

"The Problem of People"

Spencer Clark

I often hear the phrase, "the church is great except for the people." While I understand the sentiment that humans are imperfect and full of struggles, there are a few problems with this statement. First, it speaks from a place of superiority, looking down on "other people" who are the problem and not the speaker. And second, it dismisses the (second only to God) most important part of what the church is about: people. Statements like this seem to prioritize the institution of the church rather than the people who make up the body of Christ.

Attitudes like this were rampant among the Pharisees in Jesus's time. These people refused to associate with "sinners" and the unclean who filled their streets. Those with illnesses and disabilities had no place among the "clean" elite, yet they had a place at Jesus's table (Matt. 9:10-11). Rather than seeing people as problems to be solved, we should see them as God sees them: people made in the image of God, struggling with the brokenness of sin. Where there is sin, there will be problems. Where there is sin, the gospel is needed.

People are at the heart of the church, but they are also the weakest link in the church. While people both frustrate us and upset us, we are called to love one another in harmony and unity (John 13:34). If we are unable to see the goodness in working with all people (including those who are different or have disabilities), we will never be a welcoming church, nor will we ever be successful in evangelism. Too often, we silently ignore, exclude, or avoid people whom we dislike or who are "not like us." Perhaps they are high maintenance and take a lot of time and energy, but I'm sure the tax collectors and sinners did too.

The question we must be asking ourselves is whether we are deciding who should be included among us by our own standards or are we looking to Jesus as the example for who should be among us? Perhaps it is not people who are the problem, but the problem lies within our heart and our openness towards others.



Welcome

TO
KOUNTZE
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nov.

"Let the word of
Christ dwell in you
richly in all wisdom"
Colossians 3:16

26th

Meeting Times

Sunday Bible Class – 9:30

AM Worship – 10:30

PM Worship – 1:30

Wednesday Night Bible Class – 7:00

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kountzechurchofchrist.com

1035 N Pine St

Kountze, TX 77625

101.3 FM Radio

Kountze Church of Christ

Today's Lessons

AM.....L2L: Romans 1-8
PM.....1 Samuel

Those to Serve

Greeters..... Corey & Mattie Tackett
Announcements.....Bud Wolcott
Song Leader..... Sterling McDonald
Opening Prayer.....
Communion Leader.....
Sermon.....Corey Tackett
Closing Prayer.....

NEXT Weeks Greeters.....Donna Laird & Katie Kelley

Announcements

- Join us @6:00PM on Wednesdays at the Kountze Nursing Home for singing.
- TODAY there will be a short meeting about the parade after first service.

Records

Sunday AM..... Wednesday PM.....
Sunday PM..... Contribution.....\$

Upcoming Events:

December

- 1st – Christmas Parade
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Visitors,

You are welcome and wanted. We are glad you made the decision to be with us.

If you have any questions or needs, please reach out to any of our members and we'll be more than happy to help you.

If you're looking for a Church home, we'd love the opportunity to study with you and have you join our congregation's family.

Prayer Requests and Updates

Members:

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|------------------------|---------------------------|
| - Ed & Linda Bumstead. | Ruth Young |
| - Gaylon Williams. | Carolyn & Newal Yarbrough |
| - Fred Johnson | Denise Whatley |
| - Dwaine Baker | - |
| - Ray Tyrone | - |
| Shirly Morris | - |
| Tommy Williams | - |

Family and Friends:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| - Tony Wright | - Sandra Golden |
| - Mary Ann Hatton | - Tammy Wright |
| - Ella Thomas | - Jordan Whatley |
| | Jaunita Hatton |