

May 16, 2021

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
P.O. Box 683  
Olney, IL 62450  
217-218-0803  
www.olneychurchofchrist.org

## Services

### Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

### Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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**Elders:** Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

**Deacons:** John Frost, Dave Goff,  
Roger Sholders

*Visitors are welcome*

*We offer Bible classes for all ages*

*We also offer in-home Bible studies*

We have Bible lessons on the radio  
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

## Living Amidst Immorality

By Michael Hickox

Immorality has been in the world for centuries. Noah was surrounded by immorality (**Gen. 6:5**). Jeremiah and other prophets lived in the midst of immorality. Christians are likewise surrounded by immorality today.

God will one day put an end to the world's immorality, but until then, He has given Christians guidance as to how we should respond to it. For instance, we must...

**Stand for the Truth:** The Holy Spirit through Paul admonished the Ephesians to "***be strong in the Lord***" (**Eph. 6:10**), putting on the "***whole armor of God***" (**verse 11**) and "***having girded your loins with truth***" (**verse 14**). To withstand Satan and the immorality he produces, we must stand steadfastly with Christ.

This includes calling sin what it is, as John the Baptizer did when Herod the tetrarch was committing adultery with his brother Phillip's wife (**Matt. 14:3**). **Verse 4: ...John said unto [Herod], "It is not lawful for thee to have her."** John had the courage to stand against immorality, even though he knew there was a chance the truth would not be received well. We must have this same zeal for the truth.

# Living Amidst Immorality

(Continued)

**Speak in Love:** Like John, Jesus took a stand against immorality. But the stand He took was never out of bitterness. It was always out of love for the soul(s) of the person(s) who needed to repent.

As Jesus looked at the multitudes in **Matthew 9:36**, “***He was moved with compassion for them, because they were distressed and scattered, as sheep not having a shepherd.***” Jesus hates immorality but loves those who are living in immorality, and wants them to come to salvation (**Luke 19:10**).

Jesus did not speak against immorality in an arrogant way, even though He Himself never engaged in any of the sin that He opposed. Instead, He spoke against immorality with love and compassion (cf. **John 8:3-11**).

We must, like Christ, speak the truth *in love* (**Eph. 4:15**).

**Shine Bright:** While Christians’ speech must reflect truth, so too must our actions. We must “practice what we preach” (cf. **Matt. 5:14-16**).

The Bible speaks of God-fearing people who preached sermons through their actions. Consider the impact Ruth had on other women through her love for Naomi (**Ruth 4:14-15**), or the impact Tabitha

had on others through the good works she did (cf. **Acts 9:36-39**).

We can have an enormous influence on others by being the people God desires. If we are full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control, people will notice. If we give up things that the world deems important in order to pursue what *God* says is important, people will notice.

But if we live like the world, people will notice. To help others escape immorality, we must *ourselves* be free of immorality.

**Pray:** The power of proper prayer cannot be overstated. Prayer can help Christians throughout the world oppose sin without being severely persecuted (**1 Tim. 2:2**). Prayer can help us endure hardships we face. Prayer can help doors be opened for opportunities to lead people out of sin (**Col. 4:3-4**).

While immorality will not go away as long as the earth is here, neither will the truth. Let us not be overcome by the darkness of immorality, but overcome darkness with the light of Christ and His Word.

## God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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## Words to Consider

***“For this cause, we also, since the day we heard this, don't cease praying and making requests for you, that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, that you may walk worthily of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with all power, according to the might of His glory, for all endurance and perseverance with joy,” – Col. 1:9-11***

## Prayer List

Holly G  
Sandy S  
Cheryl S  
Norma C  
Raymond & Maxine  
Barbara G (Cancer)  
L.A. S (COVID recovery)  
Justice G (Perthes disease)  
Robert C  
Yockey Family  
Stivers' son-in-law, Don  
Gerry S (Cancer in leg)  
Ken G  
Dan H / John & Cynde

## Daily Bible Reading

May 16 – Judges 1-3; Luke 4:1-30  
May 17 – Judges 4-6; Luke 4:31-44  
May 18 – Judges 7-9; Luke 5  
May 19 – Judges 10-12; Luke 6:1-26  
May 20 – Judges 13-15; Luke 6:27-49  
May 21 – Judges 16-18; Luke 7:1-30  
May 22 – Judges 19-21; Luke 7:31-50

***“My soul has observed Your testimonies. I love them exceedingly.” – Psalm 119:167***

**Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Bible Study: Mark

Worship: Roger

Evening: Mike

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Jeff

**Assignments**

Sunday, May 23, 2021

Reading: Dave

Announcements: Travis

Table: Roger

Serve: Mark

Jim

**Clean Building**

Janice

**Prepare Communion**

Janice

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Invitation: Travis

**Upcoming Reminders**

**Anniversaries**

May 30 – Larry & Patsy

**Birthdays**

May 23 – Jeanette