

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)

very realistic to expect that brethren in Christ really *want* to do what's right. True, many are cumbered with traditional concepts, and may have a somewhat sectarian view of the church. But this is rarely by choice. They have inherited such errors, over a period of years, and the "surgery" must be done with compassion and consideration. It is a fair assumption that genuine saints *desire* to be rid of all human error.

So, think positively! Warn in hope! Let your speech always be seasoned with salt! Fight sin because you love the sinner!

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Richard Brundige, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Jake Spivey, 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, Andrew Westphal, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, Alleen Terrell, the McDonald family

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“What People Make Up The Church?”

Adam Litmer

A denominationalist made the following statement and question: “I know and agree that a building is not the church. I recognize that the church is made up of people. But what people make up the church?” That’s a very good and important query. Let’s see if we can provide a biblical answer.

On the first Pentecost after our Lord’s resurrection many people were gathered in Jerusalem. The apostles were there as well awaiting the power of the Holy Spirit to come upon them (Acts 1:8). Pentecost morning, they were clothed with the Holy Spirit’s power and began to preach to the people the gospel of Jesus Christ along with the terms of admission into his kingdom (Acts 2). At verse 37 we begin to find a certain group described as “they.” The text itself tells us that “they” were those “cut to the heart”, seeking entrance into the Lord’s kingdom, and willing to enter based upon the inspired instruction to repent and be baptized (37-38). The remainder of the chapter is speaking specifically of those individuals. Who made up the church the first time we see it? If one has the ability to read, they can see that it was those described in verses 37 and 38 who then went on to behave as described in 42-47.

But what about those “good hearted” folks who didn’t quite get to the place described in verses 37 and 38 yet thought that Jesus was commendable and worthy? What about those parents of new converts who did not do what Peter commanded yet encouraged their children in their new path, attended temple with the Christians often, and even talked about having invited Jesus into their hearts? The text of Acts 2 clearly and obviously excludes any from the church who did not obey the command of verse 38 and/or failed to

devote themselves to the apostles teaching (verse 42). The only real issue here is whether one has the courage and honesty to accept the inspired text.

The great value of the book of Acts is that it provides an inspired history of the early church as the gospel was spreading and congregations were being established. Read it carefully and find two elements essential to the Lord's church: people and inspired truth. There must be people (for they make up the church) and there must be inspired truth (for it reveals the nature and purpose of the church as well as instructions for entrance). Acts shows us that people are the church only when those people accept, obey, abide, and spread God's truth.

Perhaps someone says, "We've got a nice building and a bunch of people. Therefore, we are a church." Untrue. If they fail to meet the Bible defined terms of admission into the Lord's kingdom, and/or fail to conduct themselves after the Bible defined appropriate behavior of a congregation of the Lord's people, then they are just a bunch of people who have purchased or built a nice building and have agreed to meet there from time to time. Just as there is no reason to call someone a Christian who refuses to act like a Christian, there is no reason to call a group of people the Church of Christ if they do not meet the qualifications and conditions for being the Church of Christ as revealed by inspiration in the Scriptures.

The name on a sign outside a building, the splendor of that building, or the "goodness" of "brother or sister so and so" who has been a part of that group for decades does not prove that church belongs to Christ. Only one thing does and that's their faith and acceptance of God's way as contained in Scripture. They, *and only they*, are the people who make up the Lord's church. Obviously this will prove quite difficult and troublesome for those who have very little interest in studying God's Word. Yet there it is. The control remains firmly in the hands of God and everything is measured by His standard. The true church of the Lord has never feared or scoffed at such investigation. Groups created by men always do.

Assuming The Better

By Robert Turner

Those who have made a study of such matters tell us we tend to measure up to what certain peers expect of us. If those to whom we look as leaders or

models indicate their high hopes for us, we strive to meet those goals. If they indicate a lack of trust in us, a feeling that we will fail, we may lose confidence in ourselves—and fail. I do not believe man is *completely* programmed by his environment, but it takes a lot of inner strength—built in character available to those who look to God for the standard of integrity and righteousness (Proverbs 11:3-6)—to buck the predictions of failure and succeed in spite of the gloomy odds against us. Sinful man must be encouraged to believe that he is made in God's image, and is capable of living to the glory of God.

The Hebrew writer recognized this principle, for throughout an epistle directed to backsliders, that necessitated many warnings of failure and its dire results, he repeatedly *encouraged*. They were brethren with Christ and in Him could be glorified (2:10-13). They were "*partakers of the heavenly calling*" (3:1). God's oath and promises offered them "*strong consolation*" (6:17-20). And after a dire warning he reminded them of past successes (10:31-ff) and says, "*But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.*"

The "back-slappers" have stretched this principle to include insincere compliments, *using* us (and our pride) to accomplish their ends. They would "palaver" us into doing their bidding or buying their products. By the same reasoning some would rule out all negative teaching and correction—including that of the Apostle Paul's, I suppose. Such maneuvering we abhor.

But elders, preachers, and parents (to name a few) may do gross injustice to those who look to them for guidance, by failing to properly encourage. Must we always assume the very worst? Love "*thinks no evil*" (1 Corinthians 13:5-6), but tends to place the best possible interpretation on matters. It most assuredly "*rejoices not in iniquity.*" Think that over! Lawlessness calls forth sadness, compassion, and a desire to help on the part of those who love.

Such much needed teaching pertaining to the church, creedalism, fellowship, and many other subjects has been ineffective and finally rejected because the teachers assumed a superior attitude and spoke or wrote *as though they did not expect the message to be heeded!* We certainly do not advocate a Pollyanna, head-in-the-clouds attitude. Rather, we suggest it is

