

**University Heights Church
of Christ**
445 Columbia Ave.,
Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 255-6257
www.uheightschurch.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday

Bible Study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is immediately followed by a short worship period)

First Friday of Each Month

Singing: 7:30 PM

LEADERSHIP

Elders

Garry Banks, David Collins,
John Thompson

Evangelist

Adam Litmer

Deacons

Troy Antle, Richard Brundige,
Matt Thompson, Adam
Litmer, Bill Morelan, Jim
Parsons, Pat Seabolt, Adam
Daniels, Jamie Powell

Adam's Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday (8:30-4:00)

announce its presence with bursts of loud engine noise; it is not out to compete with other cars on the road; but yet it is always visible if one will look for it. That car always starts up having a fresh battery; it responds quickly and accelerates smoothly with just a bit of pressure on the gas pedal. It just goes about its business, flowing nicely with the traffic, not at all disruptive. It is obviously a well-maintained automobile. Some Christians are like that car, tuned-up, well maintained, and purpose-driven. *Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.* (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Consider how blessed we, the Body of Christ at University Heights, are to have so many of our members who are like that last car, tuned-up and well-maintained. Being part of the power of God working through His people is a humbling and wonderful experience. May we continue to travel together in complete harmony the upward path that leads to heaven.

Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel. (Philippians 1:27)

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Paul Atkisson, Barbara Matheny, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, John Bennett, Robert Brundige, Donald Dawson, Gail Stein, Sandy Childress, Susie Burton, Jacob Profit, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Jannett's mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Doris Baker, Burnice Richardson, Ruth Poynter, Larry Sells, Christian Shadburne, Mattie Johnson (hip replacement), Evelyn Damron, Cassie Neel, Tony Tirey, Rose Curtis

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“A Tragic Day in America”

Adam Litmer

Not long ago I knew nothing of Kim Davis. Now the vast majority of Americans know her as the Kentucky clerk who refuses to give marriage licenses to those seeking same-sex marriages. She has been arrested and removed from her office for that decision. I *still* don't know much about her. I have no idea of her religious affiliation, though I am glad to see that on the issue of homosexuality she seems to stand for the truth.

Of especial interest to me have been the comments of Christians on social media regarding this situation. Taking the entire situation into consideration (the decision of Kim Davis, its repercussions, and the comments from Christians), I wish to share with you a few of my thoughts. Perhaps you will find some benefit in them. By the way, none of what is said is meant to indicate I believe Kim Davis to be a saint in covenant relation with God. Her situation has simply occasioned these thoughts.

1. A common theme is that the entire ordeal represents “a tragic day in America.” Most of those who say this are speaking of the fact that Kim Davis was jailed for standing for her religious beliefs. It is always a tragic day when people reject God's truth on an issue. Yet it is no more tragic than that day in Jerusalem when Stephen was stoned for speaking truth (Acts 7:54-60); or that day in Philippi when Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown in prison for relieving a young girl from demonic possession through the power of Christ (Acts 16:16-24); or that day in Lystra when unbelievers so poisoned minds against Paul and his Lord that they stoned him and left his body outside the city (Acts 14:19); or another day in Jerusalem when Peter and John were called before the Sanhedrin and commanded not to speak in the name of Jesus any longer (Acts 4 and 5), or that day in Pergamum when Antipas, Christ's faithful witness, was murdered because of his faith (Revelation 2:13). Again, it is tragic when anyone rejects truth and persecutes those who stand for it. However, American saints are just now beginning to experience some of the persecution that God's people all around the world have

been experiencing for centuries. Rather than wringing hands may all true saints remember David's instruction to Solomon: *Be strong, and show yourself a man.* (1 Kings 2:2b)

2. Several commenter's and commentators have pointed to Kim Davis' own history of marriage to mock her stance. Several Christians have as well. From what I understand she has been married four times and I have no idea of the reasons for her divorces. If she is in a marriage she has no right to be in I pray to God that she will repent of it and take the necessary actions. However, it is important to remember that truth is truth no matter who speaks it. Paul rejoiced that Christ was being preached even though the one's preaching him were doing it out of a sense of rivalry and pride rather than genuine love of truth (Philippians 1:15-18). I find myself of similar mind in this situation. Perfect sinlessness is not required to speak out against sin. I am glad that she has chosen to publicly stand upon God's truth *on this issue.*

3. Having said that, the Holy Spirit and experience shows that personal behavior goes a long way in determining how willing a person(s) will be to receive correction. Romans 2:1-24 is an important passage for Christians to familiarize themselves with. Verse 24 quotes Isaiah 52:5 and says, *The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.* When we are inconsistent with the divine nature (2 Peter 1:3-4) we encourage irreverence and blasphemy against God. What a terrible thing for a saint to do! Self-examination is a vital aspect of the Christians life and ought to take place before we seek to correct others (Matthew 7:1-5).

4. One "Christian" (I do not know his background) stated that Kim Davis had a responsibility to do the job she was hired to do. If that required giving marriage licenses to same-sex couples than so be it. *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities* (Romans 13:1a) was set forth as the justification. It is true that God has commanded His people to obey the governing authorities. It is equally true that He expects His people to obey *Him* when those governing authorities disregard His commands to establish opposing one's (Acts 4:19-20; 5:29). Consider Psalm 2, 9:17, and Proverbs 14:34 to see how God feels about nations that reject Him and His statutes.

This entire ordeal has inspired several more thoughts yet I'm not sure of how much benefit they would be to you. Stay strong, brethren. Remain constant in prayer and study. Do not fear what is about to come, rather be aware that our brethren around the world and throughout the ages have suffered much worse than imprisonment and mocking all for their hope of rising again to a better life (Hebrews 11:35b). The same promises and hope belong to us. Rejoice in that.

Some Christians Are Like...

John Thompson

Some Christians are like the car someone's neighbor has. His car is garage-kept, always washed and waxed, tuned to perfection. That automobile seldom gets a glimpse of the sunshine, but every once in a while the owner starts it up, backs it out of his garage, and continues to sit in the driver's seat just letting that perfectly tuned motor idle. He never uses the car for anything productively, but it sure idles nicely. Some Christians are like that car, idling, just idling. Idleness is a very serious and dangerous condition. In addition to being unproductive, idling actually contribute to destructiveness. Take a look at 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15.

Some Christians are like a wannabe racecar. This is the car that is constantly being revved up by the driver. Just prior to pulling out of the drive way into oncoming traffic; while waiting for the traffic light to change to green; having just parked the car at work or at the store the driver revs the motor, again and again, glancing around to see if anyone is being impressed. Such occasions are simply opportunities for the driver to call attention to his automobile or to show a readiness and eagerness to compete. Some Christians are like that car, loud and always eager to be the winner. One cannot help but be reminded of Diotrephes, of whom the Bible says *I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority.* (3 John 9)

Some Christians are like the car that no one wants to be behind in slow moving traffic. It puts out a lot of smoke; its exhaust fumes make one's allergic response work overtime; and its ability to accelerate is seriously limited. The driver has no confidence his car will even start; if he is not careful he will run the battery down. The car needs a major tune-up: plugs, wires, filters, the whole works. Some Christians are like that car, hard to start, have a battery about to go dead, slow when moving and with lots of complaints. They are in desperate need of a tune up. *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.* (Romans 12:2) *For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.* (2 Timothy 1:6-7) [See also Ephesians 4:20-25]

Some Christians are like the car that is seen most everywhere. It is always going somewhere, always on the road. You may see it idling briefly at a stoplight or stop sign, but it soon is off again with some purpose in mind. It doesn't