

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

David Collins
John Thompson
Troy Antle

Evangelist

Adam Litmer

Deacons

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)

“perfect courtesy” is exactly the same as divine civility, but it must be very, very close.

Christians must put forth maximum effort to make civility our way of life, to be godly citizens here on earth because, in doing so, we prepare ourselves for an eternal future. *But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.* (Philippians 3:20).

NOTE

The monthly congregational meeting will be today at 5. If you are a member of this body please make your plans to attend.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Declan Weatherholt, Jaclyn Litmer, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige, Susie Burton, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Burnice Richardson, Ruth Poynter, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Tony Tyree, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, Alleen Terrell, the McDonald family, William Roberts, Kip Pearce, Paul Lyda

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A Few Thoughts After The Election

Adam Litmer

Without question this election season has been the most vicious in my lifetime and I do not speak only of the way the two candidates treated one another. I have never seen brethren rise against brethren the way I saw it during this election. Facebook was sizzling as brother railed against brother over the candidate of their choice. Some claimed a vote for Clinton was a vote against God. Others claimed that a vote for Trump was a vote against Christ. Still others declared that a vote for either was a vote for the Devil. I have not seen so many of my brethren as quick, even anxious, to judge another brother. At times like these it is good for reminders. Paul was judged harshly by many of the brethren in Corinth. He told them what he thought about it, reminded them of the only judgment that matters, and offered important instruction at the end. *But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each will receive his commendation from God.* (1 Corinthians 4:3-5) Beloved, we are not commissioned to pronounce final judgment upon anyone. We do not have the right or the authority. We can say what God has said and nothing more. I hope never to see another election season where so many brethren treat each other as poorly as they did in this one.

In a similar vein, I have been troubled by the sheer amount of gloating a number of brethren have directed toward other Christians. Whether one is happy with the result of the election or not, from whence comes the childish, mean-spirited gloating designed to do nothing more than upset fellow brothers and sisters in Christ? Take a moment to read James 3:13-16 to find the answer. A number of our brethren are greatly distressed after the results of the election and fear more for

the course of this country now than before. Whether we agree with their assessment is beside the point. They are distressed whether we think they should be or not. I am reminded of the way Edom gloated over his brother and how God responded in Obadiah 12. *But do not gloat over the day of your brother in the day of his misfortune; do not rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their ruin; do not boast in the day of distress.* Perhaps the candidate you voted for won this election. Perhaps you believe that he is better equipped to lead the country in a more positive direction. Many of our brethren agree with you and many do not. Either way, how can a brother or sister's distress bring me joy? How can their pain produce gloating? What have I become if it does?

Finally, whether Trump or Clinton sits in the Oval Office, God stills rules in the kingdoms of men (Daniel 4:31-32). God's purposes will be accomplished regardless of who lives in the White House. Though I may not always understand His purpose or the way He is bringing it about, I know that He still rules. I still trust Him and I hope that you do, too.

I do want to mention that the behavior of the brethren at this congregation was exemplary. Even when passions were high everything I heard from you demonstrated a desire for truth and a love for your brethren. You encouraged me and I thank you for it. Sadly, I fear that this was not necessarily the rule among many Christians this election season. When passions run as high as they have been running, and when disagreements exist concerning the merits of the candidates who will be leading our country, it is sometimes difficult for brethren to remember that they *are* brethren. Saints cannot be divided along republican/democrat lines any more than we can be divided along black/white or rich/poor lines. Someday the republican and democratic parties will be a thing of the past. Someday every agenda either party ever conceived will fade away. Someday the constitution of this country will crumble. The Words of Christ will last forever (Matthew 24:35). We cannot leave the world and will always be concerned with what's happening around us. Even so, we can remember in whom our chief loyalty resides. And it is not in a man named Trump or a woman named Clinton. Indeed, it is not of this world at all.

Civility

John Thompson

Don't you find it ironic and sad that of all the things that go into defining a civilization the one most often in shortest supply or missing altogether is civility? Civilization is defined as the "stage of human social development and organization that is considered most advanced," or the "process by which a society or place reaches

an advanced stage of social development and organization." Civility is "formal politeness and courtesy in behavior or speech" and is synonymous with courtesy, courteousness, politeness, good manners, graciousness. If civilization is the most advanced stage of human development, then one would expect civility to be the framework within which all interactions occur. But it doesn't seem to happen that way, does it? Civilization doesn't seem all that civilized much of the time, does it?

As civility becomes less and less, meanness and hostility become greater and greater until civilization unravels and decorum vanishes. The recently ended contest for the office of President of the United States of America brought to national attention the ill effects of incivility (rude or unsociable speech or behavior) and we have found it to be potentially ruinous, consistent with an uncivilized, ultimately barbaric people. Timothy Egan, in an op-ed published in the New York Times on October 15, 2016 wrote, "Civility, always a tenuous thing, cannot be quickly restored in a society that has learned to hate in public, at full throttle." Isn't it better to keep civility alive, to live it and enjoy it, to help it spread like leaven that turns a lump of dough into a delicious loaf of bread?

Christians have a huge part to play in keeping civility alive. We are to be models of civility for all the world to see; we are to emulate Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God who is the Master of civility. *For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.* (1 Peter 2:20-23)

This business of not reviling in return and not threatening when injured is civility as Jesus demonstrated. *He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.* (Isaiah 53:7) This is civility lived by the incarnate divine Son of God.

So, is divine civility too much to expect from those who follow the Master? Well, we are not divine and we fail from time to time, but God certainly has high expectations of His people. The Apostle Paul cautioned Titus, the evangelist, to *remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.* (Titus 3:1-2) I don't believe that

