



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 40, No. 30, July 29, 2014 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / The Grow in Grace Newsletter is **a weekly Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church. It is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

A SYMPHONY which UNGRIEVES, UNQUENCHES, and UNLEASHES the HOLY SPIRIT! (Eph. 4:29-32; Ps. 133:1-3; Matt. 18:19)

"Again I tell you, if two of you on earth agree (**harmonize together, make a SYMPHONY together**) about whatever [anything and everything] they may ask, it will come to pass and be done for them by My Father in heaven." (Matthew 18:19, Amplified)

When we are walking in the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-24) and not in the flesh (Gal. 5:19-22); and when we are walking in the love of God (1 Cor. 13) —**the Holy Spirit is UNGRIEVED, UNQUENCHED and UNLEASHED in Christian homes, churches, and before a watching world!**

I. The New Testament Church Began as a 'Symphony!'

(1) Acts 1:13-15/Acts 2:1-4. **(2)** Acts 2:41-47a/Acts 2:47b. **(3)** Acts 4:19-24/Acts 4:31. **(4)** Acts 4:31/Acts 4:33-37. **(5)** Acts 5:12/Acts 5:14-16.

In each of these **five 'sets' of Scriptures**, we have powerful demonstrations of the early Church **gathered in 'ONE ACCORD' unity**, followed by **the powerful results** of that unity. Truly, when God's people

dwell together in spiritual UNITY around JESUS CHRIST— GOD COMMANDS BLESSINGS! (Psalm 133)

DEEP ROOTED PROBLEM: Genesis 3 reveals that with sin comes shame, selfishness, self-centeredness, and separateness! All of these tendencies corrupt unity in marriages, families, and churches. Because of sin we all have a tendency to withdraw from others, to be separate, to concentrate on our own needs, to live for ourselves, and when there are problems—blame others! (See Dr. Ed Wheat, LOVE LIFE, page 39)

ALSO: Sometimes, a group of believers may be having wonderful fellowship— but they have ‘closed the shades’ as to ministry to other believers or to the lost. The New Testament model is that of believers being (1) **BOUND TOGETHER around Jesus**, (2) **Caring for ‘one another’** [The Epistles exhort churches to ‘one another’ ministries over 40 times!], **and (3) ON MISSION with Jesus** for a lost world! (Acts 4:23-31)

THE FOUNDATIONAL MIRACLE OF NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH LIFE!

JESUS HIMSELF WAS and STILL IS **THE GREAT ATTRACTION/DRAWING CARD/BONDING FACTOR** OF GENUINE NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY! **When a sinner is saved, the Holy Spirit BAPTIZES that one INTO the Body of a local assembly of believers to live in unity with AND in ministry with the members of that body. (1 Cor. 12:1-31)** ONE OF THE GRAND WAYS THAT UNITY IS REVEALED IS IN THE UNITY OF FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL and in the advance of the gospel! (Acts 4:23-31; Phil. 1:4-5; 1:27)

II. GRAND ‘OPEN FOR ALL TO SEE’ SECRETS to bursting forth with GLORIOUS SYMPHONIC MANIFESTATIONS of GOD’S BLESSINGS!

1. The Early Church believers were **bound together because** they were truly ‘born again’... their sins were forgiven. They loved Jesus. Jesus was not a mere historical figure. Jesus was their LORD. They ‘Symphonized’

around the person, the reality of Jesus. They had been INVADDED by the God of the universe by His indwelling Holy Spirit.

2. The Early Church believers were rejected by society. HOWEVER, by the Holy Spirit they were immersed/baptized into local congregations of fellow believers. (1) Bible Study, (2) Prayer, (3) Worship, (4) Coming to the LORD'S TABLE, (5) Ministry one to another, and (6) witnessing to the lost **were [and still are!]** results of being made alive in Christ and baptized by the Holy Spirit into local congregations. (Acts 2; 1 Cor. 12-13) No one had to beg or bribe them!

AS a Christian— in which of the above 6 activities am I weak and/or lacking? AS a congregation— in which of the above 6 activities are we weak and/or lacking?

3. The Early Christians literally EMBRACED the teachings of Jesus! They were united in a passion to tell others about JESUS! The Early Christians were conscious of having been saved from ULTIMATE DISASTER — the eternal wrath of Holy God! Moreover, the Holy Spirit rather quickly got LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES— to give specific instructions to them and to us as CONGREGATIONS!

QUESTION: As an individual member of the assembly called Southside, when is the last time you have read one or more of the Epistles and asked yourself: ***“O Holy Spirit, what are the applications both to me and to US as a congregation?”*** When was the last time any of us were in a Bible Study and our passion was, ***“O Holy Spirit, what are the applications both to men and to US as a congregation?”***

BOTTOM LINE: In New Testament Christianity being rightly related to Jesus overflows into right relationships one with another! And Jesus says that it is by this method, (by this reality of LOVING ONE ANOTHER because of being loved by Jesus), **that all men shall know that we are truly His disciples!** (John 13:34-35)

Reality: If we are POORLY related to one another in our families and with saints in the local assembly to which God has joined us — it is because we are poorly related to Jesus!

POSITIVE POWER: Just ONE person in a home or in a church can be POWERFULLY EFFECTIVE as an unquenched and ungrieved source for the BLESSED SYMPHONY OF HOLY SPIRIT FRUIT. OTHERS see JESUS as we model walking in the steps of Jesus! (The above section aided by Marion Leach Jacobsen’s ‘SAINTS and SNOBS’, pages 43-57)

III. The Creator of the Church as a Symphony was/is the Holy Spirit!

“Be eager and strive earnestly to guard and keep the harmony and oneness of **[and produced by] the Spirit** in the binding power of peace.” (Eph. 4:3)

When a person is genuinely saved, they become the temple/the dwelling place/the home of the Holy Spirit! Indeed, they [WE!] are FLOODED with the love of God, by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 5:5) They [WE!] are forgiven of all sin. Sin and satan’s dominating power are broken. They [WE!] are supernaturally empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit. They [WE!] are supernaturally joined into Christ and joined into a local assembly of saints. (1 Cor. 12)

Forgiven, they/we become forgivers. Loved, they/we become those who love. Baptized by the Holy Spirit INTO the body of Christ and placed by the Holy Spirit into a specific, local expression of the Body of Christ— they/we are all zealous that the body have NO SCHISM! 1 Corinthians 12:18-27, NKJV:

¹⁸ But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. ¹⁹ And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

²⁰ But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are

necessary. ²³ And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, ²⁴ but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, ²⁵ that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. ALL THIS AND MORE IS THE CREATION OF GOD IN ALL OF HIS REDEEMED CHILDREN BY THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. **Bottom line: There is an AUTOMATIC, foundational UNITY among all who are truly saved by grace alone through faith in Christ alone.**

URGENT WARNING:

DO NOT BRING SIN, FALSE DOCTRINE, OR DISCORD INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST: 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 Amplified Bible (AMP) ¹⁶ *Do you not discern and understand that you [the whole church at Corinth] are God's temple (His sanctuary), and that God's Spirit has His permanent dwelling in you [to be at home in you, collectively as a church and also individually]* ¹⁷ ***If anyone does hurt to God's temple or corrupts it [with false doctrines] or destroys it, God will do hurt to him and bring him to the corruption of death and destroy him.*** For the temple of God is holy (sacred to Him) and that [temple] you [the believing church and its individual believers] are. [What is true for Corinth is true for Southside... OR the fellowship to which the Holy Spirit has joined you!]

IV. What is the Christian's Responsibility in the Matter of Unity and Harmony—the Spiritual Symphony of the local Church?

“Be eager and strive earnestly to guard and keep the harmony and oneness of [and produced by the Spirit in the binding power of peace.” (Eph. 4:3)

(1) Holy Spirit produced HARMONY/SYMPHONY can be seriously CRUSHED— or else we would not be exhorted to guard it!

(2) Holy Spirit HARMONY/SYMPHONY can only be kept by EFFORT— thus, we must be eager and earnestly guarding/keeping the harmony produced by the Holy Spirit.

(3) THE SYMPHONY of the Christian Church and Christian home has ENEMIES!

V. ENEMIES DESIGNED TO DESTROY THE SYMPHONY

1. BACKBITING— (Prov. 25:23; Rom. 1:30; Psalm 15:1-3) Speaking negatively against another when they are not present.

2. SLANDER— (Prov. 10:18; Numbers 14:34-37) Vines Dictionary of New Testament Words defines the slanderer as “one who is **given to fault-finding** with the demeanor and conduct of others, sending their innuendo and criticism throughout the church.” **It is the same word that is often used of satan in his role as the accuser of the brethren.** In Numbers 14, spies were sent to check out the promise land. TEN of them came back with a slanderous report and infected the whole nation of Israel.

Countless homes, churches, mission organizations, and Christian ministries are paralyzed by slanderous, murmuring, DEMONIC spirits of discontent.

3. WHISPERING— (Psalm 64:1-4; Prov. 16:28) O the power of the whisperer to separate even the closest of friends, by evil reports whispered behind another’s back!

4. GOSSIP— (Psalm 41:5-9) “I am more deadly than the screaming shell from a cannon. I tear down homes, break hearts and wreck lives. I travel on the wings of the wind. No innocence is strong enough to intimidate me. No purity is pure enough to daunt me. I have no regard for truth, no respect for justice and no mercy for the defenseless. My victims are as numerous as the sands of the sea. I never forget. I don’t forgive. **My name is GOSSIP!**” (Author unknown)

5. DISCORD— (Prov. 6:16-19) Those who ‘sow discord’— they go around ‘secretly’ dropping words and attitudes of unbelief, gossip, slander, faults and failings. Words have a way of germinating in folks minds. **A harvest develops, all in accordance with what was sown!** Had words of hope, love, forgiveness, faith, earnest prayer and generous blessings been sown— A GRAND SYMPHONY of love and Christ-likeness would be the result!

6. TALEBEARERS— (Prov. 20:19; Lev. 19:16; Prov. 26:17-22) Many churches, ministries, work places and homes are destroyed by Talebearers. The talebearer is very vital and useful to the Backbiter, the Gossip, and the Discord Sower. **HOW SO? Talebearers often serve as ‘runners’ for the backbiter, the gossip, and/or the discord sower. Talebearers never reveal their evil sources.** They spill their evil reports and then triumphantly declare, **“O I cannot tell you who told me... I would not want to break confidentially!”**

NOTE: Talebearers tell the WRONG people! SYMPHONY LOVERS tell the RIGHT people! Destructive actions and destructive tongues were destroying the church at Corinth. However, those of the house of Chloe informed the person with God-given responsibility to shepherd that flock, the Apostle Paul. **(1 Cor. 1:11) Has someone dumped on you about someone absent? First, exhort them! (Gal. 6:1) If need be, do as the house of Chloe: 1 Cor. 1:11)**

VI. GODLY WEAPONS to GUARD the SYMPHONY!

1. Keep a very still tongue! (James 1:26; 4:11; Titus 3:2) Heed the Word of God: **SPEAK EVIL OF NO ONE!** **2. OBEY** God’s method of Direct Communication: Matt. 18:15 / Gal. 6:1 **3. A POWERFUL TOOL:** The early Methodist Revival last a long time. Doubtless, because the GUARDED THE SYMPHONY! Here is an edited version of the Methodist’s points:

(1) I will not listen to tale bearing/whispering/discord sowing/slander or willingly inquire after any ill concerning others.

(2) If I do hear any such ill of other in the assembly, I will not be so forward to believe it.

(3) Moreover, if I hear of such ill, I will as soon as possible communicate this matter directly to the person about whom the ill was spoken.

(4) AND, until I have done this, I will not speak a syllable of it to any other person.

(5) After going directly to those concerned and/or to those who need to know because they are responsible before God to work for Godly solutions (1 Cor. 1:11)— neither will I mention this/these matters to any other person whatsoever. These are not matters to put on a prayer list, which all too often is but a way to try to gossip with God’s approval!

(6) I will make no exception to these guidelines unless I am absolutely obliged by God’s Word and God’s Spirit to do so.

VII. Peace, Harmony, SYMPHONY BEGINS for LOST, sinful souls at the FOOT OF THE CROSS! COME TO JESUS NOW! Peace, Harmony, SYMPHONY CONTINUES for the redeemed as we heed the Word of God in ways as are set forth in this article!

Great Grace to All! / James Bell / www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES!

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care nursing home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM. Questions call Bradley Pennington at 615-804-3054.

**** WEDNESDAYS: PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM; IN THE CHURCH AUDITORIUM! ****

NOTE: Jody Allen is ministering to young Children, up to about age 10 during Prayer Service. Older children, but not old enough for the Youth Group... will be with their parents in the Prayer Service. YOUTH GROUP: Wednesdays 6-8pm... led by Byron Smith

➔ NEXT LADIES BIBLE STUDY— JULY 31 @ 11:00AM, led by Cindy Bell

* **SATURDAY MORNINGS** @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! *

~~~~ **SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 3, 10, 24** ~~~~

1. **9:30am**- Sunday School Bible Study and Small Group Fellowship
2. **10:45am**- Morning Worship / Children's Church
3. **Noon- Covered-dish Fellowship Meal**
4. **1pm- Early Afternoon Service, fellowship hall**

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 17 → Lord's Supper & Home Groups!**

1. **9:30am**- Sunday School Bible Study and Small Group Fellowship
2. **10:45am**- Morning Worship / Children's Church/ **LORD'S SUPPER**
3. **NO noon meal.... PLEASE JOIN IN THE WONDERFUL FELLOWSHIP with ONE OF THE Sunday Evening HOME GROUPS:** a. Same groups. b. Study Philipians 4. c. Locations to be announced.

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 31 → Sunday Evening PRAISE**

1. **9:30am**- Sunday School Bible Study and Small Group Fellowship
2. **10:45am**- Morning Worship / Children's Church
3. **NOON FELLOWSHIP MEAL**

**4. SUNDAY EVENING PRAISE @ 6:00PM→ Let us all come together with various ones sharing Scriptures, sharing testimonies, singing unto the LORD: solo; duet; trio; quartet; ensemble; congregation.**

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**SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL!** Children are like young plants in a garden— while young and tender they must be protected. Southside Christian School works in harmony with the local Church and empowers parents!

<http://www.aceministries.com/curriculum/?content=presentingACE>