



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 46, No. 30, July 27, 2021 / Southside Baptist Church / 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; and 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 JESUS CHRIST!"***

CALLING for 'FAMILY MINISTRY!'

There are multitudes of families with children and youth; plus young couples, and young single adults who sincerely LOOK FOR and who continue to embrace 'THE BIG-TENT' entertainment/discipleship model of church. You may ask: "Of what are you speaking?"

I. The Big Tent Model!

Children, youth, young adults go to a 'Christian concert', (Before covid), or to a 'Fun focused Sunday School, VBS, and/or Sunday worship. At some point they walk down an aisle, pray the prayer they are told to pray; and then make a profession of faith; and the religious authorities pronounce them as SAVED! HOWEVER, FOR MANY it is all absent of conviction of sin, repentance, and absent of real conversion. They are baptized; but very few ever give evidence of being a DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST!

Sadly, churches are filled with children, youth, and adults who have "walked an aisle, repeated a prayer, and accepted Jesus" but they never become FOLLOWERS OF JESUS!

*THE SHEEP BELONGING TO JESUS—
FOLLOW HIM!! (John 10:26-30)*

A BIG PART OF THE PROBLEM is that many, even conservative, modern churches have rejected the Biblical strategy of “Family” Evangelism & Discipleship!

1. GOD’S STRATEGY: Parents... even SINGLE Parents and Grandmothers are called to flood the hearts and minds of even small children with the pure WORD OF GOD! 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15.

2. GOD’S STRATEGY: Especially, Fathers: “God’s requirements for youth/child evangelism/discipleship are clear! **Fathers are commanded to diligently teach their children and care for their souls day by day.**” (Deut. 6:1-9; Eph. 6:4)

NOTE: There is NOTHING NECESSARILY WRONG with Bible-based Church activities like Sunday School, Camp, VBS, etc. BUT they must NEVER BE a substitute for godly parenting! Sadly, Fathers often define exemplary fatherhood as going to the kid’s games; getting them into a Sunday school or youth group; and/or having their wives take charge of the ‘spiritual life’ of the children.

FATHERS/PARENTS: Wake Up!

Dawson MacAlister, national youth ministry specialist, remarked that **90% of youth active in high school church programs drop out of church by the time they are sophomores on college.** The Southern Baptist Council on Family Life **reported an even more staggering statistic — **that 88% of the children in evangelical homes leave church at the age of 18.**

Pray for an Uprising of Men! WE NEED an uprising of men committed to personally walking with JESUS, manifesting the fruit of the Holy Spirit; and discipling their children. **Among other things, Psalm 22:30-31 shows how God brings the glory of salvation from one generation to the next through those who take seriously the charge to teach their children!** “Posterity will serve Him; they will tell of the Lord to the next generation. They will come and declare His righteousness to a people yet to be born—that He has done it [and that it is finished].”

“May we LIVE and preach the fullness of the gospel to our households and give our children a thousand reasons to believe!”

II. Don't Give Spiritual Custody of Your Children to the Church edited from Ray Baumann

After 10 years of youth ministry I wish I could go back and spend more time discipling and resourcing parents. **There is no sacrifice too big, no cost too high, in exchange for shepherding your own children.** No wonder the church can only retain minimal students when they graduate high school—CHRISTIANITY HAS NOT BEEN MODELED and TAUGHT at home

THE GREAT NEED IS THIS: FAMILY MINISTRY, where Dad and Mom lead the way they should, biblically. Mom and Dad need to reprioritize, even if it means giving up hobbies. Sacrifices must be made when it comes to Godly parenting. Family time is a must. Kids must see mom and dad lead by example. **Proverbs 22:6**, **“Train up a child in the way he should go and, when he is old, he will not depart from it.”**

III. "A Pastor's Perspective" *"The Challenge of Youth Ministries!"* Mike Wing, Grace Community Bible Church (Edited)

Over the past few years I have had an increasingly common conversation with people who are looking for a church. In almost every instance, the first question they ask is, "Do you have a youth group?" **WHAT DO YOU OFFER THE YOUTH?**

Rarely do these people ask about our church's doctrinal position or where we stand on current issues that are impacting the church.

I am afraid that the church today has lost its focus by centering its ministry around providing a fun environment for its children. Everything is done to attract and keep the interest of children.

If children claim boredom we fall all over ourselves to apologize and try to find increasingly entertaining ways to ensure that the kids are having fun. This unbiblical focus has had a detrimental effect upon the church in general and our children in particular.

HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF A GODLY, BIBLE SATURATED YOUTH/ADULT MINISTRY: Cornelis Aertsz de Man, around the year 1544-45, witnessed an Anabaptist being burned at the stake, for refusing to recant and bow to Romanism. In the flames the man prayed for his tormentors.

Cornelis, age 14, was so moved by such a beautiful faith that he searched and FOUND A HOME where Anabaptists were having Bible study.

"Their witness of faith, their serious study of the Word, their joy in life, and their concern for love and moral integrity all excited him."

THE CONGREGATION'S adult/youth/children's program was all the same: THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD and by the power of the Holy Spirit, sinners are converted to Christ and DISCIPLED. Cornelis was converted, baptized, and discipled. **AT AGE 17** the Roman Catholic institution captured and imprisoned Cornelis.

They later brought him into a castle court room where they lined the walls with Romanists priests.

There they promised that if only Cornelis would renounce his simple Biblical faith and return to the state Romanist church—that he would be give a FUTURE OF POSITION AND HONOR.

Cornelis calmly replied: "***There is NO HIGHER POSITION than to be a child of God; and NO GREATER HONOR than to be a voice for Him!***" He would not recant. At age 21, he became a MARTYR FOR CHRIST.

Qualities of a truly successful youth ministry:

1. Parental involvement! The Scriptures are clear when they tell us of the parents' responsibility to train their children in the fear and the admonition of the Lord. It is the parents' who are to love their children. It is the parents' responsibility to instruct their children in biblical truths; and to be the chief Models of Christ!

It is the parents' responsibility to lovingly discipline their children when they detect bad behavior and unbiblical attitudes. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that their children understand the meaning of ministry, both within and without of the local church.

Youth groups should never and can never take over the parents' responsibility in raising their children.

A truly "successful" youth group will simply provide the parents a tool to help them fulfill their God-given responsibilities. (Deut. 6:4-9; Pr. 19:18; 29:15, 17; Eph. 6:4)

SO, what are some things that PARENTS MUST DO?

a. Set the example at home. Again, your child will learn far more at home - for good or bad - observing your behavior than they will ever learn at any youth function. *"My son, observe the commandment of your father And do not forsake the teaching of your mother;"* (Proverbs 6:20)

b. Be active within the LOCAL church. We must see to it that our view of the local body of believers is in line with the scriptures." Paul spoke of, *"the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."*

Church Youth ministries, [SUCH AS Sunday School Classes and/or Wednesday night FAMILY CLASS] are to be **PARENTS TEAMED UP** modeling, serving, **helping each other** DISCIPLE children and youth. It just so happens that God gave children to PARENTS!

Parents are God's Chief YOUTH DIRECTORS!

d. Be supportive of those who want to minister to your children. Parents unwittingly undermine Bible-based youth ministry within the church by allowing their children to pick and choose which activities they will attend... and even what church they attend. BE FAITHFUL IN ATTENDANCE.

2. PLACE Priority ON imparting spiritual truth. *"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."* (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

Parents ... If your child is bored with the faithful proclamation of the truth, the problem is not with the youth group or Sunday School Teacher... but with your child's heart!

PARENTS: It is your responsibility to do all that is within your power to share the gospel with YOUR CHILDREN; and give them instruction on the importance of truth in the life of the believer.

b. AGAIN, youth groups should not be designed to entertain our children.

Scripture is clear when it tells us to rejoice in the Lord always. This rejoicing is to be centered on a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. As a Christian, I am to rejoice in my service for Him.

But I can find no place in Scripture where we are told that following Christ and being involved in ministry is to be "fun" as the world defines it.

"TIMOTHY'S 'YOUTH PASTOR'... The apostle Paul told his young disciple Timothy, ***"Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, "*** (2 Tim. 1:8)

To hold the attention of the youth, most programs have to increasingly compete with the world.

In the process, the biblical emphasis is diminished in favor of entertaining the kids. IN CONTRAST, BY THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD in and through the WORD OF GOD, being lived out by the PEOPLE OF GOD—GENUINE GOSPEL MINISTRY EXCITES A 14 YEAR OLD:

“Cornelis, age 14, was so moved by such a beautiful faith that he searched and FOUND A HOME where Anabaptists were having Bible study. "Their witness of faith, their serious study of the Word, their joy in life, and their concern for love and moral integrity all excited him."

3. Inclusion of youth in the overall ministry of the church.

Opportunity for the youth to apply the truths they are learning through God-honoring service and fellowship within the church body as a whole is necessary.

I would like to close with one more observation. Godly, older saints have a wealth of knowledge and experience with which they can be a blessing to subsequent generations.

[This Newsletter is edited from a variety of sources]

GRACE TO ALL! James Bell www.southsidegallatin.org

NEWS NOTES:

EVERY Saturday, * 8:00am — Men’s Bible Study: NEW STUDY: THE BOOK OF JOB! ... On 8/6/21, we start in Chapter 2! (Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee’s Biscuits are available!)**

***** Ladies Bible Study! SUMMER BREAK IS OVER! NEXT STUDY IS AUGUST 3 @ 11:00 AM**

SUNDAY SERVICES, AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 22, 29:

***** Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes.

***** WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

[THE WHOLE MONTH OF AUGUST—DE-CLUTTER and improve the attractiveness/ welcoming appearance of every room!]

August 1 @ NOON... Covered Dish FELLOWSHIP Meal

August 8 @ 5:00 PM, FAITHFUL MEN, 1689 Confession of Faith

August 15... LORD'S SUPPER at the end of the Morning Worship service; HOME GROUPS @ various times

AUGUST 22, 5:00pm- Church Wide WORSHIP SERVICE in the auditorium! A variety of singing/praise... FOLLOWED BY THE PREACHING OF THE WORD OF GOD!

AUGUST 28, SATURDAY @ 9:30 AM—DE-CLUTTER THE CHURCH BUILDING DAY!

TUESDAYS: WEEKLY Youth Group Meeting, ages 12 and up ... Tuesdays a 7:15pm... at Jaden and Rhi's home...

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ SOUTHSIDE: 6:30pm— Come in back 'double doors' under the Drive Thru awning!

**** Adult Prayer Service**

**** Young FAMILIES Prayer Service**

TO RECEIVE LIVE STREAMING FOR AUGUST 1st, GO TO: www.southsidegallatin.org

***** LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or by ONLINE GIVING: SUCH funds, (if checks), make out to Southside Baptist) —**

**MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594,
Gallatin, TN 37066**

OR, you may choose to GIVE, via ONLINE GIVING:

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