

or coach, or banker.... What would distinguish me from an industrious, hard-working, moral neighbor who does not acknowledge God at all?

I was really pleased by his question because he is beginning to think like a citizen of the kingdom of God. He is starting to see this life through a filter that is focused on Jesus rather than cultural norms and expectations. You see, in Americanized Christianity, all you really need do is just don't mess up. Don't have affairs, don't get slobbering drunk, avoid selling drugs and pet your dog and you might be okay. If you do those things, attend church pretty consistently, and stay out of fights, you pretty much can fit into any group of Christians and not be called on to do much more.

But is it enough? Does that really constitute a walk with God? Too much of religious life is about avoiding evil, than never inspiring to live a life sacrificed to God.

So I want to ask you his question today. What does it mean for you to be God's child? How is your effort in the workplace, community service, friendships, or any other life pursuit, defined by your relationship to God?

How is your response to anger, frustration, failure, fear or mistreatment modified because you are a child of God? How does your reaction to good things, success, security, or wellbeing a demonstration of your life walking along side of Jesus? I really want to know.

Grace and Peace,

Carl

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

St John Church of Christ
609 N Pearl
P. O. Box 241
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St John Church of Christ
A Family of God September 20, 2015

What does it mean for me to be God's child? This is a question that one of my Bible students recently asked me. His point was, he knows he attends a church, he is from a family that has been God honoring, and he is seen as religious in the community (all good things), but what does it really mean to him to be God's child.

He is coming to understand that church attendance, being moral and kind, and avoiding the "taboo sins" are not the same as a life of devotion before God.

"I urge you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable before God...." Is not synonymous with going to church Sunday mornings, praying over your meals, and trying to avoid making headlines in the newspaper.

He is asking questions like this.... If I am going to be a farmer, how would my way of farming look different than my unbelieving neighbor's way of doing it? If I were to be a teacher, or office worker,

SUNDAY: Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am
 Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am
 Worship Service—10:45 am
 Afternoon Service—1:15 pm

WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study—7:30 pm
 Youth Group—7:30 pm (@ Carl's)

ELDERS: Richard Brening, Teddy Gingrich, Loyd Ratts,
 Terry Sallee, George Shelton

DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel

TREASURER: Richard Brening

WORSHIP ORDER FOR SEPTEMBER 20, 2015

SONG LEADER: Jerry Kinnamon
 GATHERING SONG: No. 31—Be Still and Know (vs 1)
 WELCOME: Tom Turner
 SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 (Richard Brening)

SONGS: No. 850—Heaven Medley
 -No. 851—I'll Fly Away (vs 1, 3)
 -No. 852—When the Roll is Called Up Yonder (vs 1, 2)
 -No. 853—When We All Get to Heaven (vs 1, 3)
 No. 860—There is a Habitation
 No. 778—Be With Me, Lord (vs 1, 2, 4)

PRAYER: Gary Hornbaker
 SONG: No. 464—Because He Lives
 COMMUNION: Chris Mansel
 Ned Marks
 Teddy Gingrich
 Joe Cornwell

MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
 SONG: No. 569—Sweeter Than All
 LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
 SONG: No. 907—Hark, the Gentle Voice (vs 1)
 PRAYER: Terry Sallee

(CCLI #2440129)

WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship today and hope that you will come again! Please stay for lunch right after services.

BABY SHOWER!

Everyone is invited to a baby shower honoring Trey & Amber Turner, next Sunday, September 27th, at 2:00 pm here at the church building. They are expecting a boy, due in early November, and are registered at Target, as well as Babies-RUs.



WEDDING INVITATION!



You are invited to the wedding of Cheyenne Scott and Adam Holmes on October 10, 2015, at 5:00 pm at Jeff & Lory's farm. The reception will be at the VFW in Stafford afterward. See invitation posted for more information. *You are encouraged to wear jeans to this special event!!*

A NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY is in the making! Please see Janet with any updates needed, including a new picture.

SEMINARS WITH JERRY & LYNN JONES

September 24-26: "Straight Talk Seminar" at Silver Maple Camp; Keith Lancaster will lead worship singing; refer to information posted on bulletin board.

September 27-30: "Relationships Matter" at the Pratt Church of Christ; see brochure for schedule and topics.

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Devin Sizemore 9/24

PRAYER REQUESTS

Charlene Jimerson (Chet's youngest sister) - in the nursing home at Marquette; hospice care now
Donna Laudick (Marla's sister) - doing better
John Laudick (Marla's brother-in-law) - in the hospital with a possible stroke
Stan Aldrich—health concerns; doing better
Dan Hampton—continuing health concerns; possible heart valve replacement surgery soon
Maggie Harris—recent knee surgery
Pam Herrenbruck—cancer treatment
Josh Oakley (grandson of Bill Oakley) - on heart transplant list
Sonny Langford (Baylee Sizemore's father) - cancer
Gladys Hornbaker—health concerns
Sherri Holguin & baby (coworker of Joy)
Millie Whitlow – at Clearwater; cancer
Joy (Marilyn's daughter) –health concerns
Dena Mansel – health concerns
Cody Dick – cancer; undergoing treatments
Roger Dick - cancer
Jonathan Batten – chemotherapy
Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)
Jim Sorensen (Tara's brother-in-law) chemo for brain tumor
Eldon Ivy (Marilyn's brother) – health concerns
Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])
Myron Brening (Richard's father) – Leisure Homestead in Stafford
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) – Leisure Homestead in Stafford
Laura Wyatt—Kenwood Plaza
Vic & Phyllis Staub – Kenwood Plaza

SYMPATHY—We extend our sympathy to Fred Johnson, on the recent death of his sister, Janie Nagel. Services were held for her a couple of weeks ago.

Also to the family of **Ben Hamm** (nephew of John Hamm) - died yesterday due to a head injury from a high school football game.