



618 West M St.
Wymore, NE 68466



(402) 645-3181
www.wymorechurch.com

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The Visitor

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*Join us in our journey as we grow into
fully devoted followers of Jesus!*

Clayton's Connection

In Matters of Opinion...

Operation Metro Surge escalated this month in the Twin Cities of Minnesota, prompting much public outrage. Others are outraged at those who are outraged. Everyone seems to have an opinion. But opinions are like noses—everyone has one and they all smell! As followers of Jesus, how can we point people to God in the midst of this mess? No matter what your opinion or position on the political spectrum, we must remember that we are Christians first. Larger issues are at stake than our own personal opinions and preferences. Our job as Christians isn't to win people to our political point of view, but to win people to Jesus Christ. That is the most important thing. Besides, who has been convinced to change their mind through an argument on social media? That's akin to arguing with a fool, and only a fool would argue with a fool. Perhaps there is a better way. One of the rallying cries of the early Restoration Movement was this: "In matters of faith, unity; in matters of opinion, liberty; in all things love." This fits with Scripture, that teaches that we have liberty when it comes to our opinions, and that we should avoid "quarreling over disputable matters" (Romans 14:1). We can express our opinions without quarreling. It is possible! We just need to give up the right to be right. We don't need to convince everyone else that we are right. The apostle Paul continues to write about this issue in Romans 14, "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace (Romans 14:19). So, we're supposed to make every effort to prove we are right? Nope. Make every effort to do what leads to peace... even if that means avoiding commenting on social media. In fact, Paul goes even further than making every effort to do what leads to peace: "So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God" (Romans 14:22). Not only should we avoid quarreling over disputable matters, not only should we do what leads to peace, but we should also learn to keep our opinions to ourselves and to God. As a kid, my mom used to say, "You don't have to tell everything you know!" That is good advice for kids like me who always liked to talk too much. That is also good advice to Christians striving to point people to Jesus in these divisive days. 😊