

“No one hates their own body, but lovingly cares for it, just as Christ cares for his. As we are his body.” Ephesians 5: 29 & 30

The Rest of the story...

“Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.” Acts 17:18

The message of Christ does not end at the cross...it begins. All too often people close the Bible at the death of Christ as payment for our sins. Christ not only died for our sins but he rose again.

How is Christianity advertised today? What message is being broadcast to popular culture as to why you should join our club? I bet your answer would include something about Christ, his death, forgiveness, and the grace of God. “Christ died for you so that you may be forgiven of your sins thus your immortal soul may spend eternity in heaven with God.” This is a cornerstone of the Christian faith and the story of Christ cannot be told without this element. But please don’t stop there! A popular belief is that we are just a bunch sinners and we will never amount to anything, yet by the grace of God we are forgiven of our sins. Constantly sinning and being forgiven in a cycle only broken by our death and ascension into heaven. That’s a great ending but what about today? Why should we live like that? Unfortunately that bleak outlook is the attitude of many Christians and is in fact the basis for many denominations. It has been drilled into our heads and is the message we are selling to the masses. John Eldredge describes the message like this (rich with sarcasm, I might add) “Think of it. You are a shadow of the person you were meant to be. You have nothing close to the real life you were meant to have. And you have no real chance of becoming that person or finding that life. However you are forgiven. For the rest of your days you will fail in your attempts to become what God wants you to be. You should seek forgiveness and try again. Eventually shame and disappointment will cloud your perception of yourself and your God...you will die and be taken before your God for a full account of how you didn’t measure up. But it’s okay because you are forgiven. After that you’ll be asked to take your place in the choir of heaven.” Finally having Salvation. John Eldredge paints a very dark picture but this is often the secular world’s view of Christianity. Who wants that? We live in a society of instant gratification. High speed internet, cell phones, living together, now now now! The current message of Christianity is delayed gratification. Saved today for a life beyond. A concept very foreign to many people. So what is The Rest of the Story? It is that Christ rose again! We serve a living and real God who wants a relationship with you. To walk with you, talk with you, be the center of your life. Not a disappointed God, but a loving God.

Christianity is not the constant cycle of sin and forgiveness followed up by a lifetime in heaven. Christ died for our sins so that we may be forgiven and that we may have life and have it abundantly! Not only tomorrow, but today. “...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10 To reach the world of today we must focus on the idea that Christ died for us so we may have life NOW! Not only in heaven but a glorious life now. How can we sell the idea of Christianity when it seems so bland, boring, and unfulfilling. “You are a sinner but it’s okay, repent and you will be happy in heaven.” Forget that! Believe, Repent, Live a Life for Christ, and be happy NOW!

Chris Jones

Director of Recreational Ministries

Upward is NOW

On September 12th the CLC will begin taking player registrations for the 2005 Upward League. Space will be limited so sign up early. Remember that upon registration each basketball player must sign up for an evaluation time. Coaches, Referees, and additional siblings that register before Oct. 25th will receive 10% off.

Late Fee Begins Oct. 25

Registration Deadline Nov. 1

Basketball Evaluations

K-2nd: Nov. 4th 6-8pm

Nov. 5th 6-8pm or

Nov. 6th 10am - Noon

3rd - 6th:

Nov. 4th 8-9pm

Nov. 5th 8-9pm

Nov. 6th Noon - 1pm

Practice Begins: Dec. 6th

(Kindergarten teams will not practice)

First Game:

5th & 6th Grade Jan. 7th

K-4th Jan. 8th

Awards Night Mar. 4th

Coming Events

Men’s Basketball Deadline: Sept. 8

COED Volleyball Deadline: Sept. 8

Sign up now for the adult leagues. The Coaches meetings will be September 8th at 6pm for volleyball and 7pm for basketball. No late entries will be accepted. See website for details.

www.cumc.com/clc