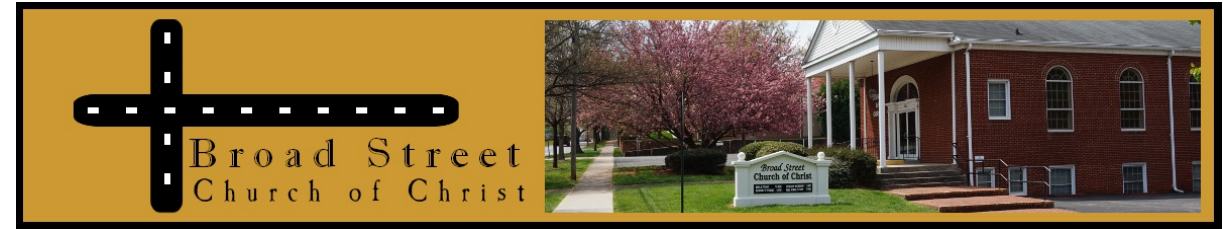


Broad Street Church of Christ
 433 E. Broad St.
 Statesville, NC 28677 | 704.873.4836
 www.broadstreetchurchofchrist.org



May 29, 2016

Internal Battles

Just how much do we value feeling comfortable? I believe the preaching over the last 15-25 years reveals that modern Christians in the New Testament church want sound preaching, as long as it doesn't force us out of our comfort zones. We want to be able to sit back and listen to a well-prepared preacher from padded pews or chairs, and then slip right back into our normal walks of life afterwards. The take home message: "Don't convict me too much and don't weigh your lesson down with too much application. Because then you've gone from preaching to meddlin."

So what happens when a family truly engages in the Culture War? Or what happens when someone begins to really carry out the great commission? Having traveled all across the country I have had the pleasure of meeting individuals who "get it." I have spoken to Christians who desire more than comfortable Christianity. They understand the gravity of the situation, and they are doing whatever they can to ensure the spiritual well-being of their children/grandchildren, all the while looking for ways to reach out to the lost around them.

The problem is these individuals often make "comfortable" Christians in their own home congregations feel very uncomfortable—and this discomfort often results in an internal battle. Maybe it's because these zealous Christians desire to study the Bible deeper and spend less time on fluffy topics. Or maybe it's because they won't allow their children to participate in certain worldly activities. Or maybe it's because they are constantly pointing out additional ways the congregation could outreach. Or maybe it's because they are tired of all the "internal" programs.

Whatever it is, these individuals often stand out—like a fish trying to go upstream against the current, when all the other fish are swimming downstream. Their existence among comfortable Christians causes friction. These zealous Christians honestly desire to be Holy, and so their entire lives focus on how to be more Christ-like and how to share the good news. Yet, they are surrounded by people who are comfortable right where they are—people who

What must I do to be saved?

Hear the Gospel (Acts 15:7); Believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16); Repent of Sins (Acts 17:30); Confess Christ (Romans 10:9-10); Be Baptized (Acts 2:38)

Scripture Reading:	Joe Burriss
Song Leader:	Chris Smith
Opening Prayer (A.M.):	Scott Phillips
Closing Prayer (A.M.):	Johnny Smith
Opening Prayer (P.M.):	Billy Ellenburg
Closing Prayer (P.M.):	Tom May
Nursery Attendant:	Cassandra Bills

Worship Times	
Sunday Bible Study	10:00 A.M.
Sunday A.M. Worship	10:55 A.M.
Sunday P.M. Worship	6:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 P.M.
Elders	
John Anderson	704.592.2266
Steve Short	704.872.5440
Tommy Smith	704.872.7966
Bradley Speer	704.876.6986
Preacher	
Dave Wood	704.380.4437

Building Lockup:	Tommy Smith
Announcements:	Tommy Smith
Door Greeters:	Tommy and Joan Smith
Count Contribution:	Johnny Smith, Guy Byrd
Prepare Lord's Table:	Chante' Vaughn
Lord's Supper (A.M.):	Britt Brookshire, Bailey Lankford, Joshua Speer, Bradley Speer
Lord's Supper (P.M.):	John Anderson

believe they have checked all the right boxes, and therefore they don't want someone constantly reminding them they could be doing more or could be shaping their own lives better.

Many older Christians view these zealous Christians in a critical fashion. Rather than support the quest of those who want to be more Holy, comfortable Christians end up tearing them down and question how they are raising their children. After all, they believe if it was good enough for them, then it ought to be good enough for everyone. (These are the same comfortable Christians who totally ignore the real statistics of how many of our children we are retaining in the church.) And sadly, these zealous Christians wake up and discover one of their toughest battles is actually in their own congregations.

I have seen it all over—people who earnestly desire focus their entire lives on Christ who have been basically ostracized by those who have grown comfortable in the pew. Some of these “comfortable” Christians describe themselves as pillars in the congregation, and yet they stopped growing spiritually years ago. For those of you who are zealous and looking for more ways to follow after Christ, let this be an encouragement to you. Do not grow weary in well doing (Galatians 6:9Open in Logos Bible Software (if available)). Keep on teaching your children His ways. Keep on distancing yourself from the darkness of the world. Keep on looking for ways to tell people about Christ. Don't be satisfied with the “norm.”

For those who are comfortable—might I suggest you consider your ways (Haggai 1:5Open in Logos Bible Software (if available),7Open in Logos Bible Software (if available)) and examine yourselves (2 Corinthians 13:5Open in Logos Bible Software (if available))? Have you ever considered what your discouragement is ultimately doing to His kingdom? Might I suggest that comfortable preaching has duped you into thinking you are a pretty good person. And maybe you are when compared to the world. But you are not so “good” when compared to a holy God (Isaiah 64:6Open in Logos Bible Software (if available)). Stop using the world as your standard. Repent from trying to dim the light of those who seek to serve Him more faithfully. Tame your tongue and look at the fruit (Matthew 7) that a comfortable life produces, versus one who is truly committed to Christ. Stop trying to silence those in your congregation who desire a closer relationship with Him and look for ways to relight your own fire. Stop warring against brothers and sisters in Christ and go after the real adversary! The reality is we are on the same team—isn't it time we started acting like it?! By: Brad Harrub

Welcome to Broad Street Church of Christ

A special welcome is extended to all of our guests. Please let us know if we can assist you. Please fill out a visitor's card which is located on the back of the pew in front of you. Deposit the card in the collection plate when it is passed. If you are looking for a place to worship regularly, we would love to have you here at Broad Street. Please come back and visit with us again.

SHUT-INS:

Ruby Gibson and Frances Elam.

PRAYERS:

Johnny Smith Jr., Phyllis Rumble, Stanley Sharpe, Helen Lyerly, Doris Ellenburg, Stacey Jordan, Will Winchester, Betty Smith, Jo Anne Leake, Frank Shepherd and Roy Baldwin.

- Ruth Morrow is at Iredell Memorial Hospital #529. She is receiving blood transfusions. She is feeling some better.

Upcoming Events:

June 4: The men will have breakfast at The RX at 8:30 A.M.

June 4: You are invited to attend the North Carolina School of Biblical Studies 2016 lectures. The theme is Send and Receive. See schedule for the list of subjects and speakers.

June 11: Ladies' breakfast will meet at the Son Rise Cafe' at 8:30 A.M.

June 13-17: VBS is coming! Please invite your friends to come!

Sermons:

A.M. - Your Adversary - John 8:44, 45;

P.M. - Studies in Samuel Part Eight - 1 Cor. 9:24-26