

FOR THE 25TH ...

"The Church Is Arrogant."

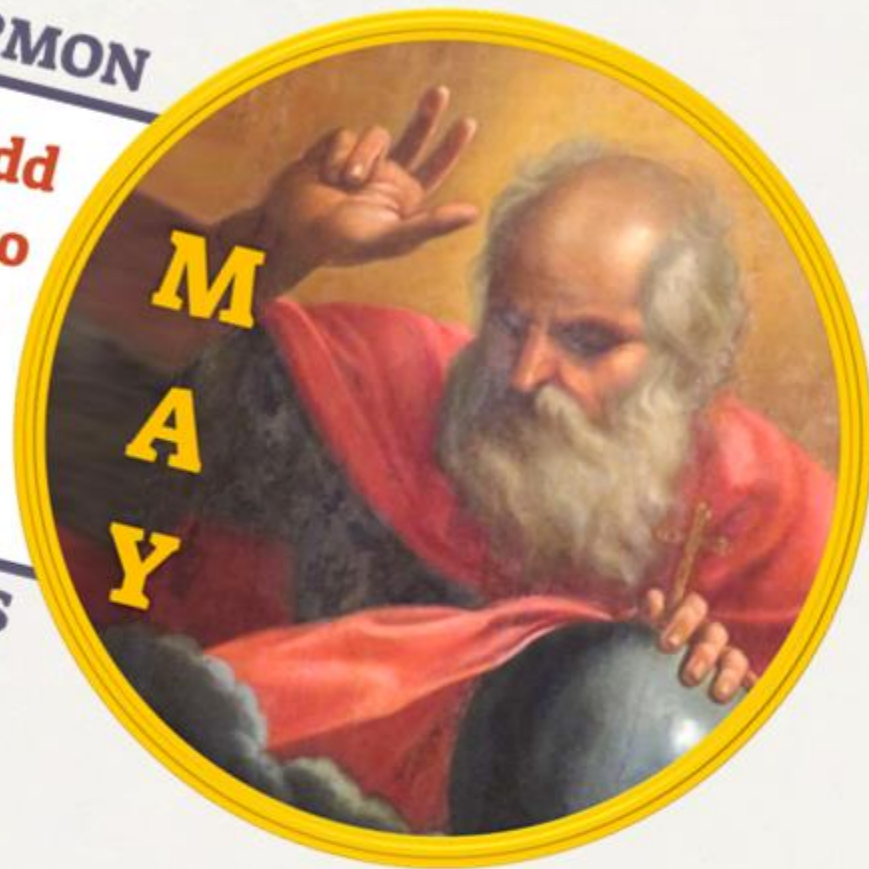


SERVICES @8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:50 AM-10:35 AM

SERMON

"How Odd
of God to
Expect
Some
Respect!"

SERIES



Pastor David Rawley brings these messages!

@**Otterbein Church**

OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST

146 Leitersburg St. | Greencastle, PA 17225-1346

THE CHALLENGE. To set aside human feelings, emotions, incidents, or relationships that may color your perception of “church” and simply consider TRUTH.

I will remind you of these things even though you know them and are firmly established in the TRUTH that you now have.

(11 Peter 1:12)

Today's two "reasons" given for not attending church focus on a perceived arrogance from the Christian gospel or the Christian community.

Christianity claims to be **exclusive**...
thinks everyone else is wrong.

The complaint/objection started with Jesus.

*Jesus was not rejected because he was a menace or nuisance. It was his claim to be the sole Son/Savior that **provoked anger**.

Peter addressed this on the day known as Pentecost. The RESURRECTION of Jesus was unprecedented, yet it was predicted, observed, and documented. This **sets** Christ **apart!**

If Jesus is “the way” and “no one comes to the Father except through me” (*Jn. 14:6*), it would not be right to say “maybe” or “He really didn’t mean it that way.” TRUTH may seem hard, be inconvenient, or cause friction. Yet... truth **“is what it is.”**

Refusal to ACCEPT truth does not change it. It only **prevents** **you** from whatever relationship or reward that comes from embracing it.

Every person who has ever considered believing in Christ has felt this friction. C.S. Lewis said, “He was a liar, a lunatic, or Lord.” Jewish leaders tried hard to get Jesus to back down from claiming that he was “greater than Abraham” and “existed before Abraham,” etc. They accused him of being demon possessed. His reply? “If I agreed with you, I would be a liar.” *(Jn. 8:55)*

Many folks have rejected Christ and the church because they think this is arrogance rather than truth. THINK ABOUT THIS. Many people are arrogant and/or deluded about themselves. None of them came back to life three days after they died, having predicted exactly that!

Christians are **unfriendly** toward
skeptics, doubters, or “outsiders.”

Yes. Sometimes. And sometimes this accusation is purely a spiritual smoke screen.

Even when it is true, it **sidesteps** the **issue** of responding to the claims of Christ rather than responding to the attitude of Christians.

**Some drivers are aggressive and rude, but no one quits driving because of that. Etc.*

It is impossible, even for God, to **force** someone to have **faith**.

**If someone is rude to you in a grocery store, you may switch to a different store, but you do not quit eating.*

Accept the truth about yourself. You do not accept Christ or reject Christ because someone was **either** nice or condescending toward you.

Christians sin. That does not make the skeptic (even a sincere skeptic) **superior** to them. Skepticism (unbelief) is also **sin**.

*Jesus said, “God has no sympathy toward the sinner who stones someone because that person is a sinner.”

(Jn. 8:7)

Do you use this excuse for not embracing the church yourself? Get over it and consider the **issue** at **stake**!

What can a person give in exchange for their soul? *[An excuse... these people were condescending to me?]*. For whoever wishes to save his life must lose it [give up pride], but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel [message, truth] will save it. What good is it to gain the whole world yet forfeit your soul? *(Mark 8:35-37)*