



James 4:8

WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Drawing Near to God

“In” But Not “Of”

by Chuck Durham

Modern critics have questioned whether Athens was truly a democracy. At its zenith, Athens only granted citizenship to 50,000 adult males out of a population of 250,000. Women, children, slaves, and resident aliens were excluded from the right-to-vote. The resident aliens were called *metoikoi* (literally, “with house”). It was translated: “those who live with us.” A *metic* could not own land, speak in court, or marry a citizen. By 431 B.C., there were 30,000 *metics* residing in Athens. In short, they were “in” Athens, but not “of” Athens

(adapted pp. 65-66, Carl J. Richard, *Twelve Greeks and Romans Who Changed The World*).

We face the same thing in the church. John says: “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were

of us” (1 Jn. 2:19). Sometimes they are this evident—physically leaving the local church. But there are far more subtle ways in which some “members” of a local church are not, in reality, “of” the church at all.

The Recreational Christian

These folks think the weekend is for one thing: F..U..N! They’re almost always gone. Their children grow up thinking this is what Christians do. They go somewhere all the time. They really aren’t “close” to anyone in the local church because they’re never around for anyone to get “close” to them. You can’t count on them to be here, so why put them on the roster for public worship? They are “among” us, but not “of” us.

Remember, the Bible warns about being sucked in by the world’s allurements and forgetting our purpose for being here (Mark 4:19 and 1 John 2:15-17).

The Arm-Chair Quarterback Christian

These Christians are lying in wait. If everything goes well, they don’t complain. But let the first thing go wrong, and they let the elders have it. Oh, they look like they are “of” us. They come all prim and proper to Sunday services. They’re here all the time (unlike their recreational counterparts). But they’re watching for the slightest misstep. They sit on the sidelines scrutinizing the work. Oh, mind you, they know how it ought to be done. They have the right opinion about a host of things. They tell their “arm-chair quarterback” buddies all about it. Everyone agrees and they all lie in wait. And then something goes wrong and they go for the jugular. Criticism is their forte. They think they are “of” us, but they are truly only “among” us.

Are we “in” but not “of”?



AM Sermon: Abounding in Thanksgiving (Col. 2:7)

PM Sermon: PM Service Cancelled until end of March

Quotables



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Times of Services

Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

www.springdalechurchofchrist.com

“The holiness of God doesn’t seek the destruction of the sinner, but the destruction of sin and the restoration of life for the sinner!”

—Jim McGuiggan, *The God of the Towel*, 86

“Allow no thought of evil to intrude within the sacred sanctum of your mind.”

—Anonymous

“The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good.” —Samuel Johnson

“He that lives to live forever never fears dying.” —William Penn

Westside Family News... (send news to durhamchuk@aol.com)

Prayer List:

Tabitha Hudspeth (cancer); **Parker Family** (family issues); **Kat Deuster and boys** (continued stability); **Kellye Hardin** (for improvement)

Shut-Ins: **Bill Lundy;**
Nadine Poteete; **Darl Feagin**

General Family Info:

Tabitha Hudspeth has gone home to her parents in order to be quarantined due to her compromised immune system. Pray for **Heather Kinyon** who is scheduled to be induced on **Monday, April 6**. Keep her, Steven and Noah in your prayers.

Becca Leblanc, gave birth to a son, **Callum David**, on **Wednesday, March 25**. He weighed 7.6 lbs. and was 20 inches long. Both mom and baby are doing great.

Makenzie McJunkins' father, **James McJunkins**, is back home recovering. His pathology report revealed that he has stage 3 cancer but all was removed with an 80% probability that it will not return in the next ten years. He'll continue with 6 month checkups. No chemo or radiation is needed. Please pray for this family. Keep **Jennifer Bean** in your prayers. **Tim & Wendi Cheatham** need our prayers that he find a job in this area.

Emma Cheatham is back home safely. Some of our college students will not be returning, or intermittently doing so for the time being.

Due to the Covid19 outbreak: The elders made the tough decision to cancel **ALL** worship assemblies and Bible classes at Westside's building for the next few weeks. Sunday AM Worship services are Live-streamed on our Facebook page. **Chris Alsip** will be emailing the Westside parents a schedule for the kid's classes. They are trying to get the lesson books to the parents. Please check with him for more info, or stop at the bldg. to pick up the books in the workroom.