

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Lannie Key

Opening Prayer: Ralph Burleson

On the Table: Head - David Key
Servers - Greg Lowery
Billy Box
Josh Berryhill

Closing Prayer: Eddy Dickinson

Preparing the Lord's Supper Deborah Box

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Visit Our Website

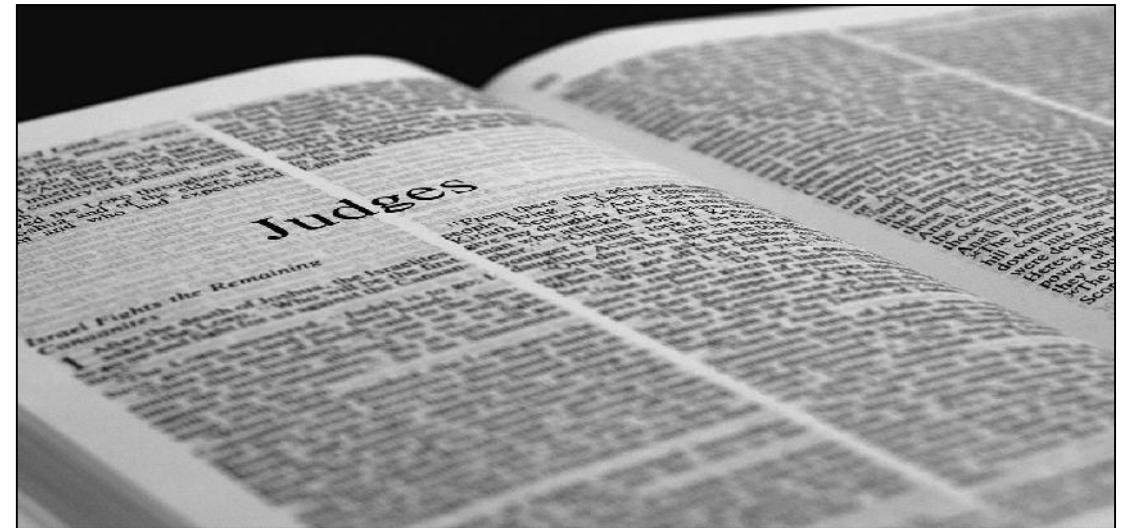
www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Deacon: Al Corkren
Leonard Key / David Key
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson Minister: Greg Lowery

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Do Not Focus On The Number



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



Great Love For The Brethren And The Lost

By Wendell Winkler

God wants His church to grow. Such is apparent from the parable of the mustard seed (Matt. 13:31-32), the parable of the leaven (Matt. 13:33) and from the parable of spontaneous growth (Mk. 4:26-29). Furthermore, such is evident from the figures of speech employed by the Lord to portray the true nature of his church. For example, the church is likened to a body (Eph. 1:22-23). A body is a growing organism. It is a grow or die proposition. Then, Daniel prophesied that the kingdom would begin as a small stone and grow until it filled the whole earth (Dan. 2:31). However, it is growth that the Lord desires; not flamboyant mushrooming produced by shallow sensationalism, shallow emotional, and denominational gimmickry. The example and pattern for our growth is the New Testament, the Jerusalem church. It grew; and, oh! how it grew (Acts 2:41,47; 5:14; 6:7). When a religious body is not concerned with Bible authority, anything and everything can go; but, we are a people concerned about Bible authority! Accordingly, again, we affirm that the New Testament church is the pattern and stimulus for our growth today; rather than some high-flying, emotionally charged, conservative denomination or religious cult.

Among the many factors contributing to the remarkable growth of the first century church was the fact that (1) they were united in love (Acts 4:31-33), and, (2) they really loved the lost, resulting in their being evangelistically zealous (Acts 8:1-4;5:42). Now, let us observe these two factors separately.

Great Love For The Brethren**I. The Necessity Of Brotherly Love**

(1) It is a badge of discipleship, Jn. 13:35. (2) It is a command, Jn. 15:12; 13:34; 1 Jn. 4:21. (3) It is supreme, 1 Pet. 4:8. (4) It is the fulfillment of the law, Rom. 13:8-10. (5) It must be practiced to prevent stumbling, 1 Jn. 2:10. (6) We must practice it to be in the light, 1 Jn. 2:9-11. (7) It is a mark of divine son-ship, 1 Jn. 3:10. (8) It is a mark of conversion and spiritual life, 1 Jn. 3:14. (9) Without it we are murderers, Jn. 3:15. (10) We must practice it to be of God, to be born of God, and to know God, 1 Jn. 4:7-8. (11) We should love one another because God loved us, 1 Jn. 4:11. (12) We must love one another for God to dwell in us and his love to be perfected in us, 1 Jn. 4:12. (13) We cannot love God without it, 1 Jn. 4:20; 5:1-2.

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Faye Cotton: please continue to pray that she continues her fight against cancer and that she will win

Denise Kimbrell: still taking treatments and has been diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis; please be praying that with med's all of this can be controlled

Lellie Dickinson: is recovering from recent knee surgery, please pray that she will make a quick and full recovery

Barbara Wilkinson: is recovering from recent hernia surgery, please pray that she will make a full recovery and have not further trouble

Larry Metcalf: has been diagnosed with lung cancer; please pray that he can receive treatments that will defeat this cancer

Laraine Foss: please be praying that she has good days and good nights and keep Arlen in your prayers also while they are undergoing this very difficult trial

Carolyn Weatherly: is at home recovering from recent stroke, please keep her and Gary in your prayers

Alice Foster: was diagnosed with congestive heart failure and having problems with her lungs, please keep her in your prayers

Mary Rainey: she has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Maylene McWhirter: her blood gases are showing signs of myeloid leukemia, please be praying for her and her family

Chad Henderson: this young man is battling cancer, please pray that he will be able to receive treatment that will help him in his fight with this terrible disease

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Arthur Ewing: has lung cancer, please pray that he will be able to receive treatment that can help him

Robeana Green: has been diagnosed with cancer, please be praying that with treatments that this cancer can be defeated

Connie Autrey: recent scans show that the cancer is shrinking, please continue to pray that the treatments will continue to work in defeating her cancer

Marjorie Goodwin: is in the nursing home at Winfield for rehab, please continue to pray that she will continue to improve.

Jamie Long: his liver is failing him and he is on the list to receive a liver transplant, please be keeping him in your prayers

Frances Booth (Tanya’s Mother-In-Law): diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer, please keep her and her family in your prayers

Laura Laura: has shingles, please pray that she will quickly get better

Upcoming Events

Today	Tri-County Singing (Here)	2:00 pm
Feb. 4 th	Country Place	2:00 pm
Feb. 11 th	Nursing Home	2:00 pm
Feb. 18 th	Bible Bowl (Here)	2:00 pm

- Please help with bringing snacks and drinks for the Bible Bowl -

II. The Nature Of Brotherly Love

(1) We must love one another as the Lord loved us, Jn. 13:34; 15:12. He loved us enough to give His life, Jn. 3:16. (2) We are to love one another as we love ourselves, Matt. 22:39. (3) We are to love one another fervently, 1 Pet. 1:22; 4:8. (4) We are to love one another genuinely, 1 Pet. 1:22-23. (5) We are to love one another with a pure heart, 1 Pet. 1:22-23. Our hearts are to be pure from envy, malice, hatred, animosity, jealousy, ill-will, etc. (6) We are to love one another in deed and not in word only, 1 Jn. 3:17-18. (7) An analysis of 1 Cor. 13:4-8 will help us to understand the action of our love toward our brethren.

Great Love For The Lost

I. Examples Of Those Who Possessed A Great Love For The Lost

(1) God and Christ - “But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).

(2) Paul - So deep and abiding was his love for the lost that he penned, “I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren” if it would result in their salvation (Rom. 9:1-3).

3) Jeremiah - Being so passionately concerned for his lost brethren, Jeremiah exclaimed, “Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!” (Jer. 9:1).

II. What Will Obtain When We Possess A Great Love For The Lost?

(1) We will seek opportunities – A courting couple will seek every opportunity to be together. Why? Because they love one another. In like manner, when we really love the lost, we will seek every opportunity possible to reach them with the gospel of Christ.

(2) We will see the lost and not the cost – Why will a mother and father sacrifice every material possession they have in the interest of a very sick child, seeking medical aid from every location and position, of whom they hear, and from whom

they receive one ray of encouraging hope? It is because of their great and undying love for their child. In like manner, when we really love the lost, we will not spend so much of our time in business meetings talking about the cost. Rather, we will be discussing ways and means by which we can motivate each other to be more liberal in our giving, as well as devising scriptural methods by which we can effectively reach the lost.

(3) We will pray - It is no marvel that we read the Lord's lengthy prayer in John 17, when we have already read in chapter 13 and verse 1 that "he loved them unto the end". However, his prayer for them was not so many empty words. Instead, he went to the cross in their behalf. Accordingly, let us pray for the lost; and, then, be willing to make every sacrifice possible to see that they come to know the Lord.

(4) We will give - Loving the lost as he did, God gave! (Jn. 3:16). When a child of God is having frictions with his contributions, it is because he has frictions in his consecrations toward saving a lost and dying world.

Conclusion

Let us really work at the job of duplicating in the twentieth century the first century church in their love for one another and in their love for the lost. Such will result in each of us living a very meaningful and fulfilled Christian life, as well as a world teetering on the brink of spiritual destruction having come to have heard the saving gospel of a loving Lord.

The Spiritual Sword, "*What Makes Churches Grow – As God Would Have Them Grow*", vol. 10, no. 4, (July 1979), p. 10-12.

Go Visit Someone Today

By Kevin Cauley

There is a word that is chilling to our culture today; that word is "alienated." The word "alienate" means to cause to withdraw or isolate. To be alienated is to be alone. Loneliness is one of the greatest fears that we have. It has driven some to insanity, and caused others to end their lives. It is the father of despair and hopelessness. What causes alienation?

Alienation is the result of failing to treat others with respect by acting upon our selfish desires (James 1:14-15). Selfishness displays no true concern for others. That lack of concern works in two ways. First, others will observe it and seek to insulate themselves against it by not associating with us. They will not want to be used as mere tools for our satisfaction. Such reduces people to being objects instead of a persons. Second, those showing no concern for others will also cease associating with anyone who is not interested in satisfying their selfish desires. They mistakenly believe that it is the satisfaction of their desires that affirms their value as persons. They assume that anyone who does not satisfy them shows no concern for them. They will only see people who are treating them as objects instead of persons.

How important is it, then, that 1) we do not identify ourselves with our own desires, and 2) that we have enough respect for others to include them in our lives even when they behave selfishly? The Bible teaches us true respect for others by letting us know that we are 1) persons created in God's image (Gen.1:27), and 2) worth the life of God's Son, Jesus (John 6:51). When we identify with Him, we won't identify with our desires (Galatians 2:20). We will also submit ourselves to God to be used in unselfish service for others (Romans 6:17-19). So, go visit someone today and affirm both your value and theirs. God bless you, and I love you.

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