

CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

- Welcome to the Warm Springs Rd. Church of Christ!
- Continue to remember Brother Forrest, Brooke & Clark, Pat Campbell, Margaret Hines, Geraldine Wilkins, June Poyner, Dot Debece, OP Boling and the sick and shut-ins in prayer.
- Please see Greg or Gus if you are willing to assist with the worship service in the coming weeks.
- Check out the website; follow our Twitter feed. These are very cost-effective outreach methods, if you'd like to help with either please let Gus know.

SERVICE ROSTER

Week of April 5, 2015

Sunday

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Opening Prayer | G. Wiggins |
| Singing | G. Kendrick |
| Table & Giving | J. Macon |
| Assisting | D. Johnson |
| | R. Wilson |
| | A. Walker |
| | M. Sizemore |
| Sermon AM | |
| Sermon PM | |
| Closing Prayer | G. McMurray |
| Counting | W. Phillips |

Wednesday

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Bible Study | J. Rains |
| Invitation | J. Macon |
| Invitation Song | G. Wiggins |
| Prayer | M. Foley |

RECORDS - March 29, 2015

| | |
|-----------|--------|
| Sunday AM | 38 |
| Sunday PM | 16 |
| Wednesday | 37 |
| Giving | \$805 |
| Budget | \$1500 |

WARM SPRINGS ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

4765 Warm Springs Road
Columbus, GA 31909

WEBSITE: www.wsrcoc.com

TWITTER: @wsrcoc

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CHURCH OFFICE: 706-563-3060

MINISTER'S CELL: Lee Snow - 478-733-8414

AL CONTACT: Mike Foley - 706-289-7653

GA CONTACT: Greg Wiggins - 706-464-3830

MEETING TIMES:

| | |
|------|----------------------|
| Sun. | 9:30AM - Bible Class |
| | 10:30AM - Worship |
| | 1:00PM - Worship |
| Wed. | 7:00PM - Bible Class |

OFFICE HOURS (Beginning April 20th):

Monday-Thursday - 9:00AM-2:00PM

LIFE LINES

OF THE **WARM SPRINGS ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST**

April 5, 2015

5 REASONS WHY I DON'T CRITICIZE THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

I don't criticize the church of Christ. Why? Because I am head-over-heals in love with her.

The church of Christ is the Bride of Christ (Eph. 5:25-27; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:24), and as such He loved her enough to die for her (Acts 20:28). I want to see her as Christ sees her. Therefore the last thing I want to do is tarnish something Christ desires to "be holy and without blemish" (Eph. 5:27).

The Bible likens Christ and His church to the relationship between a husband and wife (Eph. 5:22-33). Good marriages require hard work, but the principles that make them good are simple. For example, the husband who "cherishes" his wife (Eph. 5:29) loves her as himself and will never treat her in a way he wouldn't want to be treated (cf. Matt. 7:12). This means:

- A good husband never publicly criticizes his wife. In fact, he looks for opportunities to build her up.
- A good husband understands that when constructive criticism is needed in a particular area, it should be given in private.
- A good husband views the needs of his spouse as being more important than his own needs.
- A good husband is mindful of himself because he knows that his actions reflect on his wife.

The same principles apply to the Christian and his relationship to Christ's church. If I am critical of the church - if I force my opinions and preferences into the church - if I do not care how my actions and teachings reflect on the church - what does that say about me? I fear for the man who must stand before Christ in Judgment (cf. 2 Cor. 5:10) when on earth he was defined by his criticism of Christ's Bride.

Here are five (5) reasons why I do not criticize the church of Christ:

I do not want to hurt her reputation in the eyes of the world.

The church is the "pillar and foundation of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15), and thus evil people will always hate her (Prov. 29:27). As such, enemies of the church already do a pretty good job smearing her reputation. The last thing the church needs is for me to publicly point out what I think are her problems.

The world shouldn't be the place we go to for sympathy when venting our frustrations over doctrinal disagreements. Nor should the world be our sounding board when we are hurt or disappointed by other Christians. When we share our problems with non-Christians rather than bringing our concerns to the Lord and His Word (Psa. 55:22; 1 Pet. 5:7), we demonstrate a lack of faith and confidence in His care. To avoid hurting the world's image of Christ and His people, ask yourself, "When Christians and non-Christians alike are around me, does my influence help or hurt their image of the church of Christ?"

I recognize that her problems are not her problems at all (rather, they are the result of the people that comprise her).

There is a big difference between the man who is critical of the church of Christ herself and the man who is critical of the sins and bad attitudes that sometimes plague God's people.

