

“...strengthen thy brethren”



Luke 22:32

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
of Genesee County

5284 Fenton Road, Flint, Michigan 48507

**February 28, 2016**

**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 for Gospel Meeting**

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](http://www.coc-gc.org)

Preacher: Michael Golwitzer (810) 771-4627

**Sermons:**

AM: Godly Living PM: Evidence

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Betty Crewse—recovering from surgery  
Scott Bateman—still battling cancer.  
Phyllis Bateman-encouragement  
Ann Walker-faithfulness  
Patty Lewis-Chuck's daughter health issues  
Earlene Currier-health  
Adam Vannoy- employment  
Cher'e Vannoy  
Don Cross-Chere's uncle-cancer  
Cindy Atkinson's Great Niece Bridget-seizures  
Edith Taylor-Bill's mother  
Misty Davis—health problems  
Lauren Weidner-encouragement  
Marty Stearns - health problems  
Pam Bentz—cancer  
Becky Brewer-health and encouragement  
Pat Crain—health  
Al Haskell—kidney failure  
Chuck Smith—heart & Sciatic  
Michael Golwitzer—health.  
Donna Duford—Betty's daughter  
Randy Eckstorm- health  
Bill Alldaffer—health  
Charlene Steele—injuries  
Stan Bozich-Chuck's friend—health  
Janet Davis—health  
Rachel Hall—health problems  
Lee Skaggs—Mike's cousin—cancer

## **Today is Fellowship Sunday. Followed by a men's business meeting.**

### **A Congregation Is More than a Group of Friends**

We commonly believe that if the members of a congregation get along really well, they are unified and constitute a strong spiritual family. However, this is not necessarily true.

Men who congregate at a cafe every morning for coffee are close friends, but that does not mean they are a spiritual family. Likewise, a group of people who gather on Sundays and Wednesdays can be close friends, love each other's company, and not necessarily be a close spiritual family. It requires more than simply good cheer, hugs, and laughs. A spiritual family is one that exists in Christ (Galatians 3:27; Acts 22:16; Acts 2:38). Its primary goal is to bring glory to Christ (Ephesians 3:20-21), which includes evangelism, worship, fellowship, and a host of spiritual blessings. We labor diligently in the fields of the Lord in His name (Colossians 3:17). We work with His power to accomplish the goals set forth in Scripture (Ephesians 1:19). God "put all things under [Christ's] feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all" (Ephesians 1:22-23).

If we are not seeking to fulfill these majestic goals, we are a group of friends but not necessarily a functional, spiritual family. The Lord's church exists to do the Lord's work, not simply to be a social club. The task before us is too immense to ignore.

God brings spiritual families together (Acts 2:47). We can create a group around a common interest, but it may not

be Christ's interest. Friendships are wonderful, but if they exist within a spiritual family they are far better. When we are united in the job of bringing souls to the Lord, we are developing the strongest bonds possible.

A group of friends knows the boundaries that exist within the group. They know the areas in which the individual members differ, and they suppress them for the sake of the group. As a result, their common interests fuel their group. Surely we can see how this differs from biblical unity. Paul wrote:

"Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). Unity in the Spirit means that we are united in the Lord and in God's holy and divine Word.

We speak the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11), whether we find them palatable or not (2 Timothy 4:2). We have no right to suppress that which we do not like just so the group can be harmonious. That goes beyond our rights as children of God (1 Corinthians 4:6).

Christians submit to God and then they find spiritual unity. Just like an orchestra, we remain focused on the conductor and playing the piece that he has written. When we do, we create beautiful music.

Biblical unity is more than companionship; it is collectively moving toward the goal of heaven (2 Thessalonians 2:13-17). That will bring joyful hearts by itself. When we are rich in His grace and mercy, we will find the spiritual unity we all crave. Let us seek it out every day! —Richard Mansel

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**“True humility is not thinking less of  
yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.”**