

Kids Column



"Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." (1 Cor. 11:1) "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern." (Phil. 3:17).

A teenage girl, while driving her car, got lost in a snow storm. She remembered what her dad had once told her: "If you ever get lost in a snow storm, wait for a snow plow and follow it." Pretty soon a snow plow came by, and she started to follow it. She followed the plow for about forty-five minutes.

Finally, the driver of the truck got out and asked her what she was doing. She explained that her dad had told her if she ever got lost in a snow storm, to follow a plow. The driver nodded and said, "Well, I'm done with the Wal-Mart parking lot, now you can follow me over to K-Mart!"

There's nothing wrong with following others as long as we know that they are headed in the right direction. Paul taught us to follow him "as" he followed Christ.- David J riggs

Question of the Week

Read Exodus 2:1-8

A mother built a small ark and placed her baby in it, she floated it down the Nile river to save her child, what was the child's name?

Gods Plan Of Salvation

Hear, Romans 10:17, Believe, John-8:24, Repent, Luke 13:3, Confess, Romans-10:9-10, Baptism, Acts 2:38, Remain Faithful, Revelation 2:10

seeking Truth

SouthEnd
CHURCH of CHRIST

Southend Church of Christ,
250 Hwy 317, Neon, Ky 41840
www.southendchurchofchrist.org

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Study 10:00AM

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM

Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:00 PM

Everyone Is Welcome To Attend!

"Do You Think They Might Leave?"

From time to time, Christians in a local congregation may express concern that some fellow members are thinking about leaving. With a tone of worry, someone might ask, "Do you think they might leave?"

We're not referring here to those who move away due to job changes or family needs - those are understandable and often unavoidable. What we have in mind is the more troubling situation: when members, seemingly on a whim and without sufficient cause, choose to withdraw from the congregation and begin worshipping with another group in the same area.

Often, there are warning signs before this happens. The members in question may begin to grow distant. They may attend less frequently, seem disengaged, or stop participating in the life and work of the church. They may avoid conversations or association with others. These changes, while subtle at first, often point to deeper issues.

When Leaving Is Justified

First, let's be clear: there are times when leaving a local church is right, appropriate, and even necessary.

For example, if there is doctrinal error being taught or practiced - and sincere efforts to correct it have been unsuccessful - then separating from that congregation may be the only faithful option (2 John 9-11).

Similarly, in cases involving unrepented immorality, if those involved refuse correction and the congregation fails to take appropriate disciplinary action, faithful Christians may need to leave rather than be complicit by association (Ephesians 5:11).

When Leaving Is Not the Answer

However, outside of such serious doctrinal or moral concerns - or apart from a physical relocation - leaving a congregation should not be the first or easiest option. In fact, it should be far down the list.

Members of a local body should feel a deep sense of commitment, responsibility, and loyalty to the work and to the people of the local church. We all should think of the many good deeds, encouragements, and spiritual investments others have made in our lives. That history should not be lightly set aside. The decision to leave often causes deep hurt and discouragement for those who remain. It can create confusion, division, and sadness in the church family.

Can you help make things better?

No congregation is perfect. Every church has its weaknesses and areas that need improvement - and even people who may be hard to get along with at times. But ask yourself:

Instead of leaving, can I stay and help? Can I be part of the solution? Can I lovingly serve, encourage, and strengthen what is lacking?

In a world that often values convenience over commitment, the church should be different. God calls His people to love, bear with, and build up one another (Hebrews 10:24). Staying and working through challenges together is one way we demonstrate the unity and love Christ prayed for in His church (John 17:20-23). Let us all strive to be part of a church where people don't feel the need to leave, but where they are eager to stay, serve, and grow together. - by Greg Gwin