

THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

September 4, 2016

"BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT"

PLEASANT PLAINS CHURCH OF CHRIST

JACKSON, TENNESSEE

Acceptance Does Not Imply Approval

There is a fallacy in the minds of many people that if you accept something or someone, you are tacitly demonstrating your approval. When the conversation comes to a person's practice, lifestyle or opinions, the contrarian is often heard to pronounce: "That's wrong. I just cannot accept that." What we need to realize is that there is a vast difference between accepting someone and approving of their choices, behavior or beliefs. Let me illustrate from God's Word.

On one occasion Jesus was teaching in the Temple when the Pharisees brought him a woman caught in the very act of adultery. Moses' law commanded she should be stoned. They asked Jesus, "What do you say?" Jesus realized the hearts of the Pharisees were corrupt. They didn't care about this woman. They were simply trying to trap Jesus. To find some fault in Him. To turn the people against Him. Jesus' response was simple, but profound. "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." Then Jesus stooped to write something in the sand. Some commentators suggest he wrote the names of some Pharisees who were guilty of adultery. Others offer that He wrote down some of their sins. Regardless, when Jesus arose all of the woman's accusers were gone. He then turned to the woman and forgave her with these parting words, "Go, and sin no more." Jesus did not approve of sexual immorality. But he accepted this woman. Showed compassion. Extended to her forgiveness. And taught us how to treat sinners. (John 8:1-11)

Throughout the life of Christ we see him mixing and mingling with sinners. In fact, it was the constant criticism of the religious leaders, "This man receives sinners and eats with them" (Lk. 15:1) They thought his acceptance of sinners implied His approval. It did not. Jesus' answer to his self-righteous critics was straightforward and succinct. "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." (Matt 9:12-13) Jesus teaches us that we can accept others without approving of their choices or conduct. As Christians, we are called to love others by showing mercy and compassion. Jesus, the consummate expression of Godhood, is our perfect example.

God wants us to accept others with respect, regard and dignity. The consideration we accord others with whom we disagree does not imply our agreement or approval of their positions, politics or personal preferences. When we treat our enemies with kindness we are showing acceptance, not approval. The fellow Christian with whom we disagree is not treated as an enemy, but as a brother or sister in Christ. We may not approve of their decisions, but we accept them in the way the Lord does. Our love for others is not an endorsement of all they do. It is, however, a way to say I accept and love you regardless of what you do. Consider the command to honor rulers, pray for governmental leaders and respect all in positions of authority. (1 Tim. 2:1-3; 1 Pet. 2:13-14). Does our deference to them, suggest our approval of their political agenda? The laws they pass? Or the moral positions they espouse? Obviously not. But we can accept and accord them the honor of their office.

Let's eliminate this false premise that acceptance means approval. And let's begin by applying the principle in our churches. "Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God" (Rom. 15:7, NASU)

-Ken Weliever, thepreachersword.com

We are so grateful that you have made the decision to join our family, today, as we worship our Almighty God! If you have any questions or inquiries, please feel free to ask any of our members and we would be more happy to answer as best we can! Please accept our invitation to join us, again, when you have the opportunity.



Speaker:

NICK ANGEL

Sunday AM Notes 9-4-2016

Behind The Scenes
SERVANTS

The

In

The

The

Serving
the
KINGDOM



Speaker:

NICK ANGEL

Sunday PM Notes 9-4-2016

The Prudence of Gideon

Judges 6

Gideon _____ the _____.

Gideon _____ the _____ of new _____.

Gideon _____ the _____ and acted _____.

Our Shepherds

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Our Preacher

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Times of Worship & Bible Study

Sunday:

9:30 AM Bible Study

10:30 AM Worship Service: You can expect heart felt singing, reverent prayer, preaching from the Word of God, a focused and reverent observance of the Lord's Supper, and an opportunity for the saints of Pleasant Plains to give back to the Lord.

5:00 PM Worship Service

Wednesday:

7:00 PM Bible Study and Worship

Weekly Attendance

Last Sunday AM Worship.....127
Last Sunday PM Worship.....109
Last Wednesday Bible Study.....73

In Our Prayers

RECENT ADDITIONS/UPDATES:

-Sammy Barker...recovering from pacemaker replacement surgery.

-Chad Edwards (friend of Anita Wagster)...diagnosed with cancer and the prognosis is not good. She would appreciate the prayers of the church.

-Mary Tole...recovering from a procedure to remove a mass from her pancreas.

CONTINUED PRAYERS:

-Our expecting mother: Melody Brown.

-Our Shut-In Members...Marvin and Becky Berry, Norma Griggs, & Barbara Leonard.

-Christian Benson...battling leukemia.

-Louise Stitt (Amy Gailey's Mother)...continuing cancer treatments.

-Wayne Wilkinson (father of Jim Wilkinson)...undergoing cancer treatments.

-Keller Stephens (Kathy Raines' Uncle)... still struggling with his health.

-Christy Bennett's Nephew Logan... young man struggling with his health.

-Robin Hill..... battling cancer.

-Jamie Neal and family (Nancy Phillips' friend)...Battling Melanoma.

-Ashley Pickens (Brent Holt's cousin)... Battling Cancer and has been readmitted to the hospital with complications.

-Pray for the work of this church. The fields are white & we need to be hard at work to spread the Gospel to as many lost souls as possible.

-Men & women making the sacrifice to protect the freedoms of this country.

If you have any updates or additions to the prayer list, please see Nick (in person, phone call, text, or email) so we can keep the bulletin up to date.

Pleasant Plains News

Upcoming Pleasant Plains' Bible Studies & Events

✓**Men's Bible Class - No regular September class. Max Dawson will lead the men in a day of study on September 17th as a part of our special study with him that will begin the following day.**

✓**Ladies Class - September 12th at 10:00am here at the church house. Lesson 12 will be covered.**

✓**Young People's Gathering - September 25th following evening service, "The Big Picture" Lesson 13 will be reviewed.**

Area Gospel Meetings

- **Please be making plans to be in attendance for our special study with Max Dawson that will be September 17-21.**

Daily Bible Reading For This Week: II Samuel 3-10

Please make an effort to be in daily reading and meditation of God's Word! This year we will be reading through the first 14 books of the Old Testament in an effort to learn along side our kids classes and to be instructed by those things written in earlier times. **(Romans 15:4)**