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LOVING THE CHURCH WHILE LOVING JESUS!

Has it become commonplace to say "I love Jesus," yet feel hate for the church? During my early and informative years, my parents took me to church every time the doors were open. They taught me the stories of the bible, to respect the pastor, and to love the church; and I did. I also learned to love Jesus wholeheartedly; and although I was raised in the church, and experienced many wonderful things as a child and teenager, I began to develop disappointments with the inconsistencies amongst those claiming to live a holy life. It was during my final year of high school when these frustrations developed into disappointments, and disappointment grew into anger. I had arrived at a place many seemingly find themselves today: "Loving Jesus, but Hating the Church."

As I reflect on that time in my life I now realize that it was the first time I pictured those who attended church as not always being angelic or perfect. I am not sure how I had ever come to the conclusion that church attending people could do not wrong, but I certainly felt in a particular situation that a great injustice had been done to a pastor who had recently come to serve our church. I loved the pastor and his family, and their ministry had touched me deeply. I did not know all of the details involved, however at the time it didn't seem to matter. I could not understand how a supposed good and godly people could treat anyone in such a way; especially a pastor and his family. I had started to hate the church and I wasn't totally sure as to why. Looking back now, I felt justified even though I knew very little of what was really taking place. From my perspective, the church was wrong and I didn't like it!

I believe today there are many in the same place where I have been. Something has happened to them or to someone they have loved and they can not comprehend or understand how people who say they love Jesus could "act this way." Often times we do not have the complete picture or facts involved in what has transpired, and may only see one side of the story.

Today, as I sit in my office and think about all of the churches (people) and the pastors of the Southwest Indiana District whom I serve - I can't help but think of those who are struggling to love the church. Yes, there was a day where I found myself loving Jesus, but hating the church. That was then and this is now! Now, I am loving the church while loving Jesus! Now, I see that loving the church and loving Jesus is exactly what our world needs today.

During the next few weeks, I want to dig deeper into this topic. Now is not the time to give up on the church or to go about hating on the church or on pastors- especially when you properly identify the "church" and understand what or who it is and what God longs to do in and through the church. Take a little time in the next few days and read Matthew 16:13-20. We will take a deeper look at it next week.

Rev. Timothy Crump, Your District Servant

NYI Lock-In
@ Rose Hulman
Nov 16, 11:00 PM
Nov 17, 6:00 AM

**THANKSGIVING
OFFERING**
November 18th

**SWID PASTOR &
STAFF FAMILY
CHRISTMAS
PARTY**
December 1
Valley Mission

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN JASPER?

Rev. Michael & Janice Suits and the people of the Jasper church are experiencing great days with new people, increased attendance and finances.

They just recently resurfaced some of the parking lot and replaced the roof on the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall!



SWID MARRIAGE RETREAT

We will be having a SWID Marriage Retreat September 13-15, 2019 for pastors, staff and lay people. Dr. Gustavo & Rachel Crocker will be our speakers for this event. More details will be coming in the days ahead!



Catch all of the latest news and happenings - like "SWID Nazarene"