
The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

A Weekly Publication of the Christians Meeting at
Westlake church of Christ, 2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri 63385

Website: westlakechurchofchrist.org

Sunday: AM Bible Study – 9:30 a.m., AM Worship – 10:30 a.m., PM Worship – 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday: PM Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)

Evangelist and Editor:

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Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30.

The Meanest Parents in the World

(Adapted from the poem “The Meanest Mother in the World” - Author Unknown)

“I had the meanest parents in the world. While other kids ate candy for breakfast, I had to have cereal, eggs and toast. When others had Cokes and candy for lunch, I had to eat a sandwich. As you can guess, my supper was different than the other kids’ also: I had to eat at the table with my family.

But at least I was not alone in my suffering. My sister and two brothers had the same mean parents I did.

My parents insisted upon knowing where we were all the time. You’d think we were on a chain gang. They had to know who our friends were and what we were doing. They insisted, if we said we’d be gone an hour, that we be gone an hour or less, not one hour and one minute. I am almost ashamed to admit it, but they actually struck us, not once, but each time we did as we pleased. Can you imagine someone actually hitting a child just because he disobeyed? Now you can begin to see how mean they really were.

The worst is yet to come. We had a curfew – we couldn’t come in anytime we wanted and we could not sleep until noon like our friends. So while our friends slept, my parents actually had the nerve to break the child labor law. They made us work. We had to wash dishes, make beds, clean bathrooms, learn to cook, and all sorts of cruel things. I believe they laid awake nights thinking up mean things to do to us.

They always insisted upon our telling the truth and nothing but the truth, even if it killed us – and it nearly did!

By the time we were teenagers, they were much worse and became even more unbearable. None of this tooting the horn of a car for us to come running. They embarrassed us to no end by making our dates and friends come to the door and get us. I almost forgot to mention, while my friends were dating at the mature age of 12 or 13, my old fashioned parents refused to let me date until the age of 16.

My parents were complete failures by worldly standards. None of us have ever been in jail or beaten his mate or been unfaithful to his spouse.

We are all Christians now and regularly teach our own children the Bible and take them to church. Who do we have to blame for the terrible way we turned out? You are right, our mean parents.

Using this background, I am now trying to raise my three children. I stand a little taller and I am filled with pride when my children call me mean. Because, you see, I thank God He gave me THE MEANEST PARENTS IN THE WORLD!"

“Come Unto Me and I Will Give You an Aerobics Class?”

by Phillip Mullins

I can see it now, immediately following Jesus' conclusion to the Sermon on the Mount, he has everyone gird up their loins, lace up their cross trainers, and start stretching. After they are warmed up, he leads them in a 20 minute workout to tone up the flab. Does that sound ridiculous?

A prominent denominational church, which meets down the street from me, is offering just that. According to their sign, on Saturday mornings the church is conducting an aerobics class. Does that sound ridiculous? It should.

Ephesians 1:22, 23 describes the church as the body of Christ. Jesus is the head and we are to carry out His work for Him. Jesus' mission was to seek and to save the lost. He began that work while on earth and as He was leaving this earth, He commanded His followers to do the same: "Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you" (Matt. 28:19, 20).

When you read about the church in the book of Acts, you see that they were busy carrying out the work of spreading the gospel, building up the saints and relieving the needs of the saints (Acts 2, 4, 11).

The church of the New Testament did not offer classes on fishnet mending, pottery, or cooking. They did not build public hospitals, open soup kitchens, or homes for the aged. The mission of the church in the Bible was to save souls and care for those among the believers who were in physical need. Modern day churches which do not have a similar mission and work have completely missed the mark of what Christ's church is all about. Life is too short, eternity is too long, and souls are too precious to waste time, resources, and energy serving the fleshly needs of all in the community.

If you are associated with a church that resembles a fitness center or the Red Cross more than it does the church of the New Testament, then you need to do some serious soul-searching. Are you really a part of the church that belongs to Christ?

News and Notes:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

"...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."- James 5:16