

August 2017

Who Wouldn't Love The Church Of Christ?

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Recommended Citation

McInteer, J. (2017). Who Wouldn't Love The Church Of Christ?. Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/mcinteer-sermons-topic/103>

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WHO WOULDN'T LOVE THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

I. I admit prejudice but also puzzlement: Why wouldn't every good & honest person love the Church of Christ?

II. I offer you these reasons:

A. Jesus loved it.

Eph. 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ

5:29 "No man ever yet hated his own flesh; but

Acts 20:28 "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and

Eph. 1:22-23 "And hath put all things under his feet

1. Don't you enjoy doing what great folks do?

2. Styles change via designers.

3. Matthew wants ice cream in cone if I do - tho sticky all the way to elbow.

4. #6 Caswell & Massey - Geo. Washington.

B. Christians love the church.

Matt. 6:33 "But seek ye first the K.

Rom. 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned 1 to another with 1

1 Pet. 1:17 "Honor all men, love the brotherhood

Heb. 13:15 "By him...let us offer, the sac. of pr.

1. Wm. James - give our best.

2. Human pedigrees.

3. Judge via "Scriptural Framework."

4. Professor Chad Walsh.

5. Questionnaire to Teenager.

6. Kiwanis Club.

7. Bach Brotherhood.

C. Honest Folks Love the Church - Teepee Chr.

Acts 8:4 "They that were scattered abroad went every

V. 5 "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, c

V. 8 "And there was great joy in that city.

Eph. 3:10 "To the intent that now unto the principalities

1. They will see a morality.

Rom. 12:1 "I beseech you...br., by the mercies of God

9 "Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good

11 "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit

12 "Patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer

13 "Distributing to the necessity of saints

13 "Given to hospitality

16 "Condescend to men of low estate.

17 "Recompense to no man evil for evil.

17 "Provide things honest in the sight of all men

18 "Live peaceably with all men.

(Piece of Mind)

20 "If thine enemy hunger, feed him

(Won't forgive)

21 "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good

a.) "Sociologist assert."

b.) Word of God - Profanity.

c.) Modern society.

d.) Child - shipwreck - Cannibals.

2. Love & loyalty to Scripture.

2 Tim. 3:16 "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God

2 Pet. 1:3 "According as his divine power hath given unto us

a.) Bible is God's book.

b.) Egbert W. Smith

Jere. 6:16 "ask for old paths

c.) Justin Martyr.

3. Jesus.

Lu. 12:8 "Whosoever will confess me before men, him will I confess before my Father which is in heaven.

Matt. 16:16 "And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God."
John 20:30 "Many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of them, which are not written in this book."
John 20:28 "My Lord and my God."

4. Nation.

Rom. 13:1 "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers, for there is no power but of God."
1 Pet. 2: 13 "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake."

5. Self support of churches, i.e. simple plan of organization.

2 Cor. 9:7 "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give."
1 Cor. 16:1 "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have commanded you, ye ought to do."

a.) World War II - organization.

6. Peace.

1 Cor. 14:33 "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches."

- 1. How church is Judged.
- 2. Lived the Poetry.
- 3. You are hands.

D. Angels strove to see: the Future loves it.

1 Pet. 1:12 "which things the angels desire to look into."
Matt. 25:31 "When the Son of Man shall come in his glory, he shall send the angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity."

1 Thess. 4:16 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God."
1. Saul laid waste.
2. Where are Kings.

II. Why doesn't everybody that wants the best love the Church of Christ?

- A. Jesus does.
- B. Christians do.
- C. Many honest folk do even outside it.
- D. The Future does.

Midsouth Evangelistic Workshop, Jackson, In, 8-29-80

Who is God? If you're a crossword puzzle addict you've already learned anytime the instructions say "An Abstract being" "God" is the answer. Most of us have difficulty with abstracts. We want something concrete. We want a personal God, so many of us build one to our liking.

Most of us maintain the childish notion that God is a benevolent old gentleman, typical grandfather type, sitting on a pink cloud. This man-made god clucks, clucks slightly at man's sins, but doesn't get too upset about them. With this god everyone goes to Heaven and lives happily ever after.

Still others see only a punishing malevolence, staring at the world to catch us in some misdeed. Of course we have a tendency to believe he only dislikes the sins of our neighbors. Our sins are perfectly respectable, but he'll eventually punish all of those who distress or annoy us. Sometimes, however, we really are terrible

afraid of this malevolent god ourselves and our motivations come from a sense of fear of the hereafter.

Have You Seen My Father? by Judy Norris, p. no number.

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During World War II, Allied troops captured a German city. In clearing our pockets of resistance, they found the following scrawled on the walls of a basement where frightened people had hidden from the Gestapo:

I believe in the sun even when it's not shining,
I believe in love even when I cannot see it.
I believe in God even when He's silent.

Where is My Father? by Judy Norris, p. 35.

During World War II, Ger

William James, America's greatest psychologist, said that in order to be completely happy we must find something to give our best to, which will outlive us.

"Your Church and You" - By Fred Pierce Corson - Page 22

Human pedigree, individual intellect and moral excellencies, and ecclesiastical system and priestly craft all combined cannot give "the right to become children of God". The church is more than a humanly wrought association of believers. It is a brotherhood of divinely regenerated men and women, who by the authority of one spirit are all baptized into one body and all made to drink of one spirit (I Cor. 12:13). All such believers are added to the Lord (Acts 5:14). That is, Christ through the Holy Spirit from within, incorporates them with Himself into a living organism of which He is head and they are the body. Christ

and Christians share the same nature and life, as all parts of the fleshly man share the same blood . . . Through the church Christ contracts, speaks to, and acts upon the world spiritually. The Holy Spirit as the resident, executive member of the Godhead, dwells in the church to vivify and employ her as His living, redemptive organ among the children of men around the earth.

This scriptural framework of the Church can be sketched adequately (though not exhaustively) by looking at four elements: (1) the relationship of the people of God to Christ; (2) the relationship of the people of God to one another; (3) the function of the church as a transforming community; and (4) the relationship of the church to the world.

"A New Face for the Church " - By Lawrence O. Richards

Page 76

Professor Chad Walsh put it well when in his intriguing book Early Christians of the Twenty-first Century: Millions of Christians live in a sentimental haze of vague piety with soft organ music trembling in the light from stained glass windows. Their religion is a pleasant thing of emotional quivers, divorced from the will, divorced from the intellect and demanding little except lip service to a few harmless platitudes. I suspect that Satan has called off his attempt to convert people to agnosticism. After all, if a man travels far enough away from Christianity, he is likely to see it in perspective and decide that it is true. It is much safer from Satan's point of view to vaccinate a man with a mild

case of Christianity so as to protect him from the real disease.¹¹

Say It with Love, by Howard G. Fredericks, p. 125

"A few years ago I passed out a questionnaire to teenagers, asking them to name the issues of most importance to their parents. At the top of their list was plenty of money and education so that they could make a good living. Only one person named 'relationship with God and Christ' as a parental top priority. These were the children of the elders and deacons in the church we were serving at the time. Now, I realize children often misinterpret their parents. But it doesn't do any good to have fine ideas unless they come through loud and clear to our children! Millstones, here we come!"

--Have You Seen My Father?

p. 52

Judy Norris

The Kiwanis Club was celebrating the eightieth anniversary of one of its member's businesses, and the speaker made quite a thing of it. "Is there anyone else here who represents a firm that has been in business as long as eighty years?" he orated.

A preacher arose and said, "I have that honor, sir."

"Family Humor"

By Oren Arnold

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Church

Johann Sebastian Bach provided one kind of answer: "In the architecture of my music I want to demonstrate to the world the architecture of a new and beautiful social commonwealth. Each instrument in counterpoint, and as many contrapuntal parts as there are instruments. Each voluntarily imposing on itself the limits of its individual freedom for the well-being of the community . . . an enlightened freedom. The harmony of the stars in the heavens, the yearning of brotherhood in the heart of man. That is the secret of my music."

"All to the Good" - By Robert B. and Homer D. McLaren

"One of my teenage memories comes from a conversation with my mother. I was angry, perhaps for the umpteenth time. I can still see the weary look on Mama's face as I said, 'I just think I'll give him a piece of my mind.' Softly Mama replied, 'If you keep that up long enough, you just may discover you won't have much left!'"

--Have You Seen My Father?, p. 67

Judy Norris

The world's most miserable person is one who won't forgive. .
Nothing can gnarl the soul so quickly. It has been said so
aptly, "If I had an enemy whom I wanted to punish, I would
teach him to hate someone."

Forgive us our Prayers, by John A. Huffman, Jr., p. 49.

"Sociologists assert that many factors combined to produce the changes in societal attitudes toward personal behavior. Population growth and increased urbanization have generated a mobile, impersonal, anonymous lifestyle that makes enforcement of moral codes difficult. Secularization has resulted in 'the death of God' and given rise to a nonjudgmental view of private behavior, free of censure or praise. As Jim Casey says in The Grapes of Wrath, 'There ain't no sin and there ain't no virtue. There's

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just stuff people do.' Such a point of view hardly provides the jumping-off point for moral crusades. Instead of worrying about the 'stuff people do,' modern society, especially youth, interests itself far more in problems pertaining to poverty, racial justice, and peace. While the ghettos seethe and the country's underprivileged are not adequately provided for, no congressman would dream of introducing a bill to revive prohibition or to regulate the nationwide

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distribution of contraceptives. We have experienced a radical reshuffling of our national moral priorities since Colonial and Victorian days."

--If God Is God, Pp. 80, 81

Richard Edwin Koenig

The word God is the third most frequently used term of profanity of prime-time television, says the National Federation for Decency after monitoring 864 hours of prime-time viewing and registering a total of 1,054 profane utterances.

Has profanity crept into your life?

Prayers

Forgive us our _____, by John A. Huffman, Jr., p. 26.

"Modern society has lost interest in enforcing personal behavior patterns and to a large extent has become morally neutral. What consenting adults do among themselves is more and more regarded as their business. The individual may do with his private life what he wishes as long as he does not invade the rights of others or threaten them with injury. There are still some controversial areas in which the question of the public interest is not clear, such as homosexual practices and the use of certain narcotics, but there is no mistaking the trend. Society is (over)

moving toward greater personal freedom rather than less, as the appearance of the hippies testifies. Mass media both reflect and encourage the new freedom. It will soon be difficult to boast, 'A few years ago this picture could not have been made.' "

-----If God Is God, p. 79

Richard Edwin Koenig

A young child in a Sunday school class stated the truth of this fact more clearly than he knew. His teacher had described a shipwreck that set three of the survivors adrift in a lifeboat. Finally they came upon a tropical island, but fear that the people were cannibals kept them from landing. One of the men, however, volunteered to go ashore and up the hill. When he reached the brow of the hill he called for his shipmates to follow him saying, "I see a spire and a cross." The teacher than asked the boy what the story taught; the boy replied that it taught that the Church kept people from eating each other up.

That is exactly the importance of these Christian institutions for us. They keep people from destroying one another.

If we want to stop this human carnage and self-destruction in which our age has become so proficient, we must decide for Christ and his Church.

"Your Church and You" - By Fred Pierce Corson - Page 137

THE BIBLE IS GOD'S BOOK

“This book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrine is holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand theme and object, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened in judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.”—Author Unknown

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In the words of Dr. Egbert W. Smith, "No institution can repudiate its fundamental purpose, its main reason for being, and not suffer."

(Quoted in Egbert W. Smith, "From One Generation to Another"
Richmond, Va.: John Knox Press, 1945, p. 102. By permission

"On the Growing Edge of the Church" - By T. Watson Street

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Church

The following description given by Justin Martyr, in his ^{second}~~second~~ Apology to Antonius Pius (or Marcus Aurelius), of the Church assemblies in his day, not a hundred years after this time, is in exact agreement with it:--"On the day which is called Sunday, all (Christians) who dwell either in town or country come together ~~in~~ to one place. The ^{memoirs}~~memoris~~ of the apostles and the writings ~~of~~ of the prophets are read for a certain time, and then the president of the meeting, when the reader has stopped, makes a discourse, in which he instructs and exhorts the people to the imitation of the good deeds of which they have just heard. We then all rise up together, and address prayers (to God); and, when our prayers are ended, bread and wine and water are brought, and the president, to the best of his ability offers up both prayers and thanksgiving and the people assent, saying 'Amen.' And then the distribution of the bread and wine, over ~~x~~ which the thanks giving has been offered, is made to all present, and all partake of it." He adds that the elements are carried to the absent by deacons, and that collections are made for poor widows, ~~and~~ and orphans, and sick, and prisoners.

During World War II a story was going around about a German soldier who was wounded at the front. He was ordered to go to the military hospital for treatment. When he arrived at the large and imposing building, he noticed two main doors, one marked "For those seriously wounded" and the other "For those slightly wounded." He entered through the second door and found himself going down a long hall at the end of which were two more doors, one marked "For officers" and the other "For non-officers." He entered through the latter and found himself going down another long hall at the end of which were two more doors, one marked "For Party members" and the other "For non-Party members." He took the latter door, but when he opened it he found himself out on the street.

When the soldier returned home, his mother said to

him, "Son, how did you get along at the hospital that time?"

"Well, Mother," he replied, "to tell the truth, the army didn't do anything for me. But I wish you could have seen the tremendous organization they have down there!"

Is this a picture of the American Church today?

HOW THE CHURCH IS JUDGED

A noted business leader once said, "An institution may spread itself over the entire world and may employ a hundred thousand people, but the average person will form his judgment of it through his contact with one individual. If that one person is rude or inefficient, it will take a lot of kindness and efficiency to overcome his bad impression. Every member of an organization who, in any capacity, comes in contact with the public, is a salesman and the impression he makes is an advertisement--good or bad."

This is nowhere more true than in the church. Large sums may be expended to build the church's image through radio, television, and newspaper ads. But your family and friends will still form their opinion of the church by what they see in you. They see the church as cold, friendless, and disagreeable, or warm, friendly, and helpful, as they see these qualities in you.

Here is a type of personal evangelism which all can do: be sure that the church reflected in our lives is the church as God would have it. "Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me."

--Selected--

To use a phrase of Edwin Markham's, "They lived the poetry they sang."

"Your Church and You" - By Fred Pierce Corson - Page 16

"You are the hands of Christ, His calloused hands,
Blistered and thorny from the saw and plane,
Before they, in their mercy, salved a pain,
They pulled a heavy boat in on the sands.
They were for use, His strong and able hands.

Church

"You are the feet of Christ, His tired feet
Let others show His mind; you have the best.
You go rough shod like Him upon His quest.
He had to walk afoot through sun and sleet--
Save on Palm Sunday He employed His feet.

"You are the mates of Christ, His dearest friends
With whom He loves to sit and yarn awhile.
A working man is surest of His smile,

And He will say to you when living ends:
Come, make yourselves at home, my friends, my friends.

"You are the heart of Christ, His healing heart.
That drives its love through every flowing vein.
You are the mind of Christ that shoots its light
Through all the world and back to Him again.
You are the mirror that reflects the might
That won our battle with a sword of pain."

--Eileen Duggan.

"Your Church and You" - By Fred Pierce Corson - Pages 170-
171

"The Revised Version says, "Saul laid waste" the church. The word for "made havoc," or "laid waste," does not appear anywhere else in the New Testament, but is used several times in the Old Testament (Septuagint). It is used in Psalms to describe a wild boar breaking down and crushing the tender young vine-yards (Psalm 80:13). Dr. Earle says that medical writers used the word to describe the ravages of disease. Saul, therefore, like the wild boar devastated the church; or like a dreadful sickness, he sapped the life and energy from its body by "entering into every house and haling men and women committed them to prison." (Acts 8:3)

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Evangelizing in Acts Under External Handicaps

Evangelism in the Acts

page 65 (Autrey)