



Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Worship 6:00 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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Lessons Learned From Our Form of Government

Without a doubt, you and I live in the greatest country in the world. We enjoy freedoms that so many only dream about, and what a privilege it is to be a citizen of our country. Over the past few months, we have been subjected to political advertisements which have smeared and denigrated the works and characters of so many individuals. As I watched and listened to some of the advertisements, I could not help but think about a passage found in 1 Cor. 11. Paul recorded, "For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you" (1 Cor. 11:19). The word "heresies" is defined as "sects" and "separate parties." These sects and separate parties caused division among the people of God located at Corinth.

Instead of the Corinthians pledging their allegiance to Jesus Christ, they chose to give their allegiance to separated groups. How did this work out for the Corinthians? It led to them abusing the Lord's Supper. They would eat a meal and some would eat and some would not eat. It seems as though they were partaking the Lord's Supper along with their common supper (1 Cor. 11:21). Where unity is supposed to exist, division should never be a welcomed guest.

Fast forward to our country today. Our government is divided into sects. Sometimes these sects cannot and will not make decisions based upon the common good of the people, but will only make decisions based upon what their sect believes. How does this help our country?

Christians need to learn lessons from our form of government as well. As long as the people of God are divided into sects, the cause of Jesus will always be

hindered. The sect becomes more important than the cause and the cause suffers. Sometimes the sects will pull others to their "side" and move them away for the greater cause of Jesus. This is what happened among the Corinthians, and if the church today is not careful, the same can happen to us.

It should be our prayer that all of God's people should be one. That unity is based upon our faith in Jesus and our love for God and one another. May the church never become like the sects in our government. -K.A. Pugh

As you go through the day, take notice of the many acts of kindness you see, you do, or others do for you. Most of the time, you will say, or hear someone else say, "Thank you." You might even try to count each time you hear or say those words. You might be surprised how often it is.

After doing that today, pause this evening and think about the many acts of kindness shown you by God. He has blessed us richly and has been quite gracious toward us. Let us not take Him or His blessings for granted. Give Thanks.

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together! Ps 34:1-3 ESV

Let us not be as the nine lepers, but as the one (Luke 17:11-19). TLM

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