

Oaks-West Church of Christ

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October 18, 2020

Thank God for His People

by Rickie Jenkins

Occasionally there will be a Diotrephes in a congregation. Every once in a while, there will be an Alexander and Hymenaeus but more often there are those like Aquila and Priscilla, Apollos and the people at Ephesus who burned their books. And, often there are people like Paul mentions at the end of Romans 16. People who are helpers. People who want to get along. People who really care about more than themselves.

But who gets the attention? Most often it is the one who causes the trouble. Consider, if they are in the minority, then why do they get most of the attention? Why not give them the “little attention” they should receive? If the wood were taken away the fire, it would go out. I have observed that when a person is causing trouble it is usually not over what is said to be the problem.

I have observed that most brethren love the Lord too much to hinder His work. It would

break their hearts to know that in some way they were the cause of problems. God’s people are hard workers. Most just want to know what can be done to help. Someone joins a local church and says, “Please put me to work.” I have never heard anyone say, “Please let me cause all the trouble I can.” The very hint of being just a slight reason for anything less than edifying, is heartbreaking.

Again, I have observed that God’s people have a genuine love for each other. Most will go out of their way to get along. Most will take the wrong. Have you ever noticed at the end of Paul’s letters how often he mentions people who were helpers or fellow laborers? Love for one another will take the lead in putting the other first. For all the people who cause problems, there are exponentially more mentioned who are helpers and builder.

Further, I have observed God’s people love God’s word. They hunger and thirst for

Thank God for His People ... concluded from front page

it. Most want simple, plain Bible teaching and motivation. There is the expectation that they will be taken on a journey through God's word. They want to be changed by His word. They want their family to follow His word.

God's people are peace loving. They will contend for the faith when necessary but at their heart, they love peace. The important thing is not who is right but what is right. When it is necessary to admit wrong, wrong will be admitted and change will follow. Not just to save face but to be right with God, His word and His people. What is right and being right is most important.

So, let us give a hand to the people of God who love to get along. Let us stop letting the person(s) who causes trouble to dominate the conversation. Thank God that most of His people are peace loving, selfless, God honoring disciples.

From Darrell: I just want to add a hearty "amen" to Rickie's words here. Those who desire a relationship with God are a joy to work with and are a great encouragement. I thank God for you all. It makes the harder tasks as a preacher and elder just a little bit easier and reduces the stress.

Keep loving the Lord, each other, and the Holy Word of God!

Psalm 133:1–3 ESV

“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.”

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.



Upcoming Ladies' Bible Classes - Tuesday, October 27 at the building.

Services for October - The elders have decided to continue with the current service times of 10:45 am Sundays and 7:00 pm Wednesdays for the remainder of the year. We will reevaluate in December. Thank you for your support and encouragement as we make these difficult decisions! --DT for the elders

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.



Please remember the following individuals in your daily prayers:

June Owens
Jack Wilson
Jerry Richardson
Karen Hallmark
Shirley Perkins' brother, Leon
Morgan O'Hair
Dinah Williams
Joy Ulrich
Kevin Barth
Tyler Hairston
Anna Urquhart
Dot's son, Hank

And continue to pray for each other

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

We have many that face challenges on a daily basis and need your prayers as well.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

