

Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Please email updates to your directory information (address, emails, phone numbers, birthday, anniversaries, etc.) to Bill by July 31
- Let’s keep the following in our prayers:
 - Jimmy Woodall—electrical cardioversion scheduled for 7-24
 - Carol Jarabek—suffering from kidney stone(s)
 - Kim Self—stomach ulcers and weekly Chemo treatments
 - Angie Self—arthritis and Parkinson’s—slowly improving
 - Joann Larkin—advanced dementia
 - Barb Agee’s son (James)
 - Sandra Perez’s grandmother—balance problems
 - Bernida Wolfe’s father—dementia and Parkinson’s
 - Rick Parks’ father—prostate cancer
 - Jimmy Woodall’s sister—cancer
 - Sandra Perez’s uncle—stage 4 cancer

Sermon Notes



**CHURCH
OF
CHRIST**

Invitation

‘Therefore, go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ – Mt. 22:9

Address

5080 Highway 70 East
Rockwood, TN 37854

Assembly Times

Sunday Bible Study – 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship – 11:00 AM

Please text/email any announcements, questions, or concerns to Bill Fix, (865) 934-9239 or fix.bill@gmail.com

: <https://www.facebook.com/ChurchofChristRockwoodTN>

July 19, 2020

We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors and members. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please let one of us know.

Adult Bible Class – Gal. 6:6ff
Sermon Topic – The Death & Burial of Jesus

Memory verse:
Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. – *Lk. 6:31*

Diotrephesism!

By Curtis Wubben

In 3 John, we read of one who arrogated divine authority. His name was Diotrephes, and he took it upon himself to decide church matters. In v. 9, we learn that he refused the authority of John. He alone decided what should or should not be accepted. His power even extended into the area of fellowship. At will, he cast Christians out of the local church (v.10).

It is amazing that the people in this congregation tolerated such an attitude. Diotrephes was not concerned with the welfare of the church. He simply “loves to have the preeminence among them” (v. 9). He loved to be the chief. Could they not see his self-serving attitude? Apparently not, for if they had, they would have cast him out. “Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them” (Rom. 16:17).

To be first, he also had to resort to anything that would make him first. If this meant spreading false rumors, fine. If this meant making slanderous statements, fine. Anything to insure his dictatorship. John said, “Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words...” (v. 10).

In many locales today, there is a similar acceptance of those who embrace Diotrephesism. What else may one conclude when people of God allow the eldership or leadership to ignore or go beyond the will of God? We must not allow those who love the preeminence to go unchecked. Why would people who claim to be servants of God tolerate such men? To get in a position of authority one must have the consent of a majority of the people. The actions of Diotrephes must have been endorsed by the church. This means he was providing what they wanted to hear. “...The time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts” (2 Tim. 4:3).

The writing of John to Gaius was as much a sad commentary on the state of that particular church as it was on the attitude of Diotrephes. Devotion must be to truth. The sole authority of Christ must be respected. Jesus said, “All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth” (Mt. 28:18). This means that His will goes.

One serious attitude often found in those who take the lead in following error is desire for fellowship! As the apostle Paul warned the elders of the church in Ephesus, “I know that after my departing grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own

selves shall men arise speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them” (Acts 20:29-f).

One serious attitude often found in those who follow after these who serve self is justification of sin. Who is profited? In the end all are lost. May we, like John, love our brethren enough to speak out against all error. “Beloved, follow not that which is evil” (v.11).

Fixating on What’s Important: Masks

By Bill Fix

Many Americans currently seem to be wrapped up in the idea that masks and other various face coverings are either the biggest lifesavers on the planet or the most egregious thieves of our civil liberties in the history of mankind. Meanwhile, others are either adapting the masks to be a new fashion accessory or using them to hide from others in plain sight...

Whether we rep our favorite colors, sports teams, or superheroes on our masks, I trust we aren’t using masks as a way to slip into anonymity when we’re in public. Because even though disciples of Jesus are not “of the world” (Jn. 17:16), we do find ourselves here in this world. Jesus also said that He “sent [us] into the world” (Jn. 17:18) for the purpose of teaching others— “so that the world may believe that You sent Me” (Jn. 17:21). Masking our faces (or our identities) perhaps presents an easier opportunity to avoid our responsibilities as Christians or even blatantly disregard them through a false sense of disguise. Falling into that trap is just one way that the “old man of sin” can rear his ugly face in us.

“Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin” (Rom. 6:3-7).

When we put on Christ in baptism, we commit ourselves to follow Him and represent Him every day, especially as we interact with others at work, in public, online, or in private settings. Pandemic or not, we must take our commitment seriously and trust in the Lord. If we fail to grow our faith, we mask our identity as Christians and “socially distance” ourselves from the love of the Father (1 Jn. 2:15).