

Thank You!
Baldwin Borland
Speaker today

New Christians...and Others Interested
“Foundation Lessons” Class
Wednesdays 3:30 p.m. at the church building
(Repeats on Saturdays at 3:30)

May Birthdays
(New one listed!)

2 Peggy Woodruff 15 Kena Brown
17 Elena Guzman

May Anniversaries

5 Aaron & Esmeralda McCollum

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Narrow-minded Christianity

John M. Buttrey II

Living in a society that proudly boasts of its open-mindedness toward a variety of immoral practices, it is no wonder why people consider Christians narrow-minded. However, this should be no insult toward those of us who are truly seeking to follow God. The Bible and the teaching therein are what many today consider “narrow-minded.” Interestingly, the apostle Paul wrote of the same problem in his day:

*“For the word of the cross is **foolishness** to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:18 (Emphasis Mine)*

To those outside of Christ looking in, what we believe and practice is narrow-minded foolishness. For example, the Bible authorizes marriage ONLY between a man and a woman (Genesis 2:24-25; Matthew 19:4; 1 Corinthians 7:2; 1 Peter 3:1). Such a teaching is considered “narrow-minded” to a society that has done something no other in the history of man has done...legalized same-sex marriages.

The Bible describes God as the Creator of the world (Genesis 1:1). Yet, according to the popular *theory* of evolution, if a person accepts the Bible’s account of creation, they are ignorant and narrow-minded.

The Bible describes homosexuality as a sin (Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9). Today, for one to believe that such a practice is sinful makes them a narrow-minded person. The world does not understand why we cannot join them in celebrating their lifestyle

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Website:
indiochurchofchrist.com

Preacher: Vacant

Church of Christ
81-377 Ave 46
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

choices. Our refusal to condone their practices is often interpreted as hate. However, it is anything but hate!

The sinful world fails to see that as Christians we love the souls of every person, regardless of their sin. We seek their spiritual well-being by helping them see their need for Jesus Christ. Could such love accurately be called narrow-minded and hateful? In reality, for us to approve of their lifestyle choices would not be an act of love. We would dishonestly make them think that all is well with their soul, when all is not well.

While society seeing us as narrow-minded is really not much of a surprise, there are even religious people today who see our beliefs, as members of the Lord's church, as being narrow-minded.

To those who dangerously add to and take away from the word of God (cf. 1 Corinthians 4:6), those who strictly follow the word of God will be seen as narrow-minded. The New Testament says:

*“There is **one** body and **one** Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; **one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism, **one** God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.”* Ephesians 4:4-6 (Emphasis Mine)

Though these are the words of an inspired apostle, many would see the strict limitation of “one” as narrow-minded. Hence, sincere religious people argue there is more than one body, and more than one way.

The Bible says there is salvation in NO OTHER NAME but Jesus (Acts 4:12). Again, that sounds narrow-minded to many people.

Because we believe baptism is absolutely essential for salvation, we are called narrow-minded. Yet, there are numerous passages that indicate the essential need for baptism (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:12; 8:36; 22:16; Galatians 3:27; etc.). To a religious world that prides itself on being open-minded, to require baptism as an essential element of salvation, is simply narrow-minded Christianity.

Because we sing without the use of mechanical instruments of music, we are considered narrow-minded. Yet, those who use instruments of music can find no New Testament authority to do so. Even the history of the church lacks examples of their use until multiple centuries after the time of the apostles. Their use today is really a matter of open-mindedness in defiance of clear biblical authority.

This same type of open-minded approach to interpreting the Scriptures has led to various religious groups having women preachers and elders. While there is much for women to do in the local church, there are some Divinely imposed limitations (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:3; 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:12; 1 Timothy 3:1ff). Those who strictly adhere to these limitations are considered narrow-minded.

If living by the Scriptures and testing what we hear against the word of God makes us narrow-minded, then let us proudly be narrow-minded in the eyes of others. Apparently, Jesus was also narrow-minded, for He said:

*“Enter through the **narrow** gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is **narrow** that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”* Matthew 7:13-14 (Emphasis Mine)

Sadly, many today seem to believe there is a broad way that leads to eternal life. However, Jesus is very clear: the way is narrow.

If the people of the world, and various religious groups, want to consider us narrow-minded, so be it. Let us always stay true to the authority of the Scriptures in all we believe and practice. To do so, will keep us on the narrow way.
