**To what can I compare this generation**

*Matthew 11: 16-19 (NIV)*

*16* *“To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others:*

*17 “‘We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance;*

*we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’*

*18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ 19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.”*

These words area as relevant today as when they were first spoken. When posed with the question of attending church, I hear, "You're not like any priest I am familiar with. Your demeanor is not that of a pious priest! You hang around people that drink, smoke and speak with foul language and do not condemn them. You are seen with people that you know are not law abiding citizens. You even drink and smoke yourself. How can you call yourself a priest?" And I say to them,

*17 “… we sang a (funeral) dirge, and you did not mourn.’ 18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’*

When presented with the appearance of piousness, I hear, “This is not for me. I don’t trust the church. They are all liars and pedophiles, whoremongers and cheats that hide behind the facade of the church. The Church is too restrictive in their robes and sacraments. I’m spiritual not religious. They only want my money.” And to them I say,

*17 “We played a tune on a flute for you, and you did not dance; … 19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’*

You see, it does not matter how Christ is presented to this group. They choose only to denigrate with the same arrogance as always. “You’re too traditional. You’re not traditional enough.” Since the beginning, they have not changed, nor have their hypocritical excuses. This blind contempt leads ultimately to death in thought, word and deed.

*19 ”… But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.”*

For Wisdom is balanced. She does not condemn tradition for sake of a spiritual relationship. Nor, does she refute spirituality and only adhere to tradition. She is like a beautiful woman clothed in the garments of her heritage being presented in the full splendor of Gods light. She is the embodiment of the Gospel.

Come join us at St. Augustine Anglican Church. Here we enjoy and practice all the gifts of the Spirit while embracing traditional sacraments with sensibility and practical understanding. God Bless.

Bishop Pike