

The Churches of Christ, Who are These People?

John 13:34-35

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Who are we? Who are these people you work with, live next door to, and call friends, neighbors, and family? Who are these people in this auditorium who call this their church home? Let me try to answer the question, “Who are these people in churches of Christ?”

Just Folks

- We are a fairly diverse group of people who represent the basic categories of folks in the community—people just like you.
- In many ways we have the same hopes, fears, struggles, and aspirations as do our friends and neighbors.
- We do however have some differences with many when it comes to our religious beliefs—among others, you probably know about the music thing.

Setting the Stage

- In churches of Christ, as with other many religious groups, we are experiencing change and fragmentation—the spirit of our age encourages such.
- At Karns, we have convictions, but we do not think we are the only people with convictions.
- We believe the Bible is the one and only standard for our faith and practice, but we realize we are of flesh, sinners saved by God’s grace.
- We have teachings we believe are extremely important that we want to share, but we are also learners.

Who are We?

- We are people with a framework, a field where we believe the “game” of religion must be played.
 - It is a “Restorationist” field—a get back to the Bible and make sure we have not lost touch kind of thing (Rev. 2:5).
 - “Rightly dividing” covenants is very important to us in our pursuit (Heb. 8:7-13; II Tim. 2:15).
 - Doing things in the “name” of Jesus is a top priority among us (Col. 3:17).
- We see the relationship between faith and works as a crucial understanding if we are to see God’s word in its intended perspective (Rom. 4:1-8; Jas. 2:14-26).
 - We do not look from a “faith alone” perspective, except when we see faith as the only acceptable way to respond to God’s instructions (Rom. 1:5; 16:26).
 - We, therefore, believe a responsive faith is required (Heb. 11).

- In a culture increasingly interested in “self,” we believe self-denial and sacrifice ought to mean something significant (Matt. 10:32-39).
- In a religious world characterized by growing division, we believe unity on God’s terms should be a priority (Jn. 17:17, 21-23; I Cor. 1:10).
- With so many different perceptions and conclusions about the identity and agenda of Jesus, we take biblically based Christ-likeness seriously (Rom. 8:29; Matt. 11:27-30).

An Invitation to Join Us

- Not because we are perfect or ever will be (I Jn. 1:9).
- Not because we always do as well as we should with what we preach; we remain sinners even when we walk in the light (I Jn. 1:7).
- We humbly invite because we believe our goals offer the correct biblical framework to cultivate Scriptural unity and Christ-like development.
- What say you?