

Indio Informer

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The Church is a Hospital

By Kevin Cauley

Perhaps you have heard the title of this article before. It is meant to illustrate the function of the church. A hospital is a place where people who are physically sick or injured go to get better. The church is also such a place, but in a spiritual way. People who are spiritually sick or injured should find healing through the efforts of the church. Sometimes people criticize the church as being a place of hypocrites precisely because there are spiritually sick or injured people in the church. That would be a valid criticism if the church were not doing anything to heal these spiritually damaged people. However, the goal is for spiritually sick people to become well through the work and teaching of Jesus. He said, *"I am not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance"* (Luke 5:32).

We should be careful, though, that the church does not become a spiritual hospice care facility, where the sick go, not to be cured, but to die from their illness. Jesus expects members of his church to put away their sins, not remain in them. Forgiveness is a path to holiness, not a path to ongoing sinfulness. That is why Jesus also said, *"Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven"* (Matthew 7:21). We are to "put away" all the sins of the flesh (Ephesians 4:22, Colossians 3:8). We are to be holy as He is holy (1 Peter 1:15-16). John wrote, *"My little children, let no man lead you astray: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous"* (1 John 3:7). We must make a serious effort to obey the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Thank you, Alexis Brown!
Speaker for today

Saturday Meeting...COMING SOON!
February 24-25
ARE WE READY??
FLYERS AVAILABLE!

Four Letter Words in the Bible

We have all heard the term, "that's a four-letter word". It is almost always used in a negative sense, as in swear words or profanity. But there are several good four-letter words found in the Bible.

Here's one: **SAVE**

- Jesus came to seek & "save" the lost. (Luke 19:10)
- Jesus came to "save" sinners. (1 Timothy 1:15)
- The implanted word of God is able to "save" one's soul. (James 1:21)
- One who turns a sinner will "save" a soul from death. (James 5:20)

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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The Folly of Total Acceptance of All Ideas Equally

By Dan Jenkins

The watchword in our society that permeates so many aspects of life is acceptance. The values of any single member of society is equal to the values of any other single individual. There is no single answer to any question that is actually right, so every person defines “truth” based on their own experiences.

As an illustration of this, look at our world’s definition of marriage and sexual activities. For so many, there is no difference in living together without marriage and living together inside a marriage. Comments like, “We have been together for fifteen years, but just got married two years ago” illustrate this so well. Our society, based on the idea of total acceptance, forbids anyone to make any judgment about these situations.

How does a view of accepting all things as equal fit with the teachings of the Bible? You see the same when terms like “my significant other” or “my partner” are given the same values as those who say, “my husband” or “my wife.” The idea of total acceptance censors those who say there is a difference between any of these words.

The end result is the same. Anyone who accepts anything never can fully embrace anything! Since all ideas are equal in value, there is no way total acceptance of everything could ever allow anyone to fully accept anything. There is nothing absolutely true. We have no compass to guide us!

Now take this principle of accepting everything into the church and look at the results. Is worship totally subjective and consequently any meaningful way any one person chooses to worship has the same value as the way any other chooses to worship? How would such impact the Lord’s supper? There is no boundary as to what elements are found in the Lord Supper. There is no boundary as to when one eats the Lord’s Supper. There is no boundary as to whether one ever has the Lord’s Supper. One is told, “*Judge not that you be not judged,*” and such misuse of scripture results in a complete inability to find truth that is absolute. We have no compass to guide us. Never forget that anyone who accepts

everything can never embrace anything. The Lord’s Supper can never have structure of any form if one accepts everything.

Take this view of tolerance and the acceptance of all ideas being equal and look at how it changes views toward sin. Look at how it changes the understanding of salvation and our view of someday standing before the Lord to be judged. There is truth. There is absolute truth. There is eternal truth. Jesus is absolutely the Messiah. He truly died and literally rose on the third day. He is coming again, and each person will be judged by the eternal truth. We can embrace this!

The Great Invitation

By Jay Launius

Can you imagine receiving an invitation to freely attend the sporting event of your choice, complete with VIP accommodations? Or perhaps seeing your favorite music artist with front row seating and backstage passes at no cost? Not many of us would refuse such an offer.

God has given all of us the greatest invitation of all-time. Listen to the prophet Isaiah... *“Come now, and let us reason together,” says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land.”* (Isaiah 1:18–19).

Although this invitation was made long before Jesus came, God made good on His offer, and sent the Savior to make these promises possible. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8), making it possible for us to taste the goodness of heaven. However, in the next verse, Isaiah warns of turning down the great invitation. *“But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”* (Isaiah 1:20).

Having accepted God’s invitation and obeying the gospel through Jesus Christ, we can be forever grateful. If we have not given our RSVP to the Lord, then there’s no better time to do so than TODAY!