

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

GOSPEL MEETING

Brother Landon Rutter will be with us this week. Please make it a point to attend each night to hear God's Word proclaimed and encourage your brethren.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Bill Osborne, Shirley Harrod and family, Rachel Thompson, Larry Billator, Julie Patton, Karen Spivey, Sandra Russell, Jeff Howerton, Janet Brundige, Rhonda Boyd (and her sister, Dorothy), Paul Atkisson, Julia-Ann Dixon, Ed Allison, Dwight Antle, The Bays and Robbins family, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's mother, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul Lyda, Pete Soro, Harleigh Spartman, Mattie Johnson, Elijah Epling, Leland Wells, Linda Moore, Sheila Johnson, Virginia Gordon

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“Country Club Churches”

Ron Tirey

There is a false concept in the religious world that is becoming quite popular. It states: “We (denominational churches) are not offering our young people what they want! We must change our practices and old-fashioned beliefs to keep our young people from leaving the church.” Thus, many religious leaders have decided they need to build “Country Club Churches.” They think this is the answer to keeping the young.

This thinking seems intended to create a country club atmosphere with a little religion sprinkled in. They have basketball teams, volleyball teams, and social banquets. They rarely preach negative sermons, emphasizing rather that God is love and wants everyone to be happy and feel good about who they are, no matter what their chosen lifestyle and habits may be. That will get the young people back in church.

This definition of “church” does not fit the definition that Christ intended. The Church that Jesus died for denotes an assembly of people whose sole purpose is to love God with all their hearts, souls, and minds and to obey Him and give their lives to Christ and the work He established for His Kingdom. In Matthew 16:18 Jesus says: *“and I also say unto you, that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church;...”*

In 1 Timothy 3:15, the apostle Paul writes: *“but if I tarry long, that you may know how men ought to behave themselves in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”* In Ephesians 5:23, we read, *“For the husband is head of the wife, as Christ also is head of the church, being himself the savior of the body.”*

How does the church Jesus died for fit this “country club” church concept? It doesn’t. It’s like trying to fit a square peg in a round hole. It doesn’t work. There is nothing about the church of the New Testament that would give authority to this worldly view of Christ’s church.

What are young people to learn about God at a “church” that emphasizes electric guitars and Starbucks coffee? What does a rock band and gymnasiums have to do with worshiping God and teaching the lost? How far have religious groups strayed from the biblical principles that Christ taught while He was on Earth?

Such churches have turned to feeding people, entertaining them, and creating all sorts of social functions to attract young people to their services. These “churches” are more interested in appealing to man’s physical needs and likes rather than his spiritual needs. Christ died for **His church** which represents those who are His disciples. The churches mission is to save the lost not encourage someone to be the leading scorer on their “churches” basketball team. You can feed people and entertain them like a country club and you will definitely increase your membership. However, it takes the gospel to save their souls. Romans 1:16 says, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”* Most people like hamburgers and ice cream, but they have no place in

Christ’s church. The Lord’s church is not a country club intended to entertain its members.

Many people in churches of Christ today are witnessing this “social gospel.” The fact that many know that these practices are not scriptural is not keeping some from incorporating them into their services. All sound churches of Christ must take a stand against these worldly practices.

I encourage us all to do as the Bereans and *“search the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so”* (Acts 17:11). The key is to please God and obey the gospel of His Son. It is sad to see the church that Jesus gave His life for compared to these “country club churches.” Young people who attend these services are going to “church” like they would be going to a rock concert. This promotion of secular entertainment has no place in the worship of our God. The church is to be holy and every member must be dedicated to serving God and Christ as we are commanded and instructed in the scriptures.

We must continue to emphasize New Testament authority, striving to pattern our practices and worship with the pattern of the New Testament. Nothing more and nothing less. I pray God will grant us the wisdom to search the scriptures to recognize the difference between truth and error. Sound gospel preaching and worshiping God in spirit and in truth is what *all* people have needed to be saved and live a life pleasing to God. Let’s continue to always pray for our young people and do everything we can to encourage them in their walk with Christ.

