

Public Prayer on Wallace Streets Upset Bond

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Wallace, ID -- Two LDS (Mormons) on their youthful missions were hustling the streets of Wallace yesterday, and happened upon a few of us enjoying an adult beverage at an outdoor table in front of a local saloon on the first truly summer-like day of the year -- before we get the late-winter crap of big snowflakes.

You've got to be outside and walk around on days like that, before the fat Seattle-sized stuff returns and whacks you, builds up on your rooftop, followed by rain and you need to hire a gorilla to deal with it before the roof caves. Such is weather here. We deal with it.

At any rate, these young missionaries doing the TDY in Shoshone County invoked all of us to pray together, standing up and holding hands, there on the bloody side walk.

The prayer was harmless in and of itself, but the situation pissed me off. I am instructed by my Saviour not to pray in the street as the hypocrites and Pharisees do, but rather in the closet, or in my room with the door closed, depending on your translation. (He says the same thing about charity: Do it but keep the news of it to yourself.)

Please see Matthew 6, 5 for the full version. It's also the chapter the Lord's Prayer can be found. I have no personal beef with the LDS Church nor its fundamental beliefs. They well take care of their poor and disabled. I have deep friends who are of this Church.

But I wish their Elders might better instruct their novitiates as to the verities of the Testament of Jesus Christ before sending them out to the streets.

Do not belay me with messages about how holy you are. That is between you and your God. We can still be friends.

Selah,