoring in the New Albany area at the church, BUT, more importantly, we have outreach freedom. Volunteer 1-3 hours per week. Contact Pastor Mike at mike@franklinub.org