

The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests, a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like—its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday
 Bible Study.....9:00 A.M.
 Worship.....10:00 A.M.
 Training Class.....5:00 P.M.
 Worship.....6:00 P.M.

Wednesday:
 Bible Study.....7:00 P.M.



Weekly Bulletin
 March 3, 2019

Attitudes Towards the Weak

by Bill Hall

The Messiah's attitude toward the spiritually weak is pictured by Isaiah in the following words: "A bruised reed will he not break, and a dimly burning wick will he not quench" (Isaiah 42:3).

In our zeal for purity and strength in the church, we may be guilty of doing the very thing that our Lord does not want done. We create a mental image of what the ideal church ought to be, and then go about to establish one. Every member is going to attend every service. Every member



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will be "sound" in his convictions. Worldliness will not be tolerated. This church is not going to have the weaknesses that characterize other churches we know of. This is going to be a strong church, a model church.

A new convert is made, and immediately he is indoctrinated in what this church is, and the contribution he is expected to make to the maintaining of this ideal. Each newcomer is viewed as a potential threat. If he's not going to "line up," we don't want him. Weaker members are handled with a "shape up or ship out" attitude. People soon recognize that there is far more concern for the image of the church as an organization than for them as struggling and weak children of God. While the Messiah is tenderly and delicately nursing the "bruised reeds" back to health, we may be there crushing them. While He cups His hand around these fluttering, dimly burning flames to protect what fire is left, we may be there quenching them.

We are not suggesting that unrepentant false teachers and immoral members ought to be tolerated. They must be warned, marked, and withdrawn from. Nor are we suggesting that the weak ought to be left alone in their weakness. They must be taught, encouraged, reproved, rebuked, and exhorted, but with all longsuffering, and with a view toward strengthening them. "Admonish the disorderly, encourage the fainthearted, support the weak, be longsuffering toward all" (**1 Thess. 5:14**). Ask not what they can do for the church but what the church can do for them.

As long as there is a little life in that "bruised reed," there is hope. Don't crush it! As long as there is a little fire left, it might be fanned to burn more brightly. Don't extinguish it!

A Poor and Contrite Heart

by Bryan Gibson

We may look at two Christians and judge one to be strong, and the other struggling. God's assessment may be just the opposite, because the "struggling Christian" may have a poor and contrite heart, whereas the "strong" one does not. The "struggling Christian" may not be doing as much good as the "strong" one, and presently he may even have a greater struggle with sin, but he knows his condition; he takes correction well; he's always willing to repent; he humbly seeks forgiveness; and he strives diligently to get better every day. And that's more than can be said for some "strong" Christians we know.

"But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word" (Isaiah 66:2).

"I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit..." (Isaiah 57:15).

"The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit" (Psalms 34:18).

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3).