

# The Correspondent

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM

Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM

www.collinsville-troycoc.org

(618) 667-6708



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

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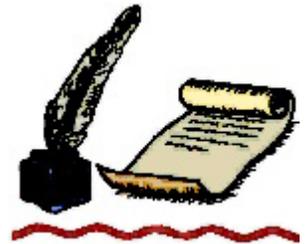
1400 Troy Road Collinsville, Illinois 62234

September 26, 2021

## The Shepherd's Pen

By Terry Mabery

**I**t is my opinion that political division is destroying our nation from within. Politicians and others cannot consider one another's views and think of the nation as a whole. There is no room for compromise. "I am right and it does not matter what you think. I will not compromise!" This attitude is leading to division, to hatred, to bullying, and even to violence.



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### Political division is destroying our nation

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A greater concern that I have is that such political division is carrying over into the church. Definitely, when it comes to spiritual matters, we must rely upon truth and there should be no compromise with error. There are moral issues that have been politicized and there can be no compromise when it comes to these. God's word is the final say in those matters, not any government body or government official (Acts 5:29).

However, brothers and sisters, we must not allow vaccines and masks to divide us in the church. If your brother wears a mask, what do you think about them?

How do you treat them? If your sister refuses to be vaccinated, what do you think about them? How do you treat them? What do you say behind their back.

There is no place in the Lord's church for making judgments based upon perception. Judgments are to be righteous judgments, judgments based upon truth (John 7:24). Before making a judgment, let me encourage you to speak personally to those with whom you differ. Do so with respect and humility (Philippians 2:3-4). Once you have the proper knowledge, treat one another respectfully, whether you agree or not. After all, we are to be at peace with one another (Romans 12:18) and we are to forbear one another in love (Ephesians 4:1-3). There is no room in "love" for bullying and mocking. Let us live, worship and serve in unity.

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Another concern I have, especially as a shepherd, is that some have forgotten or do not realize that the worship assembly is not only for worshipping and glorifying God. It is also for encouraging one another and stirring one another up (Hebrews 10:24-25). We are social beings. We need one another. God made us that way. All things done in the worship assembly is to be done unto edifying one another (1 Corinthians 14:26). Even if you are streaming and worshipping God at home, there is something missing that God knows you need. It is that personal encouragement and edification of being with brothers and sisters. You and your family are missing that. Your presence is, also, an encouragement to others.

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### The worship assembly is not only for worshipping and glorifying God

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Speaking of the assembly, I want to encourage you men who serve the body leading prayers and songs, reading Scriptures, or presiding or serving at the Lord's Table. If you have committed to do those things, please make an effort to check the Privileged to Serve List sent monthly and found in the bulletin that is mailed out weekly. Please!! If you are assigned and cannot serve, let Chris Waldram know as soon as possible so he can find replacements.