



Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 5:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 1:30 PM
7:00 PM

www.collinsvillecoc.org

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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Collinsville Church of Christ A Strong Church

January 17, 2018

Most people want to belong to a strong, thriving congregation. What does that look like? What are some characteristics of a strong church?

First, the church must exalt the Lord. Jesus is the head of the church and He is the Savior of the body. A strong church will exalt the one to whom the church belongs and exalt the one who died for it. He is worthy to be exalted because of His role in establishing and leading the church. Peter said of Jesus, *“Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear”* (Acts 2:33). A strong church will exalt the exalted Christ.

A strong church will also exalt the word of God. The word is exalted through its proclamation and demonstration. Not only is it preached but it is lived through the lives of those who hear. An Old Testament writer penned, *“I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy loving-kindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above thy name”* (Ps. 138:2). A strong church will always recognize the power of the word of God since it is by the word of God that others gain a knowledge of His name.

Third, a strong church will excel in carrying out the Great Commission set forth by the Lord. A strong congregation will be involved in preparing its members to become soul winners. Paul said, *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets, and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”* (Eph. 4:11-12). A strong church will equip the saints to fulfill

the duties which God has set forth for the church. A strong congregation will be a training ground for members. Jesus was the greatest teacher who taught in the greatest school. His school building was without walls and He enrolled people from different parts of the world. A strong church will use its resources and people to teach others about the truth of God’s word and His work. Teaching can be done through preaching, classroom instruction, mentoring, and shadowing.

When looking for a strong congregation, be sure the above things are occurring to ensure your soul will thrive and grow. –K.A. Pugh

I really appreciate Mary’s help. She faithfully proofs my daily message, usually the evening before it goes out. I realize, even with her help, a typo gets through at times. However, she is pretty dependable and it is seldom that my errors get through. She does not criticize me. She is always kind. She realizes I am not perfect. Now, I’m not saying she does not give me a hard time for fun when she gets the chance, but she deserves that after all I do to her.

I am thankful God is a gracious and merciful God, for my life is no more perfect than my typing. Yet, by the shed blood of His Son, I can have forgiveness.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. Ps 103:11-12 ESV

TLM

Collinsville Church of Christ
1400 Troy Road
Collinsville, IL 62234
Phone: (618) 667-6708
Email: collinsvillecoc@att.net