

I Want A Church That Meets My Needs

By William Woodson

The statement made in the title is not only the desire of many in the religious world, but it is becoming the philosophy of many Christians, because many of us are seeking a religion that "meets my needs." The phrase itself has virtually become a new religious term. Many persons praise or blame a particular congregation because it is or is not "meeting my needs."

Let me hasten to say that if the phrase means that we need to satisfy spiritual hunger, then it is a good expression, for surely everyone ought to be in a Christian community where his/her deepest spiritual longings are being addressed. The voice of God needs to be heard through spiritual teaching, and we need opportunities to serve, love, and to be called to repentance. But being a part of the church to some means reaching for goals of "self-actualization." So if the church doesn't fulfill certain expectations, wants and preferences, then they must move on to another emotional department store with different merchandise more appealing to their "tastes." Sadly, and probably without realizing it, many congregations have gotten into thinking that "we have to do all these things and plan all the activities to meet people's needs so they won't leave." Consequently, well meaning leaders have turned God's church into a merchandising institution. So we promote this program and that program for this group and that group. But, in my judgement, the system has become turned upside down from the way God intended it to be. What ever happened to the attitude in a Christian's heart of "I'd like to be a part of this congregation because of what I can do to meet its needs?" When are we most fulfilled? When our needs are met? Or when we meet the needs of God's church on this earth? We ought to be a part of a congregation not so that our needs can be met, but rather so that we may best meet the needs of God's work.

Christians need to recall the truth of the scriptures that personal fulfillment is a great spiritual paradox. We are most filled when we empty ourselves and be filled serving others. Jesus taught us, "...whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister (servant) ... even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister (serve)." (Matthew 20:26-28). Paul said of his own heart, "I am crucified with Christ. Nevertheless I live; yet, not I, but Christ liveth in me. And the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). And again, "I beseech you therefore by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1). "Reasonable service" is not being served (having your needs met), but serving (meeting the needs of others).

We need to relearn the axiom, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Let's not demand that God's church be a place where people (leadership or membership) cater to our desires and preferences. Let's turn it right-side up again and be a part of a congregation, not for what it can do for us, but for what we can do for it!

For additions or corrections to the directory please contact Mike Mendez

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For corrections, suggestions, or to have something included in the bulletins, please contact Ryan or Jennifer Stiltz at 924-0435 or email at stiltz_family@sbcglobal.net

Bulletin 216 December 20, 2009

Welcome

to the
Church of Christ
meeting at Mack Road

This morning's sermon:

The Consequences of Choice



Congregational Meeting Times:

Sunday

Morning Bible Study 9:30 am

Worship Service 10:30 am

Evening Service 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Morning Bible Study 10:00 am

Evening Bible Study 7:00 pm

Visitors

The members here would like to offer a special welcome to our visitors today. Please allow us to shake your hand and talk with you, as we take great joy in getting to know you. Visitor cards are available at the pews for you to provide us with a record of your attendance. We appreciate you taking the time to fill these out.

Important dates to remember:

December:

Sun 27th - Elders, Deacons & preachers meeting

January:

Sun. 22nd - Elders, Deacons & preachers meeting

Sun 31st - 5th Sunday of the month friends service.

Sun 31st - Elders, Deacons & preachers Report following abbr. service

Fellowship Opportunities:

Sun. 20nd - Group 2 meets after evening services

Sat. 1/2 - Men's breakfast at Mr. Perry's (west side of Hwy 99)

Sun. 12/3 - Mountain Mike's following morning services



Ladies House to House Fellowship

Lesson Book: "Developing Inner Strength, Living in the Joy of God's Love"

Next class:

If you would like to host a class, please let Jennifer know

January - Annie, date to be posted next week

February -

Classes

Young Adults Class: Fridays at Caleb's home. See Caleb for details.

Psalm 119:137-144 (NIV)

Righteous are you, O LORD,
and your laws are right.

The statutes you have laid down are righteous;
they are fully trustworthy.

My zeal wears me out,
for my enemies ignore your words.

Your promises have been thoroughly tested,
and your servant loves them.

Though I am lowly and despised,
I do not forget your precepts.

Your righteousness is everlasting
and your law is true.

Trouble and distress have come upon me,
but your commands are my delight.

Birthdays this week:

Dorothy Bills	December 21
Craig Pitt	December 26