



JACKSON CHURCH OF CHRIST
Family Matters

April 9, 2023

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George Clark
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 Charlie Kluesner
 Doug Lester
 Brian Mitchell
 Todd Newman
 Kenny Simmons
 Scott Spraggs

Lessons for Today

AM: Brian Mitchell
 "Understanding How the Church Grows—Elimination"
 1 Corinthians 5:9-11

PM: Brian Mitchell
 "Conquering the Corinthians Pride"
 1 Corinthians 4:6-13

Understanding How the Church Grows—Elimination

Understanding how the church grows can be difficult because sometimes it forces us to face difficult situations. Sometimes we have to go backwards before we can move forward. Sometimes the church grows through the subtraction of ungodly and immoral members. God neither approves of, nor blesses, congregations of His people who wink at or overlook the glaring existence of sin among the lives of its members--1 Cor.5:9-11. Thus, healthy congregations are those which take seriously God's call to practice discipline among its own members (including withdrawal of fellowship when necessary), however painful it may be.

The discipline of disorderly Christians serves several purposes: it serves as a warning to other Christians living in sin. It expresses love for the soul of the one disciplined. And it shows a congregation's faithfulness to all of God's Word, not just the parts that are easy. When done properly—in the right spirit, with the right intentions, and with great patience—the practice of church discipline will lead the church to grow in strength, if not in number.

Sometimes the church grows through the subtraction of ungodly and immoral characteristics. The local church will also experience growth when its members seek to rid themselves of the cumbersome weight of sin which the Bible says "so easily ensnares or entangles us" (Heb.12:1). The act of pruning a rose bush is done so that that which is dead and actually hindering the growth of the roses can be eliminated.

That same act is also needed in the individual lives of Christians. There are personal characteristics and traits that must be eliminated from the lives of Christians before they will experience the kind of personal growth that God intended for them to experience. Thus, we must be ever committed and vigilant in our efforts to cull out the sins in our lives that are hindering us from growing personally.

Sins like what? Immorality and worldliness, jealousy and envy and doctrinal impurity. As we examine each of these areas it will become readily apparent why they must be eliminated if we are to have a healthy growing church full of healthy growing Christians. These are characteristics which ought to be extinct in God's church. Thus, again growth comes by the elimination of worldly members that will not walk in the light and the elimination of ungodly and immoral characteristics in the lives of those who belong to the local church.

Why must we do this? Part of the mission of the church is the act of being a positive influence in the world we live in. This becomes impossible to do when we have lost our flavor and extinguished our lights by tolerating members who live in sin and by being composed of members that are no less worldly than those around them. How can worldly Christians influence others to give up the world? Thus, again we grow in part through our commitment to actually live the Word of God and taking appropriate measures to correct the behavior of those who do not.

That kind of commitment makes an impression, not only upon the church, but also upon those in the world. The remainder of our lesson today will focus on the fact that if this church really wants to grow then every member must truly be committed. To the other things we have discussed in this series but also to eliminating those characteristics which are hindering our ability to personally grow as we should and which are destroying our ability to positively influence the world.

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: 93
 Sunday AM: 139
 Sunday PM: 83
 Wednesday PM: 71
 Contribution: \$5500
 Budget: \$4831

Think on This...

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7

Celebrating This Week...

Birthdays

Grant Foltz: 04.11
 Chloe Simmons: 01.11
 Susan Seabaugh: 04.12
 Betty Jones: 04.15
 Braxtyn Walls: 04.15

Anniversaries

Ron & Leslie Fehr: 04.10
 John & Cheral McLain: 04.14

Serving This Week

Announcements: Larry Dowdy

SUNDAY

Greeters: Larry & Margaret Dowdy
Ushers: Patrick Kellett/Shawn Myers
A/V: Greg Dowdy
Nursery: Janet Singleton
Lead Singing: Todd Newman
Head Lord's Table: David Selvig
Scripture: Sid Naramore
Prayers:
AM: David Selvig/Phil Swiney
PM: Kevin Bolen/Jerry Singleton

WEDNESDAY

Lead Singing: Todd Newman
Devo: Allen Hedge
Prayer: Wally Eck

Elder Chair: David Selvig

Communion to Shut-Ins: Randy Seabaugh

Worship Organizer: Mat Kee

Daily Bible Reading

April 9: 1 Samuel 4-8

April 10: 1 Samuel 9-12

April 11: 1 Samuel 13-14

April 12: 1 Samuel 15-17

April 13: 1 Samuel 18-20; Psalms 11, 59

April 14: 1 Samuel 21-24

April 15: Psalms 7, 27, 31, 34, 52

Continuing Prayer Needs

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

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

Remember in Prayer

- **Nancy Lester** was to have surgery on Thursday and expected to stay overnight. A list is posted to help with meals while she recovers.
- **Marie Corzine** will have shoulder surgery on Thursday.
- **Susan Seabaugh** has gotten good pain relief with medicine and physical therapy and will not need surgery at this time.
- Marcia Ridenour's dad, **Bill Dillman**, is continuing to improve and was released from the hospital this week.
- Remember all of those affected by the tornado on Wednesday in Glen Allen as well as the tornadoes in Arkansas and Tennessee earlier in the week.

Tornado Relief

- If you would like to contribute toward the relief efforts for tornado victims in the Glen Allen/Marble Hill area, please make your donation this Sunday or next (April 9 & April 16) by dropping a check in the collection plate. Be sure to make a note in the memo line for "Tornado Relief". Cash should be placed in a marked envelope. See Gary Miller with any questions.

Rejoice!

- We are proud of **Garrett Craft** on his decision to put on Christ in baptism on Saturday night.
 - We also rejoice with **Dawsyn Walls** as he was baptized on Sunday evening.
- Take time to encourage both of these young men and pray for them as they begin their Christian walk.

News & Notes

- New lists are on the entryway table for **Paragould Children's Homes** (next pickup on July 10). Items needed are: **Scotch/Masking Tape, Napkins, Paper Plates & Cups, Ketchup, Spaghetti O's, Liquid Fabric Softener.**
- Please sign up outside the office to donate at our next **Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, April 12** from 2:30-6:30pm. There is also a need for snacks...sign up on the bulletin board to help with this.
- All ladies are invited to a wedding shower luncheon honoring **Peyton Watson** on **Sunday, April 23** immediately following morning services in the fellowship room. Peyton and Will McQuade will be married in May and are registered at Target and Amazon.
- Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for a **Potluck Lunch** celebrating our graduating seniors on **Sunday, April 30**. Our high school seniors are **Katelyn Dowdy** (Cape), **Baden Hackworth** (Jackson), **Gage Kellett** (Jackson), **Macayla Meyer** (Advance), **Hannah Mitchell** (Jackson), and **Emily Newman** (Jackson). Local college grads are **Tori Bryan** (State Tech), and **Luke Selvig** (SEMO). Gift bags will be available soon for cards. [Others we'd like to acknowledge as they will be graduating in May: **Chrissy Gilliland** (SEMO), **Sydney (Watson) Moore** (Faulkner), and **John Singleton** (SEMO).]

Scholarship Opportunities

- **Sarah's Gift Scholarship:** Applications are available in the office and must be postmarked by **April 15**.
- **Curtis James Memorial Scholarship:** Applications are available in the office and should be returned by **May 1** to the office.

