



“...strengthen thy brethren”

Luke 22:32

CHURCH OF CHRIST

of Genesee County

September 28, 2014

5284 Fenton Road, Flint, Michigan 48507

Welcome All:

We are thankful to have you with us today. The Lord's church here is dedicated to the restoration of New Testament Christianity, respecting both the authority and the silence of the Scriptures.

Again, thank you for worshipping God today.

Schedule of Services

Worship...	Sunday	11:00 a.m.
	Sunday	6:00 p.m.
Bible Study...	Sunday	10:00 a.m.
	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.

www.coc-gc.org

Preacher: Michael Golwitzer (810) 771-4627

Sermon:

AM—The Messiah's Mandate

PM— Wages

Gospel Meeting

Harrison Morgan
for our Year End
Meeting on the 27th and
28th of December.



Prayer List

Marty Stearns
Elsie Jaques-health problems
Helen Summers.
Kim Penoyer-breathing problems
Dale Gregory-health problems
Barbara Johnson-health problems
Austin Clark
Chuck Smith-heart & Sciatic nerve
Earlene Currier-recovering from surgery
Lauren Weidner-for encouragement
Marion Wallace—cancer-in TN
Edith Taylor - Bill's mother.
Stan Bozich—friend of Chuck.
Scott Bateman-health
Ashley Beaver-health problems
Donna Duford-Betty's daughter.
Art Booth-Aunt Helen's son
Misty Davis— health problems
Janet Davis-health problems

No Joking Matter

I love being a Christian. I love thinking about, talking about, and singing about Christ and His church. I love to laugh and have fun with God's people. I enjoy cutting up with my colleagues. I love to interact with non-Christians. I enjoy clean jokes (and find myself occasionally telling ones that are not as humorous as I once thought). Christians can kindly tease about our favorite football team's most recent loss or our most embarrassing moments. Indeed, there is "a time to laugh" (Ecclesiastes 3:4). After all, "A merry heart does good, like medicine" (Proverbs 17:22). As enjoyable as it is to joke around and have fun, and as appropriate as it may be to break the ice with an amusing story, Christians must be careful that we don't make light and joke around about serious, spiritual, eternally important things, especially when such remarks are unnecessarily offensive. Such inappropriate words at inappropriate times can have very unfortunate consequences.

I was 17 years old, playing summer-league baseball in Oklahoma, when I had the opportunity to visit and worship with a church one Sunday morning a few hours from home. I had the privilege that day to be accompanied by two friends who were not members of the Lord's church. They had graciously come with me because I needed a ride to worship, and they volunteered to drive me and stay with me until the close of the worship service. Only a few minutes after walking into the building, however, the mood was severely darkened when a member of that church greeted us with a joke about some individuals he knew from our hometown who were of a different religion—with the emphasis

being on their religion. It just so happened, the two individuals with me that morning were of that same religious persuasion. Needless to say, my friends were highly offended by such a greeting from someone who called himself a Christian. And, sadly, they did not get over the insensitive "welcome" very quickly. In fact, it seems they have never gotten over it. Nearly **20 years** later I ran into one of these men while visiting family back in Oklahoma. One of the first things he said to me was: "So-and-so was just talking the other day about that time you invited us to come to church with you and that guy greeted us by jokingly condemning our religion."

By no means am I suggesting that Christians should not unashamedly teach the truth, or that we should not defend the faith whenever given the opportunity. Nor am I suggesting that I have always said things the right ways at the right times. (I've certainly failed miserably on this account more times than I like to remember.) What I do know is that God has instructed us to teach "the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15). He has commanded us to defend the faith "with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15). Paul taught the saints in Colosse: "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" (4:6). Similarly, the wise man taught: "The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious, but the lips of a fool shall swallow him up" (Ecclesiastes 10:12). We should never be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16); we should never pass up an opportunity to teach the Word of God—but may God help us to do so with "all longsuffering" (2 Timothy 4:2, NKJV), and "with great patience" (NASB). Remember, "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1).

Apologetics Press , by Eric Lyons apologeticspress.org