



JACKSON CHURCH OF CHRIST

Family Matters

March 12, 2023

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Greg Dowdy
Charlie Kluesner
Doug Lester
Brian Mitchell
Todd Newman
Kenny Simmons
Scott Spraggs

Lessons for Today

AM: Brian Mitchell
"Understanding How the Church Grows--Edification"
Ephesians 4:11-16

PM: Brian Mitchell
"Do You Not Know"
1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Understanding How the Church Grows—Edification

Our working proposition thus far has been that God designed the church to grow (internally and externally) and thus expects for it to do so. Thus, if the church is not growing we must ask ourselves, what we are doing to stop it. Because healthy churches are growing churches. It is then with this in mind that we are seeking to identify those characteristics which are visible in healthy churches so that we might see whether those characteristics are evident here.

You need to understand what I am talking about when I talk about church growth. There are actually 2 aspects of church growth. The actual building up, strengthening, and establishing in the faith those who presently constitute the church—Individual spiritual growth. The adding of the lost to the church, which obviously increases that number of Christians who belong to the body of Christ, both universally and locally—Congregational growth.

Thus, when I say that healthy churches are growing churches what I mean is that when a church is biblically and spiritually healthy what we will see as an automatic result are churches: where members are being built up in Christ, where members are encouraged to live faithful and godly lives and where every member is actively involved in the use of their own uniquely God-given abilities. As a result, when churches are healthy and members are growing in spirit, what you will also inevitably see are more and more people from the world being led to Christ and then in turn spiritually built up.

This is what I mean by use of the term church growth and it is this that you need to keep in mind as we continue to examine those characteristics which mark healthy churches. The book of Romans was written to church members, by a church member, for church members and as such carries great relevance for the church still to this day. In it Paul said, "Therefore, let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another" (Rom.14:19). That the edification or building up of the church is extremely important in the eyes of God can be easily seen from the amount of emphasis this important topic is given in the NT record.

In reality all we do as Christians is to be done in part for the building up of one another and the reaching of the lost. Thus, edification is a natural characteristic of a healthy church, and in fact edification is what Paul says is the goal of a biblically balanced church ministry—Eph.4:11-12. Thus, healthy churches are churches where every member is encouraged in and helped to develop their ministry talents for the purpose of building up (edifying) the church as a whole.

Is this a church of edification; a church where the membership is being built up and encouraged? That depends upon each of us? Are you doing your part to build up your brothers and sisters in Christ? Healthy churches are edifying churches, and healthy churches are growing churches. The question then is; how can I as a member of this congregation contribute to the spiritual well-being of the membership of this congregation?

Brian Mitchell

Worship Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:00 am
AM Worship: 10:00 am
PM Worship: 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:00 pm

For the Record

Sunday Class: 87
Sunday AM: 150
Sunday PM: 58
Wednesday PM: 62
Contribution: \$5807
Budget: \$4831

Think on This...

Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.

Psalm 126:5

Celebrating This Week...

Birthdays

Trenton Bryan: 03.15
Caroline Long: 03.15
Cierra Garland: 03.17

Serving This Week

Announcements: Randy Seabaugh

SUNDAY

Greeters: Randy & Emma Seabaugh

Ushers: Scott Spraggs/Troy Bryan/
Leonard Fulbright

A/V: Phil Swiney

Nursery: Terri Bryan

Lead Singing: Seth Spraggs

Head Lord's Table: Murray Dunn

Scripture: Greg Dowdy

Prayers:

AM: Steve Simmons/Shawn Myers

PM: Eric Craft/Dan Silvers

WEDNESDAY

Lead Singing: Scott Watson

Devo: Ron Fehr

Prayer: Gary Miller

Elder Chair: Gary Ridenour

Communion to Shut-Ins: Dan Silvers

Worship Organizer: Ron Fehr

Remember in Prayer

- **Chris Weaver** is continuing to recover well and expects to return HOME on Sunday!
- **Scott Lanpher**, Barbara Lanpher's son & Jennifer Huskey's brother, remains in St Francis Hospital. He has moved out of ICU, but is awaiting biopsy results before they can address his broken hip.
- **Susan Seabaugh** has learned that her pain is being caused by severe arthritis and degenerative disease. She is working with pain management to avoid surgery as long as possible and was scheduled for her first injection treatment this past week.
- **Jessica Statler**, a Lanpher, Huskey, and Simmons family member, suffered significant loss in a house fire last week. They are still assessing damage and will let us know specifically how we can help once that is clear.
- **Lorna Thompson** learned a few weeks ago that she is cancer free, but additional testing shows that she does have a breast cancer gene, so she is now working with genetic specialists to combat this new diagnosis. She is very thankful for our continued prayers.

Daily Bible Reading

March 12: Deuteronomy 3-4

March 13: Deuteronomy 5-7

March 14: Deuteronomy 8-10

March 15: Deuteronomy 11-13

March 16: Deuteronomy 14-16

March 70: Deuteronomy 17-20

March 18: Deuteronomy 21-23

Thank You

*"To my Dearest Brothers & Sisters,
Thank you for all your help with my mother's memorial service. Your generosity of time and energy toward my family and friends is so greatly appreciated. What a splendid memorial it was. May God bless & keep you all.*

*In Christian Love,
Nick Brown & Family*

Continuing Prayer Needs

****Contact the office with updates****

Ron Anderson	Jalonda Harris
Ginger Avery	Allen & Juanita Hedge
Esther Beck	Betty Jones
Shannon Birk	Sid Naramore
Mark Blaylock	Carolyn Neese
Lee Brooks	Wanda Raper
Dalton Bryan	Susan Seabaugh
Reita Conley	Steve Simmons
Donna Cox	Lee Simpson
Bill Dillman	Don Tawney
Newt & Kay Gilliland	Chris Weaver

News & Notes

- **Paragould Children's Homes** item of the week: **Kidney Beans**
- Make plans to stay for the potluck lunch this **Sunday, March 12** after morning services. Bring a dish or two and stay for a good time of fellowship.

Scholarship Opportunities

- **Sarah's Giff Scholarship** is open to any graduating senior attending college or technical school. Applications are available in the office and must be postmarked by **April 15**.
- **Curtis James Memorial Scholarship** is available to any student enrolled at a college or university affiliated with the churches of Christ. Applications are available in the office and should be returned by **May 1** to the office.

Upcoming Area Events

- **March 19-22:** **Brian Mitchell** will be holding a gospel meeting at the **Wetaug, Illinois** congregation
- **March 18:** Fruitland Community Church is hosting a Clothing Exchange from 10am-1pm. Anyone is welcome to drop off old clothing and/or take home new! Clothing may be dropped off at their building the day before if you'd like to donate.
- **April 2-4:** **Arnold Gospel Meeting** with **Cliff Goodwin**

