



## The attractional church

What is the Attractional Church? Churches come in all shapes and sizes—traditional and contemporary, conservative and liberal, hip and formal. Each has its style, but underlying all they do is their theology and philosophy. While most share the same essential theology, churches vary widely on their philosophy of ministry of how to put into practice what they believe.



ASK THE PASTOR

By Pastor Scott DENHAM

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The attractional philosophy of ministry seeks a welcoming environment for non-believers. Attractional Churches are almost exclusively evangelical Bible-believing churches that expend great energy to welcome non-believers in the hope of their conversion. Nothing wrong there. Jesus, “the friend of sinners” (Luke 7:34) came “to seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10), and we should do the same!

The Attractional Church seeks to create an environment that is comfortable and familiar to non-Christians. Whatever they say is carefully crafted to avoid offense and to make faith as palatable as possible. The impression of those who attend is that no divide exists between believer and non. However, the Attractional Church is keenly aware of the divide but is careful to downplay the differences.

Now, this is not to throw the Attractional Church under the bus, so to speak. They do try to get their people into small groups where they can discuss the harder issues and offer a clearer call to repentance and faith. Scripture allows freedom and flexibility in how we “do” church. Paul the apostle adapted his ministry to ever-changing circumstances to win people to Jesus (1Cor 9:22). I cannot fault the Attractional Church on its passion for converts. Oh, that we all would desire the same!

The problems I see with the Attraction Church are two-fold. First, since most people only attend the Sunday morning service, how do their believers grow deeper in faith and deal with the most challenging aspects of believing? If you are in an Attractional Church, do all you can to involve yourself in the church’s discipleship ministries—outside of Sunday morning!

Secondly, the cross of Christ offends (Gal 5:11) and yet it “is the power of God for salvation” (Rom 1:16). Therefore, dear preacher, God’s primary means of salvation is the clear unapologetic proclamation of the Gospel. “How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher?” (Rom 10:14).

We cannot be shy about what we believe, especially when it is the only hope of the world!

- Pastor Scott (hfnet@tutanota.com)  
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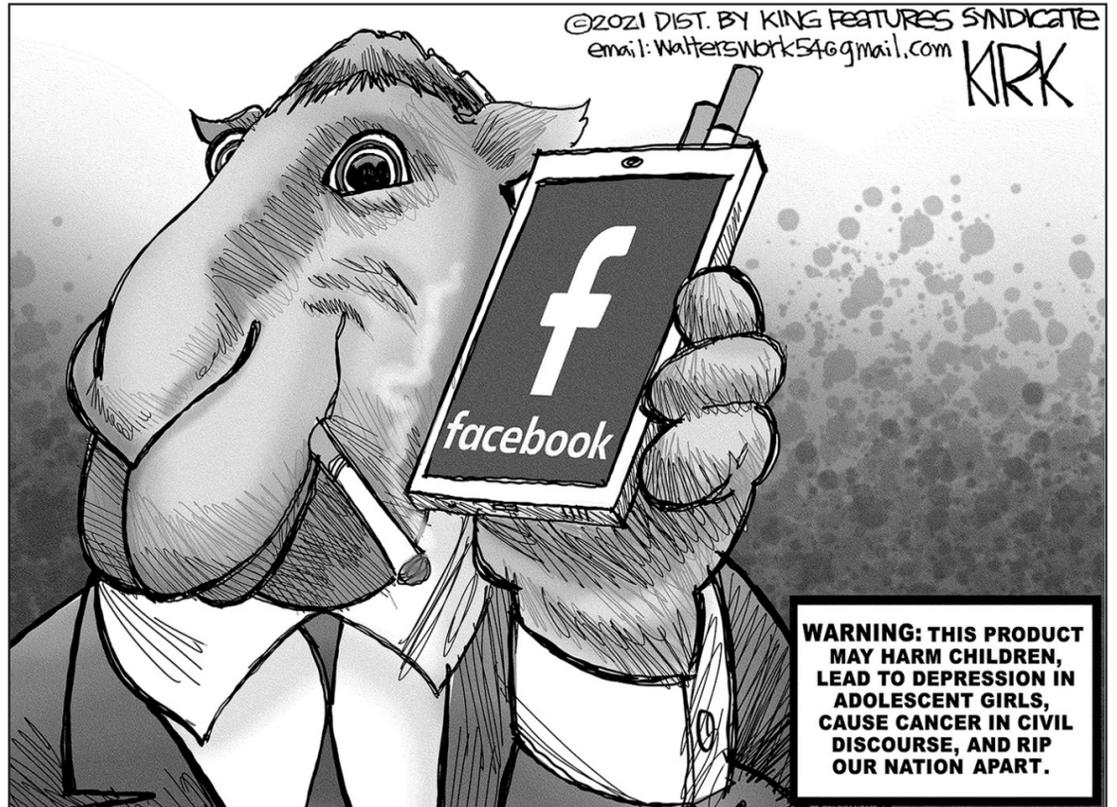
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## Watkins believes future of rural Iowa depends on renewable energy options

Seth Watkins, Clarinda

Rural Iowa is a leader in harvest and export of corn, soybeans, pork, and beef. Unfortunately, our young people have also been a top export.

Page County has been my home for 51 years, I have seen firsthand how people leave for job opportunities elsewhere. It’s critical we act now to create a vibrant and resilient community for future generations to live, work and raise a family.

Renewable energy is an important economic development tool to help us attract and retain people in rural communities. The proposed restrictive ordinance is a clear attempt to kill renewable energy projects and economic opportunity in our county, by threatening the rights of landowners to host wind and solar projects on their land.

It is important to address myths that continue to circulate online. Solar panels are completely safe and are recyclable at the end of their life. In contrast, we have piles of coal ash building up in Iowa communities every day. This toxic waste is not recyclable, and creates a health hazard.

No form of energy is perfect, but renewables have the brightest future. Wind and solar create economic opportunity for Page County to harvest our natural resources, much like we do for agriculture. Once projects are built, renewables are stable, saving all consumers money. This helps hedge against the economic uncertainty of other generation sources like natural gas, which is projected to increase by 46-96% in cost for Iowans this year.

Clean energy projects provide \$129.5 million in property, state, and

local taxes annually. This money supports our schools, roads, and parks. Providing all of us with clean air, better services, and creating opportunities for young people to stay in Page County.

As consumers, we must be more aware of where our energy comes from when we flip on the light switch. As natural gas prices soar this winter, more Iowans may consider how the energy grid works.

Our future depends on a renewable, resilient and reliable energy grid. We can’t afford to let the vocal minority disrupt Iowa’s ability to innovate and be part of the clean energy economy. Page County is blessed to have the natural resources to make us an economic leader in the energy revolution. We can build a better future and a better local economy for our grandchildren. We can’t turn back now.

## Ernst contends Biden’s decisions put America’s Most Wanted back in charge of Afghanistan

BY SEN. JONI ERNST  
United States Senate

Last week marked the 20th anniversary of the launch of the U.S. military offensive in Afghanistan against the Taliban and al Qaeda in response to their ruthless attack on America. As a result of our nation’s resolve, and the sacrifice and service of our brave men and women over the past two decades, Osama bin Laden is dead and our homeland has been guarded against additional large scale terror attacks. And up until President Joe Biden’s sloppy and poorly planned exit from Afghanistan, al Qaeda and the Taliban were on the run.

Today, due to the decisions of President Biden, the radical extremists that sponsored Osama bin Laden and partnered with al Qaeda, are back in power.

It became apparent after I questioned our top military leaders at last week’s Senate Armed Services Committee hearing that President Biden made a completely unconditional withdrawal. It’s also now clear that President Biden casually dismissed the sound advice of his own military leaders to do so—he discounted the tactical and strategic value of keeping a small force in place to defeat the terrorists.

As a result, President Biden abandoned American citizens behind enemy lines, left strong allies and partners to fend for themselves against the Taliban, tarnished America’s reputation, and created the conditions that led to the devastating loss of 13 brave American

servicemembers. He stubbornly led our country into the most disastrous diplomatic and military debacle in modern American history.

Now, nearly half of the new Afghan government is comprised of terrorists who are on the United Nations Security Council’s Terrorism Blacklist, including the acting prime minister and both of his deputies. At least two principal members of the Haqqani Network, a U.S. designated Foreign Terrorist Organization, are in the highest positions of the Taliban’s new government. President Biden’s decisions put America’s Most Wanted back in charge of a terrorist training ground and increased the risk of attacks against our homeland. And in his rush for the exits, the president left these terrorists with tens of billions of dollars’ worth of military weapons and gear—all that can now be used against us.

But it’s not just weapons and military capabilities. President Biden left behind our own citizens stranded in a foreign country governed by known terrorists. Americans and our Afghan partners who worked with us – interpreters and translators – are sitting ducks for the Taliban. I’ve asked repeatedly for an accurate accounting of who and how many are still left, but the Pentagon just points the finger at the State Department, who then goes radio silent.

Unfortunately we’re continuing to face more problems from President Biden’s hasty withdrawal. Last week it was reported that at least 700 Afghan evacuees have left military bases before undergoing proper and necessary

vetting—putting the safety of Iowans and all Americans at risk. In response, I called on Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin to pause relocating any more Afghan evacuees to the United States, except for fully-vetted Afghans holding Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs), and to complete all appropriate vetting procedures at safe locations abroad.

We also need to ensure we are not letting bad actors take advantage of this botched withdrawal and our strained immigration system. A key challenge and easy fix we must address immediately is ensuring sexual predators and criminals are identified, stopped, and deported. This week, I introduced the “BE GONE” Act, a bill that would make “sexual assault and aggravated sexual violence” a disqualifying act for those seeking to immigrate to the United States. The recent assaults at a military base housing Afghan refugees underscores the need for this important legislation.

During his campaign, President Biden promised a return to normalcy. Little did we know that meant a return to vulnerability, and an America that is less safe from the terrorists that attacked our homeland 20 years ago. I’ll continue working to hold the Administration accountable for the mess they’ve created and ensure we are taking steps to protect our homeland from the new threats we now face.

Joni Ernst, a native of Red Oak and a combat veteran, represents Iowa in the United States Senate.

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