

Are We Driving the “Get Away” Car?

By: John Mitchell

“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.” (Ephesians 5:11)

“You are the light of the world...let your light shine before others...” (Matthew 5:14-16)

Through scripture God tells us that we should let the light of the truth of the Gospel shine through us to the sinner, to light a path for him, to be able to come out of the darkness that he is in. When someone sins, and we don't try to lead them to repentance, what good are we to them? What good are we to God?

If we are not trying to lead the lost to salvation, how can we say we are servants of God.

God tells us to, **“Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).**

We have a responsibility to be a light to the world, by evangelizing through preaching the Gospel to the world.

What about sin in the body of Christ? What about sin in our local congregation, that is the body of Christ? What do we do when we have sin in our camp?

Chapter 5 of First Corinthians tells us that if a person, in our congregation, is guilty of sin, and refuses to repent of his or her sin, we should discontinue our fellowship with that unrepentant person. **Romans 16:17** tells us, **“Now I urge you, brethren, note those**

who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.” This is for the good of the sinner, and for the good of the congregation. For the good of the sinner, to help to cause that person to turn away from their sinful ways, and come to repentance. For the good of the congregation for two reasons.

First, the presence of an unrepentant sinner, who is accepted in the congregation, is a bad example, and a stumbling block, for new, or weak Christians. It could wrongly teach them that sin is not all that bad. To not correct the sinner is like saying; “If you are okay with your sin, then I guess I'm okay with you as a sinner.” Second, to continue being in fellowship with an unrepentant brother or sister is not good for the congregation.

Leviticus 20:4,5 says that if anyone, in any way, hides his eyes from the fact that a person has sinned, and not repented, that God will set His face against them.

If we ignore a person's sin and lack of repentance, then where is our light shining in the darkness, to expose the disobedience to God, of a person's sin? There is no middle ground with God.

“Whoever is not with Me is against Me,” (Matthew 12:30)

When we say nothing to the sinner about his need to repent, we have accepted his sin and our acceptance of his sin includes our punishment

due us, for our part, in accepting his sin.

When a man drives a “get away” car for a bank robber, although he did not rob the bank, he is guilty of the crime of bank robbery, and due the punishment for the crime. The “get away” car driver did nothing to stop the bank robbery. However, he protected the bank robber by helping him to get away from the crime scene, without being caught. This enables the bank robber to continue in his life of crime.

When we do nothing to help the sinner to stop sinning, we are accepting responsibility and guilt for his sin. We have become a sinner by knowing the good that we should have done to help the sinner, but refusing to help our fellow member of our family of God. The sinner is free to continue

in his life of sin with no interference from us.

Any time, both on duty and off duty, that a police officer sees a crime committed, he is obligated by law, to do what he can to stop it, and to report the crime. As children of God, and ambassadors for Christ, and soldiers of God, shouldn't we also, be always vigilant to help our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, and to always be ready to preach the Gospel to the lost?

“But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” (1 Peter 3:15)

The 5 Best Excuses for Missing Church

By: Selected

Listed below are the top five best excuses for missing services of the Lord's church:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Yes, that's correct, there are no excuses for not being in service to the Lord. Of course, there are some good reasons one may be out of service, like sickness or death, but there are no excuses. Jesus told a story about a Great Supper that was planned by a certain man who then invited his guests. As time came for the event to take place, they all began to make excuses to why they could not attend. (Luke 14:18) The invited guests used their personal possessions, business dealings, and family obligations as excuses as to why they could not come to the feast that was prepared just

for them. The master of the house became angry and invited others to come and enjoy the great supper. But he also stated that those who were initially invited would never sit at his table again.

The freedom and opportunity to come together for worship, bible study, and fellowship with the Lord's church is such a blessing and should never be taken for granted. When we make a deliberant decision to place other things before the Lord's service, we commit modern day idolatry, refusing to take advantage of God's blessings, even though we may think we have a “good excuse”.

Evangelism Training

Every fourth Sunday in June and July
from 3:40 pm-4:45 pm

Get equipped and encouraged to bring
souls to Christ.

Upcoming Events

Tonight: Youth Devo at the building after evening service. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Summer Series Bible classes are here! The adult class will be studying “Restoring New Testament—Christianity’s Personality Traits.” The kids summer series will be studying “The Journey of Noah.”

Sun. June 28: Evangelism Training at 3:40pm at the building.

Area Events: Please refer to the bulletin board in the hallway for more information.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Ken & Nancy Dorries who were in a car accident recently.

Patricia Zatopek, sister of Virginia Escojido and Veronica Serenil, who fell recently and broke both of her arms will be at PAM rehab.

Roberto Cardenas, neighbor of the Escojido’s, who had knee surgery last week.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, and Clark Withers.

Evangelism Table

In addition to the physical booklet, we also have the DVD version of the study, *Does It Matter?* The video is done by Rob Whitacre and guides the prospect through this important Bible study in just 60-minutes, preparing them for baptism. While the ideal situation is a one-on-one, personal Bible study, if your prospect is not able to meet you in person, this DVD is a great tool. We also have door hangers that advertise and link to a free, online version of the study. Please feel free to take them and hang them in your neighborhood!

Service Roster

Week of June 11, 2023

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Kirk FitzSimmons
Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer..... Ron White
Closing Prayer..... Steve Randle

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Jeff Cannady
Cup..... Lupe Escojido
Offering..... Bryant Siegel
Assist..... Kanin Jacobs
Assist..... Blake Jacobs
Assist..... Jack Jobes

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Kirk FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer..... Kevin Sheeran
Closing Prayer..... Bill York

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Will Burleson/
Willie Fossati

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class Jordan Moore
Song Leader Kirk FitzSimmons
Devotional Jordan Moore

Other

Prepare Communion for June.....Randle

Congregational News

Birthdays

James Cammock.....June 17

Anniversaries

Ken & Nancy Dorries.....June 14

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Brandon Starling

Weekly Reading

“God is faithful, by whom you were called into
the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”
1 Corinthians 1:9

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of June 4, 2023

A.M. Bible Class.....81
A.M. Worship.....123
P.M. Worship.....63
Wednesday Bible Class.....80

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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