



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 40, No. 44, November 4 , 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."***

SOUTHSIDE: The Options of SERIOUS SIN or GENUINE REVIVAL!

If someone could accurately 'look in' on life in your/my home and/or life in your/our church family for one month and then give a report of findings— how would we score?

ON A SCALE OF 1 to 10— Serious Sin? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

ON A SCALE OF 1 to 10— Genuine Revival? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Serious sin— what would that look like? Have we considered that one of the reasons many Christian folk are drowning in wicked and evil sins **is because** they/we are all too often blindly, even rebelliously enslaved in disobedience against **what God has called us to positively embrace?**

A GENUINE REVIVAL of Biblical Christianity awaits any and all who out of love for Jesus will EMBRACE TRUE CHURCH WORK!

Have you noticed? Our physical bodies have many members and they all have significant roles to play, tasks to do. **It is beautiful to observe** the powerful accomplishments that a healthy, fully functional body can accomplish. **It is PAINFUL to observe** a broken down physical body that has missing parts and/or 'broken' or non-functioning members. But have we forgotten that **a LOCAL CHURCH is** an expression of the BODY OF

CHRIST? Have we forgotten that the Holy Spirit leads Christians to COMMIT to local congregations so as to be contributing members?

Have I, have you faced the following reality? — I am sinning against Christ the Head when I neglect, harm, or simply stay away from being a functioning member of a local congregation! (Please, don't take my word for it— be sure to read 1 Corinthians 12:1-27; Ephesians 4:11-16; Hebrews 10:23-25)

WHAT IS THE WORK that I am to do in a local congregation? I'm not a good singer, I don't hold a position of teacher, deacon, or pastor— there's just not much of anything I can do! This is typical thinking; but it is not Biblical thinking! Actually, there is much important Church Work for every believer to do because of who we are in Christ! In the following, we will set forth Biblical revelation about 'true Church work' and we will see that it is for EVERY believer!

Yes, assemble TOGETHER! WE MUST! But true Christianity is the life of Christ flowing in and through a body of believers! That's why 'Church' is NOT something you attend, like a ball game— CHURCH IS WHO WE ARE 24/7!

True CHURCH WORK involves (1) the worship of God; (2) the building up of the saints; (3) and the evangelizing of the lost. In this article we will focus on the True Church Work of Building up one another in Christ!

We are to love one another: John 13:34-35; 5:12,17; Romans 12:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; John 3:11,14,23; 4:7,11; 12:2; II John 1:5; and 1 Peter 1:22. (You get to look these up!) **We are also to love one another** (1) to fulfill the law (Romans 13:8), (2) increase our love one for another (II Thessalonians 1:3), (3) abound in love one toward another (I Thessalonians 3:12), and (4) we are to love each other deeply, to cover a multitude of sins (I Peter 4:8).

We are to interact with care: Have fellowship one with another (I John 1:17) Forgive one another (Eph. 3:13, 4:32 & Col. 3:13) Greet one another with a holy kiss - or an embrace in some cultures (Rom. 16:16; I Cor. 16:20; II Cor. 13:12 & I Peter 5:14) Wait for one another to break bread (I Cor. 11:33) Bear one another's sufferings (I Cor. 12:26)

We are to serve one another: Serve one another with the gifts each person has received (I Peter 4:10) Serve one another in love (Galatians

5:13) Be kind to one another (I Thess. 5:15) Care for one another (I Cor. 12:25) Bear the burdens for one another (Gal. 6:2) Wash each other's feet or humbly serve one another (John 13:14) Work with one another (I Cor. 3:9; II Cor. 6:1)

We are to teach one another: Teach one another (Col. 3:16) Instruct one another (Rom. 5:14)

We are to encourage one another: Encourage one another (Col 3:16; Heb 10:25) Exhort one another (Heb. 3:13) Speak the truth to one another (Eph 4:25) Lay down our lives one for another (I John 3:16) Spur one another to love and good deeds (Heb. 10:24)

We are to edify one another: Edify (strengthen, build up) one another (I Thess. 4:18 & 5:1, 11) Edify one another (I Cor. 14:26)

We are to give spiritual care: Confess our sins one to another (James 5:16) Pray for one another (James 5:16)

To cultivate unity and to act with humility: Honor one another (Rom. 12:10) Be of one mind one with another (II Cor. 13:11; Rom. 12:16, 15:5) Do not criticize one another (James 4:11; 5:9) Submit to one another (Eph. 5:21) Be clothed with humility toward one another (I Peter 5:5)

We are to live in harmony: Have patience one with another (Eph. 4:2) Live in peace one with another (Matt. 9:50) Receive one another with hospitality (Rom. 15:7; I Peter 4:9) Glorify God together (Rom. 15:6)

These 'One Anothers' SHOUT: We were never meant to walk the road of Christian living alone— we need each other! **LOOK AGAIN!**

Love One Another! **Depend** on One Another! **Rejoice** with One Another! **Weep** with One Another! **Don't judge** One Another! **Receive** One Another!

Admonish (Counsel) One Another! **Greet** One Another! **Wait** for One Another!

Serve One Another! **Be kind** to One Another! **Forgive** One Another!

Be tenderhearted to One Another! **Encourage** One Another! In honor, **prefer** One Another! Be of the **same mind** toward One Another! Have the **same care** for One Another! **Submit** to One Another! **Forbear** One Another! **Provoke love** in One Another! Use **hospitality** toward One

Another! **Minister** gifts to One Another!

Be clothed in **humility** toward One Another! **Don't speak evil** against One Another! **Don't grumble** against One Another! **Confess** your faults to One Another! **Pray** for One Another! **Bear** the burdens of One Another! **Be gentle** toward One Another!

*"Again I tell you, if two of you **AGREE (harmonize together - together make a symphony)** about everything and anything - whatever they shall ask, it will come to pass **AND BE DONE FOR THEM** by My Father in Heaven" (Matt 18:19, Amp.)*

All across the land, churches and homes continue to crack and crumble.

Why? Teamwork is missing! The dictionary definition of teamwork is as follows: "Work done by a number of associates ALL SUBORDINATING PERSONAL PROMINENCE to the efficiency of the whole."

Even the world understands that very often the difference between winning and losing or the difference between profit and loss is **TEAMWORK!**

In Teamwork there is not only the "**subordination** of personal prominence" but there is also the **co-ordination** of efforts, skills, time, and much more. It is common knowledge that extensive, intensive, intentional effort is the price to pay in order to work as ONE.

Teamwork requires FAITHFULNESS on the part of those doing lesser and/or behind the scenes tasks as well as on the part of those doing highly visible or skilled tasks. **Teamwork requires** everyone to be working for the good of the whole and for the ultimate goal.

What would happen next week if every manufacturing plant in our area tried to function with employees and/or management who were individualistically doing what each one wanted to do **and if and when** they wanted to they showed up for work?

How well would a sports team do if during the season a number of the players did not show up for practice or even some of the games? **What if** others changed teams during the season **and/or** still others attempted to belong to two or more teams all at the same time?

What would happen if we all sat down in a fine auditorium, fully expecting the Symphony Orchestra to come on stage and begin to make beautiful symphonic music— **BUT INSTEAD**, when the musicians came on

stage, they each insisted on individualistically playing what, when, and if they please? **WHAT IF** they refused to play the same music piece? **WHAT IF** they refused to be guided by the conductor? **WHAT IF** several of the Orchestra members decided to not show up?

The answers to each of these questions are so obvious and so agreed upon that, frankly, they seem odd to ask!

HOWEVER, ALL OVER AMERICA, CHURCHES ARE FUNCTIONING UNDER SUCH TRAGIC CONDITIONS! Ball teams, factories, businesses, orchestras, and our Armed Forces would find such conditions to be utterly unthinkable!

This reality is all the more tragic when we consider the supreme importance of our LORD'S CHURCH and when we consider that God's COMMAND and provision for His church is TEAMWORK!

No Teamwork? **No Symphony!**

No Symphony? **No love!**

No love? **No reason for those around us to believe we are true disciples of Jesus!** (John 13:34-35)

Believe it or not, there will come a day when all sports shall cease, along with all manufacturing plants and all other human endeavors. When the dust has settled, only the true Body of Christ will be left standing. The Harlot Churches will also be gone. The true Bride of Christ will rule and reign with CHRIST for all eternity.

Without question, the grandest and most far reaching enterprise on the face of the earth is our LORD'S CHURCH! Nothing in the entire world even comes close to having the importance and the significance as the Church of our LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Bear in mind that Our LORD'S CHURCH finds expression in local bodies of believers, around the globe. With others, in Gallatin, Tennessee, God desires that Southside be a beautiful expression of Christ's Bride! **WHAT AMAZING HONOR and GRACE TO BE IN HIS BRIDE!**

On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit internalized the gospel into individuals— Salvation is an individual, one at a time miracle! **BUT THERE IS MORE!**

For immediately the Holy Spirit baptized 3,000 people into an

amazing BODY, of which Christ was the Head! They, were immersed, brought into the sphere of the Holy Spirit and vitally connected to each other in Christ! The HOLY SPIRIT gave these new born believers **an indwelling compelling!** This is still reality today! Those born of the Holy Spirit **do not have to be begged or bribed.** Their flesh does not have to be stroked with the world's music or methods or entertainment enticements in order for them to desire to study the Word of God together, Pray together, Worship together, Evangelize together, and/or Share their goods with each other. (Acts 2:42-47)

Here is reality: A genuine Christian has to seriously grieve, quench, and deny the ministry of the Holy Spirit, in order to avoid TEAMWORKING WITH OTHERS IN A LOCAL ASSEMBLY OF SAINTS!

TEAMWORK— this has always been God's way! The Triune God Himself **is** the supreme example! When God brought about creation and redemption there was **Teamwork in perfection** between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! It is no surprise that on the Day of Pentecost, the first local New Testament Church was set in motion, manifesting HARMONIZING, SYMPHONIZING TEAMWORK!

Teamwork is expressed in Scripture by the word, "ONE ACCORD!"

Acts 1:14— "These all continued with **ONE ACCORD...**"

Acts 2:1— "...they were all with **ONE ACCORD** in one place."

Acts 2:46— "And they continuing daily with **ONE ACCORD...**"

Acts 4:24— "...they lifted up their voice to God with **ONE ACCORD...**"

Acts 5:12— "...and they were all with **ONE ACCORD...**"

Acts 15:25— "It seemed good unto us, being assembled with **ONE ACCORD...**"

TEAMWORK AMONG CHRISTIANS in a local body of believers is not the result of them all agreeing 100% of the time! **Rather, Godly TEAMWORK** is the result of God ordained submission one to another in the fear of God!

YES! We are commanded to submit to one another in the fear of God. (Ephesians 5:21) Moreover, God commands, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief, for that is unprofitable for you." (Hebrews 13:17)

TEAMWORK AMONG CHRISTIANS IN A LOCAL BODY is not something that can be accomplished with anything less than genuine **commitment**

to Jesus Christ the Head. By the way:

His commands to each of us in a local body are awesomely comprehensive.

It is a SERIOUS DECEPTION to refuse to be specifically joined to a Body of Believers— for New Testament TEAMWORK is expressed through “One anothers” in a local church body!

SUCH ARE THE BEAUTIFUL “SOUNDS” OF THE GOD ORDAINED SYMPHONY IN A LOCAL CHURCH FAMILY! Not all can sing or be smart with numbers. Not many are called to be teachers. Only some are called to be pastors. **HOWEVER, ALL GOD’S SAINTS ARE GIFTED!** And regardless of gifts, ALL ARE CALLED AND COMPELLED TO “THE ONE ANOTHERS” ... And O what a Symphony comes forth... and O the blessings of God which flow!

Southside— GOD IS CALLING US TO HIGHER HEIGHTS OF GLORIOUS SYMPHONY IN CHRIST! Be vigilant to guard the unity of the Holy Spirit! (Eph. 4:1-3)

**The options in front of each one of us are
SERIOUS SIN or GENUINE REVIVAL!
WHICH SHALL IT BE?**

ON A SCALE OF 1 to 10— Serious Sin? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

ON A SCALE OF 1 to 10— Genuine Revival? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

May Grace Abound! James Bell www.southsidegallatin.org

PS. *“All is in Christ! By the Holy Spirit! For the Glory of God! All else is vain!”* – Aldophe Monod

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— November 6 @ 11:00AM,
Led by Cindy Bell

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

******SUNDAY Schedule for NOVEMBER : November has 5 Sundays: Third Sunday, November 16— S.S. & Worship/ LORD'S SUPPER/ NO lunch / 3 Home Groups.**

SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 9, 23, 30— all Regular Schedule, including Fellowship Lunch. (**NO** 5th Sunday Evening Praise Service)

- 1. 9:30am-** Sunday School Bible Study/Small Group Fellowship
- 2. 10:45am-** Morning Worship / Children's Church
- 3. NOON FELLOWSHIP MEAL**
- 4. 1:00pm-** Early Afternoon Service

****** SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL! ******

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

UPCOMING December Sundays:

12/7— Regular Schedule

12/14 — Sunday School; and a SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE REJOICING IN CHRIST'S BIRTH; followed with Lunch

12/21— **Annual BRUNCH** during 9:30am Sunday School; followed by Morning Worship; concluding at the **LORD'S SUPPER**. [No lunch]

NOTE; [12/21 Evening Home Groups... each group decide to either have or take a December break]

12/28— **Sunday School and Worship Service, only**