

Morning Worship

August 30, 2015

Worship Leader — Tim Waters Piano — Sharon Waters

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship Allan/People

Psalm 25 Tim/People

Chorus # 236 "Bless That Wonderful Name" Tim/Peop

Offering Music Sharon Waters

Hymn # 335 "Standing on the Promises" Tim/People

Hymn # 405 "Have Faith in God" Tim/People

Chorus # 386 "The Family of God" Tim/People

Anthem "The Stand" Worship Choir

Scripture Reading Allan/People

Message Allan Lane

Human // 207 "Just As I Am" Tim (Dove)

Hymn # 30/ "Just As I Am" Him/People Praise

Share This Love | Tim/People

Ephesians 4:1-16

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Don't worry. This isn't about attending more meetings. Meetings can be good, but we've come to view consistent attendance at events as the goal of spiritual maturity. It's not about getting on another committee or upping your level of giving. Your goal isn't necessarily to become a better church worker. This morning let's examine Characteristics of Maturing Church Members. Becoming the perfect church member begins with concentrating on being the perfect church member as God is perfecting you.

1. Put on Tough Skin.

People leave the church for a variety of silly reasons. One woman left because the pastor wouldn't say that the Bible prohibits the use of alcohol. Another bailed out because an associate preached about people only wanting "\$5.00 worth of God" and that was the exact amount she'd given in her offering that morning. Members vacate churches because the pastor doesn't come see them enough or because he shows up too much. They leave because of the color of the carpet or a disagreement about how money is spent. One of the biggest reasons people leave is relational conflict with the pastor or other church members. A conflict erupts and members typically jump ship rather than stick around to work it out.

Sometimes it is appropriate to leave a body of believers. If public sin is occurring and the leadership refuses to address it that might be a good time to bail. If the Bible is not being preached or its truths are being twisted, you should follow Adrian Rogers' advice and saturate that place with your absence. Sometimes it's okay to leave, but

for the most part we are to stick with one another through the good times and the bad.

God brings sinners together who've been forgiven by His grace. He calls people together who will hurt one another – intentionally or unintentionally – so that we can demonstrate the grace we've received from God. Conflict among believers is one of the ways God perfects us. We short circuit His work when we abandon ship rashly.

Now, what makes perfect church members is not being perfect. What makes church members perfect is being perfected in Christ. Part of that being perfected is making a commitment to put up with one another. This commitment is vital to spiritual maturity. In Ephesians 4:1-3 Paul gives the believers practical advice concerning their commitment to one another,

To live out your calling to salvation and your calling to God's mission you must be committed to the church. There's no way around it. No one can be in the will of God, much less growing in their faith, separated from the body of Christ. Charles Stanley, Joel Osteen, Joyce Meyer, and Beth Moore cannot replace commitment to a church family. We grow spiritually by putting up with one another through thick and thin.

It's obvious from Paul's command why so many so easily and forsake one another when the going gets tough. Paul says to be completely humble. To Greek ears that meant taking on the attitude of a lowly slave. Put your ego aside and consider your brothers and sisters in the faith as better than yourselves. When you can do that you can be gentle with them. Gentleness is strength under control. Though you could squash that annoying or abrasive fellow Christian you choose to be gentle. Because you have this attitude and commitment you develop patience. Other translations use the term long-suffering which means you put up with church members' junk without retaliation for a long time. Your goal is to love, to seek the best for your brothers and sisters in the faith, so you bear with the church even when the members frustrate or disappoint you.

To make this level of commitment will shape you spiritually. God will perfect you as you remain connected to people you'd like to abandon. It's easy to understand why this is so powerful. We are to copy the way Jesus conducted Himself as expressed by Paul in Philippians 2:5-8.

2. Put Leadership in Place.

Picture a football team all huddled around their coach before kick-off. A great cheer goes up, then the coach runs out onto the field and all the players stand on the sidelines and cheer him on. He receives the kick...then gets nailed by 11 opposing tacklers! As foolish as that sounds, that happens when a church picks up on the idea that the pastors are the 'paid professionals' and are the ones to be doing the work of the ministry!

Most churches in our nation choose pastors for the wrong reason. We pick them and pay them to do ministry. It's telling that we call pastors "ministers" but that's simply not the biblical role of the pastor. Church leaders are not called to work IN ministry as much as they're called to work ON ministry. Church leaders, including pastors, are called to work themselves out of a job by equipping members to do ministry. (Just so we're clear on definitions: ministry is meeting needs in Jesus' name.) Paul spells it out for the people of Ephesus in Ephesians 4:11-12a.

The Bible does not encourage looking to one or two individuals to do the work of ministry. Do not absolve yourself of the responsibility to do ministry just because you have a paid pastor. His job is to prepare you for works of service. Put leadership in its place. When someone steps in the door and asks, "Who is the minister here," you

should be able to point to any member and say, "There she is ... That's him over there ... Take your pick - there are a lot of them here."

3. Put Grace to Work.

Grace is a gift from God. We define Grace as an undeserved blessing. When we think of grace we usually associate it with our salvation. But let me say it more specifically - Grace is any gift from God that serves the body. In Ephesians 4:7, 12b-14, Paul reveals that there's so much more to it. Each one, each member has been given grace to serve the body. Not just pastors and missionaries, not just the 20% who seem to pull the weight of the entire church while 80% remain spectators - every member has been gifted and called to serve. If you are not serving, utilizing the grace God has given you, you are a disobedient Christian. The church will not grow to its redemptive potential. You will not reach the level of spiritual maturity God intends. If you are not engaged in ministry with and to other believers you are cheating your fellow Christians. The gift of grace God lavished on you was meant to be shared not hoarded.

Perhaps it's not an overstatement to say that churches are shriveling because members are not using what God has given them. Think about us here at Calvary. We attempt to preach and teach in an acceptable manner. The congregation here is exceedingly generous. Faith is genuine here. Love is evident. But are we as the church, as a whole as well as individual members "attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

We have our excuses, don't we? Here's the one that may apply to Calvary: "I would serve in ministry, but ... I am getting too old." How old was Noah when God called him to build the ark? How old was Abraham when God called him to leave his country and go to the Promised Land? How old was Moses when he was recruited to deliver the Israelites from slavery in Egypt? How old was Anna who worshipped, prayed, and fasted in the Temple until the coming of the Lord? Throughout the Bible there are several instances of older people making themselves willing to serve the Lord. And you can look and look, but you will never find a ministry retirement age. Put your personal grace to work no matter your age, stage, abilities, or disabilities.

4. Put on Truth .

Paul closes out this section of Ephesians by describing the growth of the church like the growth of a baby. Have you ever noticed how disproportionate the head and body of a baby are? When a baby lifts their arms in the air, how far up can those little hands reach? To the ears if they're lucky. Human beings grow into their heads, so to speak. If you saw an adult with a huge head and arms that reached only to their ears you'd know that something had stunted their growth. The church grows the same way, from the head outward. Ephesians 4:15-16 says what it takes to get the body, the church, to grow in proportion to its head, Christ.

We are to be so close and so connected to one another that our faith is obvious. We are called to live out the truth of Jesus Christ and His command in front of one another. Faith is to be demonstrated primarily among a committed community of believers. People out of the will of God, people disobeying God cannot possibly grow to spiritual maturity. Only living out the truth in front of other Christians, up close and personal, can accomplish this.

Conclusion

In the novel, *The Goal*, Al Rogo gets stuck with 15 Boy Scouts on an overnight hike. They have to cover 10 miles the first day to get to their destination before nightfall. At two miles per hour he figures they'll get to their camping sight with time

to spare. He assigns one boy to lead while the rest follow and Rogo takes up the back of the line. As they walk, gaps appear and the boys begin to spread out. A chubby kid named Harold is especially slow. At lunch Rogo realizes that at their current pace they'll reach the campsite long after dark. Harold is really slowing them down. So what's his solution? After lunch he puts Harold in the front of the line. The gaps disappear and the boys are walking together. Some of the kids want to move faster so they decide to speed Harold up by helping carry items from his pack. As it turns out, he's overloaded with a six pack of drinks and an iron skillet and other heavy objects. The boys and their leader redistribute the load, the pace picks up, and they reach their destination with plenty of time to spare.

The body of Christ, the church, is a lot like that. We're on this journey together, but if we try to do it independently our progress slows to a crawl – individually and corporately. Some folks get frustrated at the slow pace and bail out. Others become weary and worn and then drop out. The body doesn't grow, the people don't grow, God uses other means to reach the community for Christ, and the church settles in to fundraisers and routines. The doors may stay open and the lights stay on, but neither the Christians nor the community experience transformation.

Our unity is essential. We must all move together. Each member must do his or her part. We must cease going to church and start being the church. Don't try to merely be an active church member, strive instead to be a perfect church member. Make the commitment to put up with one another. Put leadership in its place – to equip you for ministry. Put your personal grace to work. Put on truth, live it and speak it – up close and personal. If you'll concentrate on being the perfect church member you'll see God perfecting you.

Unity Is Essential!

Early Missions Strategists

1 Timothy 4:11-16

The Bible recounts how God has used people of all ages and backgrounds to advance His purposes. Many of the most remarkable accounts involve young people. Don't be surprised that God continues to use them.

1. Earliest Traces .
2. The Moravians .
3. The Cambridge Seven.
4. The Student Volunteer Movement.
 - A) Samuel Mills .
 - B) The Haystack Prayer Meeting.
 - C) American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.
 - D) Growth and Outreach .
 - E) Confusion and Decline .
 - F) Recent Advances .

The Perfect Church

As we continue stressing basics in our Christian lives, we cannot forget church membership. To most of us that is a positive thing, but for others who may be indifferent or have perceived bad experiences with a New Testament Church, it can bring negative connotations. It is important that we discuss being a "perfect" church, but mostly it comes down to us striving to become perfect church members. Perhaps you've read the following poem entitled, "The Perfect Church." Where I copied it from did not list an author. Read it with an open mind.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan ☺

*If you should find the perfect church
Without one fault or smear,
For goodness sake! Don't join that church;
You'd spoil the atmosphere.*

*If you should find the perfect church
Where all anxieties cease
Then pass it by, lest joining it
You'd mar the masterpiece.*

*If you should find the perfect church
Then don't you ever dare,
To tread upon such holy ground;
You'd be a misfit there.*

*But since no perfect church exists
Made of imperfect men,
Then let's cease looking for that church
And love the church we're in.*

*Of course, it's not a perfect church,
That's simple to discern
But you and I and all of us
Could cause the tide to turn.*

*What fools we are to flee our post
In that unfruitful search
To find at last where problems loom
God proudly builds His church.*

*So let's keep working in our church
Until the resurrection.
And then we each will join that church
Without an imperfection.*

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan
Sunday, August 30, 2015

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: George Ferbert, Fred Kerns, Ken Nice, Don Sharp

Alternate: Isaac Waters

Evening Worship..... 6:30 pm

Wednesday, September 2

Youth Study 6:30 pm

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, September 3

G Team.....6:30 pm

Sunday, September 6, 2015

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am
Sunday School 9:15 am
Morning Worship.....10:30 am
Nursery: Volunteers as needed
Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbrough,
Joseph Coats, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Larry McKahan
Executive Vice Chair 2-2-2

Evening Worship 6
Monday, September 7
Labor Day
NO Food Kitchen tonight!

Wednesday, September 9

Wednesday, September 5
Prayer Warriors.....10:00 am
Youth Study..... 6:30 pm
Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm
Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, September 10

Thursday, September 15
R Team.....6:30 pm

Saturday, September 12

Saturday, September 11
Doug Hutcherson Memorial 2 pm
Beth Moore Simulcast at Frazier Baptist Church.....8:30 am

Up-Coming Events.....

All September — Missouri Missions Offering Emphasis

September 7 — Labor Day

September 1 - Labor Day — We will not

— Stewardship/Leadership Dinner

September 12 — Memorial for Doug Hutcherson

September 12 — Memorial for Doug Hutcherson 2pm Simulcast with Beth Moore at Frazier

= simulcast with Beth Moore at Frazier Baptist

September 22 — SJBA Annual Meeting 7:00 pm

September 23 — See You At the Pole

October 2-3 — Women of Faith Simulcast, Wyatt Park Baptist

October 4-8 — Senior Adult Revival

October 17 — T4T Training, Journey Baptist Church

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** Everyone make a contact! Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

Sunday Nights

We will continue our study on Early Mission Strategists tonight in evening service. Hope to see you at 6:30 pm.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We will be meeting this Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Please make plans to attend. Prayer and Bible Study matter!

See You At the Pole

SEE YOU AT THE POLE day is Wednesday, September 23, at 7:00 a.m. local time. All around the globe, in every time zone, students will be gathering at their flagpoles, praying for their school, friends, families, churches, and communities. SEE YOU AT THE POLE in prayer for our generation!

Missouri Missions Offering

We will be emphasizing Missouri Missions throughout the month of September. Prayerfully consider how God would lead you to give.

Living Proof Live Ministries Presents A Beth Moore Simulcast

This simulcast will be held on September 12, 2015. At this time, Frazier Baptist Church is the only one registered at the Beth Moore Living Proof Simulcast website. To register for this event or for more information visit their website:

<http://www.frazierbaptist.com/bethmoore.html>

The event begins at 8:30 am with the first session beginning at 9:30 am.

Memorial Service

September 12, 2015, there will be a memorial service held for Doug Hutcherson here at the church at 2 pm.

Food Kitchen

Because of Labor Day we will not serve at the Valley Food Kitchen in September. Put October 5th on your calendar!

For the Record-

Attendance: August 23, 2015

Sunday School.....	52
Visitors.....	0
Total.....	52
Contacts Made.....	8
Morning Worship.....	61
Children's Worship	16
Sunday Night	10
Wednesday Night	19

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget.....	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received...	\$ 1,742.80

Offering Received by Mail:

September Counting Team:

Larry McKahan and Mike Green

September Van Driver:

George Burgess
Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

September Birthdays:

05...Nellie Reynolds
12...Grant Schottel
20...Elmer Mayse
20...LoLeta Middleton
20...Tim Waters
21...Joyce Izer
22...Rachael Molloy
23...Kenny Kirkpatrick
29...Lindsey Rasmussen

September Anniversaries

No anniversaries are recorded for the month of September. If we have missed yours in error, please let us know. Thanks.

Prayer Requests ...

Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
