



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 43, No. 39, October 4 , 2016 / 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."***

HOW PLEASANT TO BE IN UNITY! WE MUST GUARD IT!

ONE OF the best times to be instructed as to God's call to maintain unity is when we are not in some sort of conflict! SO, LET US RECEIVE THE WORD OF THE LORD!

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in UNITY! *It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the LORD commanded the blessing— even Life for evermore!* (Psalm 133:1-3, NKJV)

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)

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the UNITY of the Spirit in the bond of peace! (Ephesians 4:1-3, NKJV)

Over the last 41+ years I have been and I am very blessed to SERVE in and be a member of a congregation who has exhibited and who continues to exhibit **love, forgiveness, purity, unity, perseverance, and other manifestations of Christ!** YES, at various times we have had love and unity FAILURES. **WE MUST BE ON GUARD— for any and all are capable of love and unity failures! With profound gratitude I am glad I can say that** God has enabled a core group of saints in Christ to simply keep on keeping their EYES ON JESUS...and/or to keep placing them BACK ON JESUS after failures! There is, by the grace of God, **‘a sweet, sweet spirit’** in the assembly of the saints at Southside! THEREFORE: **Let us be careful to guard** this precious unity of the Spirit **and to press forward** in the work of ‘adorning’ (Titus 2:10) and making Christ visible to our MISSION FIELD!

*** HOW SERIOUS IS THIS MATTER? ONE OF THE GREAT TRAGEDIES IN CHRISTIAN HOMES AND CHURCHES is when we **believe beautiful Biblical truth but at the same time produce the ugliness of lovelessness** in relationships— thus causing the Word of God to be blasphemed!

HERE IS GREAT GOOD NEWS: 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. 13:1-7) — **the Holy Spirit is UNGRIEVED, UNQUENCHED, and UNLEASHED!**

Galatians 5:22-24: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. **And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.** For the GENUINE CHRISTIAN the INDWELLING Holy Spirit ALWAYS stands ready to BURST FORTH UNGRIEVED, UNQUENCHED, and UNLEASHED— for our hearts are ALREADY FLOODED with the love of God by the Holy Spirit! (Romans 5:5)*

Meditation Focus to Encourage us to Maintain Unity:

1. CONTINUALLY PREACH THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD TO YOURSELF AND STAY CLOSE TO JESUS and HIS OTHER SHEEP!

CHRISTIAN! Remind yourself often of your GRACE BLESSINGS: When a person is genuinely saved, they become the temple/the dwelling place/the home of the Holy Spirit! They are FLOODED with the love of God, by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 5:5) They are forgiven of all sin. Sin and Satan's dominating power are broken, (Romans 6:1-14) They experience CRUCIFIXION to the old works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21); and a new life of walking in the 9 fold fruit of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-25) Real Christians are supernaturally empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit and supernaturally joined into Christ and joined into a local assembly of saints. (1 Cor. 12:1-13)

Forgiven, they become forgivers. Loved, they become those who love— ALL THIS AND MORE IS THE CREATION OF GOD IN ALL OF HIS REDEEMED CHILDREN BY THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

2. THUS, There is an AUTOMATIC and foundational UNITY among all who are truly saved by grace alone through faith in Christ alone. (Ephesians 4:1-7) BECAUSE OF BEING in Christ we now **'IN SYMPHONY TOGETHER'** around the person, the reality of Jesus.

JESUS IS THE KEY to the unity of the Spirit in a local assembly or Christian home. **JESUS HIMSELF** IS THE GREAT ATTRACTION, DRAWING CARD and BONDING FACTOR OF GENUINE NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY. Preaching the gospel to ourselves is great encouragement to a revival of 'symphonizing' around Jesus!

Bible Study, Prayer, Worship, Coming to the LORD'S TABLE, ministry one to another, and witnessing to the lost are the result of being made alive in Christ and baptized by the Holy Spirit into Christ and into a local congregation. (Acts 2; 1 Cor. 12-13) **Reality:** I don't have to be begged, babied, or pampered when I am rooted and grounded in and focused upon Christ!

3. UNITY Marks of the Early Christians, Christians through the centuries, and Christians today are that they/we literally EMBRACE the teachings of Jesus! They were and we are looking for Second Coming of Jesus! They were and the Holy Spirit will move us to be united in a passion to tell others about JESUS! MOREOVER, **the Early Christians**

were conscious of having been saved from ULTIMATE DISASTER— the eternal wrath of Holy God! **Thus, let us ‘drink deeply’**: Eph. 2:1-10; Titus 2:11-3:8

UNITY REALITIES:

1. Being rightly related to Jesus overflows into right relationships one with another! It is by this reality of **LOVING ONE ANOTHER** that all men shall know that we are truly His disciples! (John 13:34-35) **Being POORLY RELATED to fellow believers reveals FLAWS in our communion with Christ!**

2. THE AWESOME POWER OF JUST ONE: Even just ONE person in a home or even just one person in a church **will be supernaturally EFFECTIVE when** the Holy Spirit in them is unquenched, ungrieved, and (thus) unleashed!

3. Forgiven, they become forgivers. Loved, they become those who love— ALL THIS AND MORE IS THE CREATION OF GOD IN ALL OF HIS REDEEMED CHILDREN BY THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. There is an AUTOMATIC and foundational UNITY among all who are truly saved by grace alone through faith in Christ alone. (Ephesians 4:1-7)

We Christians have Serious Responsibility in the issues of the Holy Spirit empowered Symphony of love, forgiveness, purity, unity, perseverance and other manifestations of Christ! SO, WE ARE EXHORTED: **“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.” (Ephesians 4:3)

THINK ABOUT IT:

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

2. Holy Spirit HARMONY/SYMPHONY can only be kept by EFFORT. 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 some deadly ENEMIES! **THEREFORE:** WE MUST DAILY MORTIFY all the ‘works of the flesh’ (Galatians 5:19-21) and daily mortify our tongues which have the potential to be “a WORLD OF INIQUITY!” (James 3:1-18)

HOW? BY HEEDING THE WORD OF GOD:

1. NO BACKBITING— (Prov. 25:23; Rom. 1:30; Psalm 15:1-3) NO speaking negatively against another when he/she/they are not present.

2. NO 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 with murmuring, slandering spirits. In Old Testament days MILLIONS wandered for 40 years and then DIED in the desert because of MURMURING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-14**

3. NO 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. NO GOSSIP— (Psalm 41:5-9) *A Sportswriter once wrote:* “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!**”

5. NO SOWING OF DISCORD— (Prov. 6:16-19) those who ‘sow discord’ go around 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! IF ONLY 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. NO 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 greatly loved by the Backbiter, the Gossip, and the Discord Sower. Why?** Because talebearers get their kicks from being their *runners*; and talebearers never reveal their evil sources. They spill their evil reports and then, triumphantly declare, “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! (Gal. 6:1; 1 Cor. 1:11)

GODLY WEAPONS to GUARD the SYMPHONY... to Guard UNITY!

1. Walk in the Spirit (Eph. 5:18-23; Col. 3:16) and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh! 2. Keep a very still tongue! (James 1:26; 4:11; Titus 3:2) 3. SPEAK EVIL OF NO ONE! (Titus 3:2) 4. OBEY God’s method of Direct Communication: Matt. 18:15 / Gal. 6:1

The Six Points of Methodism: The early Methodist Revival lasted a long time— Doubtless, because they GUARDED THE SYMPHONY! Here is an edited version:

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. 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.

5. Neither will I mention this/these matters to any other person whatsoever.

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.

"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)

Great Grace to All! www.southsidegallatin.org

James Bell

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Contact Mike Munday at 615-681-7533

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

WEDNESDAYS: ☐ **6:30pm— Children** Ministry/activities; ☐ **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— (For both of these... enter via double doors by gym) ☐ **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...** Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Meets EVERY OTHER TUESDAY: **Studies in the Gospel of Luke! NEXT: October 11 @ 11:00am;** Cindy Bell teaching. [Front door open at 10:45 till 11:05am; or come in Iron Steps side entrance!]

MEN: EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! {Study in **ROMANS**}...

Come to back of Church building...

Come in under the drive-thru awning... walk forward... till you smell the coffee!

SUNDAY SERVICES, OCTOBER 9, 16, 23, 30

October 9: 9:30am- Sunday School

10:45am- Worship Service ** NO Children's Church

NOON 'Covered-dish' Lunch

1:00pm Service

October 16: 9:30am- Sunday School

10:45am- Worship Service **& LORD'S SUPPER**

NO Children's Church; **NO NOON** 'Covered-dish' Lunch

NO 1:00pm Service

***** HOME GROUPS MEET IN THE EVENING**

October 23: 9:30am- Sunday School

10:45am- Worship Service ** NO Children's Church

NOON 'Covered-dish' Lunch / No 1:00pm Service

**** EVENING SERVICE WITH JOHN MACKAY, OF CREATION RESEARCH**

6pm -7.30 one session.

Topic ...the Creation Museum down under has uncovered some fabulous new evidence Gods Word is true from the beginning and the world is not millions of years old!

Come and see what the Creation Guy John Mackay and his team have found. Great Q&A time and resources available.

October 30: 9:30am- Sunday School

10:45am- Worship Service ** NO Children's Church

NOON 'Covered-dish' Lunch / 1:00pm Service

**5:30pm-7:30pm— FAITHFUL MEN'S
FELLOWSHIP/STUDY/EQUIPPING**

SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL— *Uniting Church, Home, and School in CHRIST!*

For the 2016-2017 school term we are offering Second through Twelfth grades. Children need the Home, the Church, and the School to model and teach the same basic philosophy of life. ***Children are like young plants in a garden— they must be protected.***
<http://www.aceministries.com/curriculum/?content=presentingACE>

FOR Southsiders: next pages give important information as to Children's Church and Children's Sunday School:

10/4/2016

NECESSARY CHANGES IN SUNDAY SCHOOL and CHILDREN'S CHURCH!

Sometimes change is difficult! However, while I am very appreciative/THANKFUL for all the good ministry from many years of having Children's Church... and very appreciative for all the various Children's church workers, (Especially for those who invested the primary labors— Cindy Bell; Mel and Jade Kessler), it is now time for a new and different chapter: Our Children's Church ministry ended last Sunday.
WHY?

The reality is that we simply do not have enough qualified workers to do a good job in both Children's Church and in Children's Sunday School. Moreover, the reality is that a church is far more built up by GOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES than by C.C.

THEREFORE:

As stated, (As the C.C. children were told last Sunday), our Children's Church ministry has come to an end. We have nothing but profound gratitude for Cindy, Mel and Jade, and the various others who have, from

time to time, helped. MOREOVER, our necessity places before us DIFFERENT WAYS to enhance [NOT LESSEN] ministry to children... more on that with a later article.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL, GENERALLY 7-12 YEAR OLDS:

THANKS and GRATITUDE to Ben and Kristina Davis who in recent years have been the teachers of this class... with Mike Munday as the main substitute. The Davis' are in time of change: They want to be in an Adult S.S. class. This is fine. Plus, Ben is at a point of SEEKING to see if the LORD will be pleased to open up a bi-vocational Pastorate ministry... and if not... to at least be free to do 'supply preaching' in various churches.

Therefore, we need a new teacher for the Children's S.S. class.

After the LORD called the Carroll's to Red Boiling Springs, we had to again re-structure Children's church. Even though it remained possible for Cindy to usually be in 'Big Church'... she was left with the lion's share of preparing and tailoring lessons for whoever was to be working in C.C. on any given Sunday. This WAS FAR MORE labor intensive than if she had simply been preparing to lead C.C. herself... especially when Mel and Jade were not there. MOREOVER, for all the labor, she was having NO CONTACT with the children. BOTTOM LINE: The lack of GOOD SOLUTIONS for C.C. and the Davis' desire for change have come together perfectly for, what we believe, is a good solution for the Children's S.S. class!

***** Thus, starting this coming Sunday, Cindy Bell will be the new S.S. teacher for the Children's Sunday School class. She will use the Children's Church curriculum, which cycles through the Bible in a way that the children love and are given good instruction.**

[AS TO Mel and Jade: As we met and talked about options... and with all that is on their plate, they spoke of their desire to remain in their respective S.S. classes. Jade is especially blessed from the Ladies S.S. class, where in the context of lessons... she is also able to glean from the wisdom of older women. Mel is especially blessed from the Men's class

that Adam teaches. They, along with Mike Munday, will be available as subs for the Children's S.S. class.]

Yes, the changes will call for adjustments. BUT, THERE ARE GOOD THINGS THAT FLOW from our time of necessary change:

1. In the Sunday School, the Children's Class will CONTINUE with the excellent TEACHING MINISTRY which they have enjoyed in the now previous C.C. time.

(Meet in present Children's S.S. room at 9:30am)

2. There are MANY POSITIVE, INVALUABLE blessings and experiences that await both children and parents in BIG CHURCH together.

(More on this reality later!)

Grace to one and all!

James Bell