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What can you expect if you visit?

You can expect to meet friendly people who care about your soul. Our building is simple, the people are friendly, and the services are uncomplicated. We will not ask you for money, as the contributions taken up are for members. We will respect your privacy and will not be intrusive on your time. However, if you do wish to study further, we will be very happy to arrange Bible studies with you at your convenience in both time and place.

What do we do in our worship services?

Our worship is very simple. On Sunday mornings, we typically begin with congregational singing (acapella) and prayer. After some singing (see Ephesians 5:19–20) we participate together in the Lord's Supper (on the first day of the week, see Acts 20). This is served to everyone (Christians, members and visitors) and consists of partaking of unleavened bread (the body of Jesus) and fruit of the vine (the blood of Jesus) in memory of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross (see Matthew 26:26–29). Usually after this we provide a time for members to give to the common fund of the group so that we can take care of the work we have to do (see 1 Corinthians 16:1–2 as an example). We may sing some more, which is then followed by a sermon from the Bible. The order in which we do these things is based primarily upon what works well for us as a group, since God did not specify in Scripture exactly the order of singing, praying, etc. However, the reason we do these things is based upon the authority of God's word. He did specify that these are activities He wants Christians to engage in together. This is not complicated and is intended for everyone to be able to participate together.

What do we teach about salvation?

Questions

God created mankind (male and female) in His image (Genesis 1:26). He placed Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, but they sinned against God (Genesis 3). Since that time, all but Jesus have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Because of sin, mankind was unable to do anything to take care of the sin problem -- we all need God. God did step in to take care of the problem by bringing about the conditions by which Jesus Christ would come to this earth and die as a sacrifice for our sins. This is how much God loves us (John 3:16). By dying for our sins, we have an opportunity to enter back into fellowship with God through being forgiven. God's grace is available to all people. At the same time, the gospel of God's grace shows us how to respond. By hearing the gospel, we are brought to faith (Romans 10:17). God commands all men everywhere to repent of their sins (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9-10), and be buried with Christ in baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4). Once our sins are forgiven by God's grace, this same grace teaches to continue living godly (Titus 2:11-14).

Where is our kitchen and gymnasium?

God has given local churches very specific, limited work. We believe that the home is responsible for general feeding and recreational activities (see, for example, 1 Corinthians 11:18-22). We do eat and engage in recreation together away from the church building, but we believe it is inappropriate for the church, out of its treasury, to supply these things in general. Why? Because God's authority shows that the activities of a local church, as a church, are centered around four areas: 1) worshipping and glorifying God together; 2) edifying and strengthening each other spiritually through teaching God's word (Acts 20:32); 3) providing for needy Christians who cannot provide for themselves (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; we cannot do this generally); and 4) providing for the preaching of the Gospel to the lost (1 Corinthians 9, for example, shows that preachers can be supported to teach God's word). Christians are not opposed to doing other things as individuals. For example, all Christians should try to help others in need (Galatians 6:10), and Christians enjoy many recreational activities through the home. But as a church we are limited in the work we do (much like a hospital is limited in doing the work associated with their field). Our focus

is a spiritual one, and we really have nothing to offer but Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:2).

Why don't we have a piano or musical group?

The reason for this is very simply that the New Testament, which serves as our pattern for being a New Testament church, tells us that God wants us to sing in our worship to Him, but gives no indication that we should accompany our singing with instrumental music (see Ephesians 5:19–20 and Colossians 3:16–17). We understand that this goes against what is usually accepted, but historically Christians in the first few centuries worshipped God without using instruments. For most groups and denominations, the introduction of instrumental music in worship is relatively recent (the last couple hundred years). The bottom line is that we believe that the Bible teaches us to sing our praise to God without bringing instruments into it.

But what about the instruments in the Old Testament? God had His people do many things in the Old Testament that He has not authorized in the New Testament. First, the instruments for worship in the Old Testament were primarily used for the Tabernacle/Temple services. By the New Testament era when synagogues were in common use, there is little evidence to indicate that Jews used instruments in the synagogues. Nevertheless, the point is simple. God told them He wanted them to worship Him in a particular way under the Old Covenant. This included the burning of incense, animal sacrifice, a levitical (Aaronic) priesthood, etc. If we use the Old Testament as our authority for using instrumental music, why not the rest of it? We don't believe that we can just pick and choose what we like or don't like. Therefore, we believe we are restricted to acapella, congregational singing when we worship as a church of Christ.
