

Impossible Silence

Should a person keep his religion to himself? Do you consider it "bad form" to talk about religion?

Most of us at one time or another have had to deal with someone who used little tact in their approach. To put it mildly, they were obnoxious! So perhaps then and there we decided from now on we would be silent about our Christianity.

If that has been our choice, we have made a big mistake. Why? Because that's incompatible with being a Christian. We have our marching orders from Jesus, and that involves teaching all nations - something the early Christians did with enthusiasm. Being silent was not, and is not, an option (Matthew 28:18-20).

The apostles had to deal with authorities who told them *"not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus."* Obey man or God? That was the question. God said speak; man said be silent. Do you remember their response? *"But Peter and John answered them, 'Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than God, you must judge; for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard'"* (Acts 4:19-20).

We should be thankful for their decision. As H. G. Wells once said, "The trouble with so many people is that the voice of their neighbors sounds louder in their ears than the voice of God."

Remember the conduct of the early Christians when they were being persecuted for their faith. They were scattered abroad, but they were not silent. They *"went about preaching the word"* (Acts 8:4). We, too, need to understand that we are associated with God in a divine purpose and *"we cannot but speak the things we have seen and heard."*

- John Gipson
(via The Voice of Truth International)

The Christian Tree

If a Christian were a tree, what should it look like?

It would have roots that grow downward. Roots help with strength and stability. Roots also bring nutrients to the tree. Deeply rooted in the Scriptures the Christian can stand strong.

It would be healthy inward. A tree must be healthy from the inside out. Spiritual health for the Christian begins with the heart.

It would stretch up ever upward. A tree is always growing, stretching its leafy branches toward the sky. The Christian must ever be growing toward and pointing to heaven.

It would produce fruit outward. A fruit tree yields much produce. The Christian is to be productive in good works and fruit of the Spirit.

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit" (Jer. 17:7-8).

- Edd Sterchi,
Broadway church of Christ, Campbellville, KY
(via Bulletin Digest) -



The Church: Heaven-born, Blood-bought, Glory-Bound

News & Notes

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES: Sunday: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m. Wednesday: Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED: By request of our Elders, for **EVERY-ONE in ALL of our assemblies** regardless of where seated.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Each **Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.**

PANTRY: Spaghetti and sauce.

CARD SHOWER: For **Barbara DeLong** for her birthday on **Saturday, Jan. 29th.** Use the church in-house mail or mail to her home.

PICTURE GALLERY OF PAST MEMBERS: Submit pictures (black and white or color) to David Malcomson.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: Mike West (undergoing treatments), **Linda Parkes** (upcoming radiation treatments for cancer), **Lori Rowan** (John Sprout's niece) has Stage 4 lung cancer, **Jean Varrato** (Jason Wright's aunt), 5395 Ottawa Road, Lima, OH 45805, Jean may go home soon if she continues to make progress in her recovery.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Weirton Medical: Linda Wiersbicki. **AT HOME:** Derek Thompson, Tim Adkins, Barb DeLong, David McCoy, Marlene Evans, Russell Martin, Claudette Miller, Emma Rine, Rick Beck, Jim & Linda Hall-Covid (they are members at Southern Hills), Jim is in **City Hospital.** **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl & daughter, Lynn Nesser-Covid (772-532-5069). Ilene is in the hospital. **Correct address** for Ilene & Lynn, 1745 Pointe West Way, Vero Beach, FL 32966 (address on January calendar was incorrect).



**In Search
of the Lord's Way**
Area Program Schedule

Sundays { 6:00 a.m. ... WTOV-Fox (Comcast 808)
7:30 a.m. ... CW 6
10:30 a.m. ... WTOV-NBC (Comcast 809)

**Spot advertisements for the Chester church
will be on the following stations and times:**

MeTV-208	6:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.	Wed.-Sat.
WTOV-NBC	5:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Weekends
	11:00 p.m.- 5:00 a.m.	Weekly
WTOV-FOX	5:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Weekends
	11:30 p.m.- 5:00 a.m.	Weekends