

RESPECT FOR WOMEN

The news is Tragic- Famous people, one after another, torn from their pedestals with charges of sexual and physical abuse of girls, and women. Disrespect and violence against females by males should not be tolerated in our culture. Yet, in their ignorance, many try to blame the American way of life and even Christianity for such actions. The Bible teaches respect for women. Husbands are commanded to love their wives as much as Christ loved the Church. Wives submit of their own choice because of that love. That is not true in other religions or cultures. The church is pictured as the bride of Christ. Polygamy is condemned. Jesus respected women and were a part of His inner circle, first to the empty tomb. Yes, there were problems in the culture of that Roman-Jewish era, but the New Testament seeks to correct it. Jesus put restrictions on divorce. Mistakes can be forgiven, but a lifestyle of abusive action presents problems.

Some of these women groups and marches have said our country is horrible and they will move, even to the Mid-East. These same folks seem to always want to defend Islam as a great peaceful religion. But examine their holy book and writings and you will find something quite different. Women in Islam are just as willing to become terrorists as much as men. Muhammed's teaching about women is appalling. Each man can "possess" four wives and as many "temporary wives" (concubines) as he desires. The prophet had 12 wives, one as young at nine years old and gave women to soldiers as rewards in battle. Women are unequal in life, death, in court, in divorce. Wives can be disciplined. "admonish them, and abandon them in their beds, then strike them." From the Qur'an. Women must permit sex upon demand. They cannot go out in public without being accompanied by relative male or husband. They must cover up completely so men won't have lustful thoughts.

We have all heard about "honor killings" under their law. If a woman disgraces the family, she must be put to death. Given the status of women in Islam, you have to wonder why any would defend these societies or support them. They are second-class citizens subject to the whims of men. Thankfully when terrible things are done to women in our society, severe punishment awaits them.

DO GOOD- HATE EVIL, CLING TO WHAT IS GOOD, DEVOTE YOURSELF TO BROTHERLY LOVE, HONOR ONE ANOTHER, BE JOYFUL, SHARE WITH THOSE IN NEED, PRACTICE HOSPITALITY, REJOICE WITH THOSE REJOICING, MOURN WITH THOSE MOURNING, AVOID PRIDE, DO WHAT IS RIGHT, LIVE AT PEACE, SEEK NO REVENGE, DO NOT BE OVERCOME BY EVIL, OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD (Romans 12)

SUGAR GROVE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
3841 Stepstone Road
Owingsville, KY 40360

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Worship and Communion..... 11:00 a.m.
Evening Family Night.....6:00 p.m.

SUGAR GROVE

"Centered in Christ Focused on the World" Restoring New Testament Christianity
Its Principles, Practice, and Power
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The Greeter

SPRING
2018



"I Pledge Allegiance to ----"

A lot of news has centered around groups unwilling to stand for the National Anthem or refusing to pledge allegiance to the flag, because of their disdain for the certain aspects of the country. We used to take loyalty for granted. People were loyal to country, in marriage, in friendship and to promises made. They were loyal to those who had done so much for them in an appreciative way. A good question in this era is also, "what about your loyalty to the church?"

Loyalty to the church is becoming increasingly difficult especially for the current generation perhaps seeking not a congregation loyal to the Bible, but one that somehow "meets their needs." As we look at the letters to the seven churches in the book of Revelation, these congregations were not judged on their buildings, programs or music (in fact congregational music is not even mentioned in the New Testament worship venue, only individual). They were judged on their loyalty to the gospel, and need for repentance of faulty lifestyles. They needed a hard look at priorities.

Today, the Church of Jesus Christ spoken of in the New Testament continued steadfastly in apostle's doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread (Lord's supper) and in prayer. It was a church with a purpose-to carry the gospel to all nations as Jesus commanded with his final words. It was a church that took care of people through offerings and love. It was a group that lived by the wisdom of the Spirit, not the world.

Why do we attend and support a certain group? Remember the church means- people (called out ones for Christ) It preaches the same gospel and commands as presented by Peter on the day of Pentecost and by Paul and the apostles throughout the book of Acts and the early history of the Christian movement. It is to be a group centered in Christ, in name, purpose, and power.

Much has been written in religious literature about an atmosphere of "church shopping" as if we are consumers looking for the most convenient or best deal for us. Consider where you learned about the Lord, about where you find the doctrines of that New Testament church. Where you found a purpose in spreading the gospel to the world. Paul was disappointed with the churches in Galatia that he had brought to the Lord and were now foolishly turning their back on him, being swayed by the smooth talkers preaching "another gospel."

May our goal in 2018 be that we remain Loyal to the Savior who purchased the church with His blood and to the congregation that needs our support, our work, and our continuing allegiance.



STICKS AND STONES MAY BREAK MY BONES, BUT WORDS.....

'will never hurt me.' We have heard that old expression, but the truth is certainly not in it, we know. Words can and do hurt, often worse than physical abuse.

The Bible is very clear about the "tongue" being difficult to control. When we read carefully James the third chapter, we see the tongue is a small member but can do large harm and is like a fire, able to destroy. It is a restless evil full of deadly poison. We must watch our words. Our words often become actions and our actions, habits.

Ephesians 4:29, 31, 32 says "Let no corrupt word come out of your mouth but what is good for necessary edification that it may give grace to those that hear. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you."

We must seek to honor God with our words, to control our speech. Words have the power to help, yes, but certainly a huge power to hurt. Just as termites can surely destroy a building from within, so the tongue can gradually destroy you.

The Scripture speaks of different speech we must control – gossip, lying, profanity, course dirty joking, boasting, negative unfair criticism, and slurs. Jesus said, "every idle word men may speak, they will give an account of. (Mt.19:36) Many verses in Proverbs and the New Testament testify about the dangers of those who cannot control the tongue. The Ten Commandments speak of taking the Lord's name in vain, and of false witness.

Do you sometimes wish you had not said something? We all have regrets, but we know once it comes out of our mouth, we cannot put it back in, it's out there. For fifty years, I spoke LIVE on the radio with thousands listening, and once it went into the mike, it couldn't be taken back. There was not erase and record button on live broadcasts.

When we speak, we want to make sure it is correct, and builds up rather than tears down. Christians should set the tone of conversation in this day and age by seeking to be in control of their tongue. It is difficult and we can seek forgiveness when we slip, but it is always good to as some say== engage the brain before starting up the tongue. Ask yourself these questions- Is it True? Is it Kind? It is needful? It is helpful?

We hear and read today so much about language from politicians, sports figures, people on TV, radio and movies, speech that was once thought unthinkable for public consumption, but now seems to be commonplace, whether it is lies, crazy bragging, gossip or plain old profanity in every other sentence.

Colossians 3 tells us to put to death those former things that included slander and filthy language and put on the New Self which is being renewed in the image of its Creator.

We know therefore that what comes out of our lips, originates in our heart. Only a change of heart by our Creator, through the newness of Life in Jesus Christ can make our heart right and change our speech.

Sugar Grove Newslines...



GREAT CHRISTMAS AT THE 'GROVE'
LOADED CHRISTMAS TRUCK ARRIVES WITH GIFTS AND SUPPLIES FOR MEXICO..



SUPER ENJOYABLE CHRISTMAS PLAY.....

We had a \$14,000 Christmas offering, \$1,100 Memory Tree offering for needy and over \$330 Sunday School Challenge for Grundy Mission.

Thanks to all who had a part in December work



New Year, New Baby..
Dedication
Aleta Mae Jones



The Congregational meeting and all Financial Reports are available in brief form on Bulletin Board and complete details in office. Also copies of Workers for Mexico Mission finances 2017.



SCHOOL BACKPACK PROGRAM
Bring in Food Items for weekends that students can use.



Mission Music - Hannah Carter will be traveling this summer to different Countries with Youth for Christ Musical ensemble. You can help with your financial support.

Coming this Spring !

APRIL 1ST
EASTER IS APRIL 1st with our Traditional Sunrise Service at 7 am and then Worship and Kids Egg Hunt Activity.

APRIL 8TH
April 8th at 2pm we will be going to Slate Valley church for dedication of their grand new facility. Francis will be speaking. Hammer speaking there in morning.

APRIL 15TH
Big Youth Resurrection Play 11 am Service

APRIL 22ND
OUR ANNUAL SPRING RENEWAL CHURCH DINNER IS SET FOR APRIL 22nd. Also on that day we will add two names to our Community Center plaque... Kenneth Coyle and Joe Dixon.

