

Melbourne Church of Christ

"A family of believers seeking to grow spiritually while sharing Jesus and serving others."

Concealed Carrier
by Neal Pollard

To get your concealed carry permit for a firearm in Kentucky, you can expect to undergo a background check, complete gun safety training, and pay a fee. There is a minimum age requirement, and there are other conditions to meet while holding a permit (which can be revoked or suspended). Did you know that in 2020, there were over 68,000 permits either issued or renewed? Since 1996, well over one million have been issued and renewed here. What does all that mean? It means that there are a lot of people you run into on the road, in the store, and just about any other public place who are carrying and you don't know it.

I do not mention any of this to induce or participate in a Second Amendment debate. There is a different type of "concealed carrier" which Jesus does not approve of. He preaches about it in His sermon on the Mount. He says, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 5:14-16). Jesus exhorts His disciples not to conceal the light of their influence.

It is *impossible* for a true disciple to conceal their influence (14). Truly, one can claim to be a follower of Christ in an affirming environment like at church services or around Christians. Yet, if we can be around people away from these "easy" situations and no one knows, from our speech, action, attitude, and presence, that we are a Christian, how much of a disciple are we? Jesus says it should be totally obvious to everyone!

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Dates to Remember

★ Ladies will meet 4th Monday in April @ 6 p.m. bring a finger food

Sermons and bulletins available @
Melbournechurchofchrist.com

Sunday Bible Class 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday Evening 6:00 p.m.



Melbourne Church of Christ
A Place to Belong

Elders

Danny Brightwell
291-3439

Shelby Qualls
346-5255

Deacons

Bryan Phillips 373-0546
David Brightwell 291-1122

Alan Love 243-4608
Joe Cooper 291-4653

Minister

Ryan Lloyd
368-7886
Melbourne CoC
Box 267
Melbourne, AR 72556

Family News

- Spring cleaning day is set for April 18th at 3:30pm at the building. Please get in touch with Betty Brightwell for further details.
- Ladies Day will be April 23rd Registration is from 9-9:30am and the program ends with a salad luncheon.
- * Communion is gluten-free and travel communion is available.

	TODAY	NEXT SUNDAY
SONG LEADER	TBA	TBA
OPENING PRAYER	TBA	TBA
CLOSING PRAYER	TBA	TBA



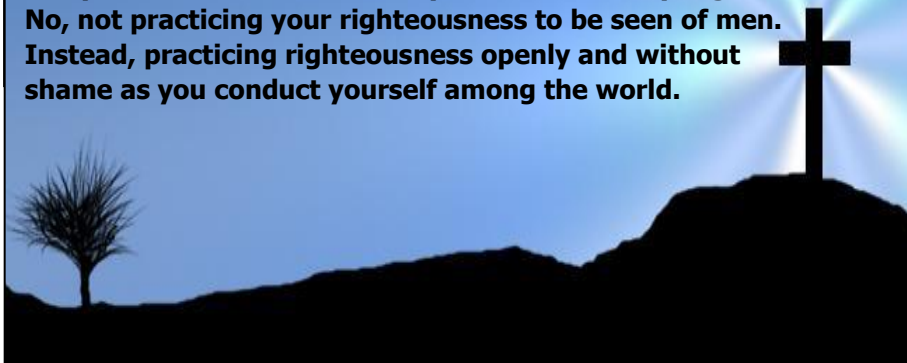
Self-Served

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It is *unprofitable* for a disciple to conceal their influence (15). What good is it to be a disciple if those characteristics are suppressed and concealed? A lamp might as well be a piece of furniture if it is covered up. All the knowledge of who Jesus is and what He means is useless if we do not apply that by sharing Him in our daily lives!

It is *dishonorable* for a disciple to conceal their influence (16). Our "light" is connected to doing the good works of a disciple and others glorifying the Father by witnessing the fruits of our influence. If seeing Christlike influence at work honors God, what does the opposite do?

God needs us spreading the influence of Christ every day and everywhere. There is no "secret service" branch in the Lord's Army, and He doesn't want any "concealed carry" light-bearers! No, not practicing your righteousness to be seen of men. Instead, practicing righteousness openly and without shame as you conduct yourself among the world.



Prayer List

Military: Derek Love, Tyler Talkington, A.J. Talkington

Officers: Steven & Sherry Davidson, Josh Morehead, Jamie Irvin, Tyler Webb, Caeden Wolfe, Blake Johnson

Health: Ted Kidd	Joyce Newbrey	Donnie Vest	Joanna Smith
Joe Guiltner	Dan Clark	Wilma Cooper	Wayne Crosby
Tracy Thomas	Brooke Pritchard	Troy Gaston	James Nicholson
Bill Roland	Hayden Phillips	Donny Smith	Joanne Weston
Bill Wiseman	Debbie Nicholson	Helen King	Phil Haagenon
Mary Kosmitis	Tommy Washington	Jim Fowler	Shirley Lewis
Diane Owens	Ivy Jo Slade	Jeff Young	Lynn Hicks
Justin Teague	Charlotte Cooper	Cecilia Broughton	Sue Campbell
Bob & Arlene Davidson	Chip & Regina Master	Richard Gunter	J.B. & Wanda Dill
Dorothy Teague	Ted & Sanyia Austin		

Nursing Home: Debbie Hoskinds, Holly Stroud, Emma Jean Cooper

April Birthdays

Betty Brightwell 2 nd	Tyler Kelly 4 th	Donna Hill 7 th
Derek Love 8 th	Imodean Webb 9 th	Cleve Weaver 12 th
Melissa Morrison 14 th	Nancy Richardson 15 th	Rhett Morrison 17 th
Son Lamb 18 th	Francis Gillihan 22 nd	Doug Sipe 25 th
Michelle Smith 26 th	Kenya Wyatt 29 th	Dana Ingram 30 th

April Anniversaries

Joe & Dana Ingram 17th

2 Peter 1:5-8, "Applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."