



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 41, No. 31, August 4 , 2015 / 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."***

Together Make a SYMPHONY!

*"Again I tell you, if two of you AGREE (**harmonize together - together make a symphony**) about everything and anything - whatever they shall ask, it will come to pass AND BE DONE FOR THEM by My Father in Heaven" (Matt 18:19, Amplified Bible)*

EVEN AMONG the Bible-believing— Many Churches and Homes continue to crack and crumble. **OFTEN, Godly Teamwork is missing! The dictionary defines teamwork as, "Work done by a number of associates ALL SUBORDINATING PERSONAL PROMINENCE to the efficiency of the whole."**

The world understands that very often the difference between winning and losing or the difference between profit and loss is TEAMWORK! **In Teamwork** there is not only the "**subordination** of personal prominence" but there is also the **co-ordination** of efforts, skills, time, and much more. It is common that extensive, intensive, intentional effort is the price to pay in order to work as ONE. **Teamwork requires** FAITHFULNESS on the part of those doing lesser and/or behind the scenes tasks as well as on the part of those doing highly visible or skilled tasks. **Teamwork requires** everyone to be working for the good of the whole and for the ultimate goal. [Praise and THANKSGIVING to God for TEAMWORKING Southsiders! ARE YOU AMONG THESE PRECIOUS SAINTS!?!]

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF every manufacturing plant in our area tried to function with employees and/or management who were individualistically doing what each one wanted to do— THUS, if and when they wanted to, they showed up for work? **How well would a sports team do if** during the season a number of the players did not show up for practice or even some of the games; **and IF** still others changed teams during the season; **and IF** still others attempted to belong to two or more teams all at the same time?

WHAT IF we sat down in the beautiful Schermerhorn Symphony Center fully expecting the Nashville Symphony Orchestra to come on stage and begin to make beautiful symphonic music— BUT INSTEAD, when the musicians came on stage, they each insisted on individualistically playing what, when, and if they pleased? **WHAT IF** they refuse to play the same music piece? **WHAT IF** they refuse to be guided by the conductor? **WHAT IF** several of the Orchestra members secretly decided with each other to not show up?

The answers to each of these questions are so obvious and so agreed upon that, frankly, they seem odd to ask! HOWEVER, ALL OVER AMERICA, CHURCHES ARE FUNCTIONING UNDER SUCH TRAGIC CONDITIONS that ball teams, factories, businesses, orchestras, and etc, would find unthinkable and not to be tolerated!

This reality is all the more tragic when we consider the supreme importance of our LORD'S CHURCH, THE COMING DAY OF JUDGMENT, and when we consider that God's COMMAND and provision for His church is TEAMWORK! No Teamwork? — No Symphony! No Symphony? — No love! No love? — SHOCKINGLY, No REAL testimony that we are true disciples of Jesus! (John 13:34-35)

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, there will come a day when all sports shall cease, along with all manufacturing plants, and all other human endeavors. And when the dust has settled, only the true Body of Christ will be left standing. The Harlot Churches will also be gone. The true Bride of Christ, will rule and reign with CHRIST for all eternity. **Without question, the grandest, most far reaching enterprise on the face of the earth is our LORD'S CHURCH! Nothing in the entire world even comes close to having the importance and the significance as the Church**

of our LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Bear in mind that Our LORD'S CHURCH finds expression in local bodies of believers, around the globe. WHAT AMAZING GRACE IT IS TO BE IN A LOCAL EXPRESSION OF HIS BRIDE!

On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit internalized the gospel into individuals— Salvation is an individual, one at a time miracle! **And immediately He baptized 3,000 people into an amazing BODY of which Christ was the Head!** They, were [And today, we are!] immersed, brought into the sphere of the Holy Spirit and vitally connected to each other in Christ— in His Body: He is the Head; we are members ONE of ANOTHER. The HOLY SPIRIT gave these new born believers **an indwelling compelling!** This is still reality today!

Those born of the Holy Spirit **do not have to be** begged or bribed; **nor does** their carnal flesh have to be stroked with the world's music, methods, or entertainment enticements in order for them [US!] to desire to Study the Word of God together, Pray together, Worship together, Evangelize together, and Share their goods with each other. (Acts 2:42-47)

Here is reality: A genuine Christian has to grieve, quench, and deny the ministry of the Holy Spirit in order to avoid TEAMWORKING WITH OTHERS IN A LOCAL ASSEMBLY OF SAINTS!

TEAMWORK has always been God's way! The Triune God Himself is the supreme example! When God brought about both creation and redemption we see **Teamwork in perfection** between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! **THUS, THERE IS NO SURPRISE**, that on the Day of Pentecost, God set in motion the first local New Testament Church manifesting HARMONIZING, SYMPHONIZING TEAMWORK! **This teamwork is expressed by the word, "ONE ACCORD!"**

Acts 1:14— "These all continued with ONE ACCORD..."

Acts 2:1— "...they were all with ONE ACCORD in one place."

Acts 2:46— "And they continuing daily with ONE ACCORD..."

Acts 4:24— "...they lifted up their voice to God with ONE ACCORD..."

Acts 5:12— “...and they were all with ONE ACCORD...”

Acts 15:25— “It seemed good unto us, being assembled with ONE ACCORD...”

TEAMWORK AMONG CHRISTIANS IN A LOCAL BODY is not the result of a group of individual Christians agreeing 100%. Rather, TEAMWORK is the result of God ordained SUBMISSION one to another in the FEAR OF GOD!

We are commanded to submit to one another in the fear of God. (Ephesians 5:21) God commands, “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief, for that is unprofitable for you.” (Hebrews 13:17) **REALITY:** Rejection of these, or of any Scriptures, are expressions of HATRED OF GOD!

SUBMISSION! Nobody likes to submit! Yet of necessity, everybody submits to somebody— Even the rebellious teens who in their zeal to escape submitting to parents join the Army! Sadly, God’s truth about submission in the Christian Church and the Christian home is rarely seen, sought, or taught! Be that as it may, it is important to see that the New Testament not only calls for submission— it also calls for servant hearts and submission from those who are in various positions of God ordained authority.

Astonishingly, the LORD OF GLORY, our LORD JESUS CHRIST is the ultimate model of submission— He left heaven, became a servant, and submitted to death on the Cross for the likes of us! (Phil. 2:5-8) Therefore, there is really no surprise that in the New Testament Church **submission and/or serving others unselfishly and sacrificially** is central to genuine Christianity:

☐1 Peter 5:2-3— **Pastors/Elders** on behalf of the church family.

☐1 Timothy 5:17-20; Hebrews 13:17— **Church members** toward Pastors/Elders.

☐Ephesians 5:21— **Mutual Submission to one another** in the fear of God!

☐1 Peter 5:5-6— **Younger men** toward older men.

☐ Ephesians 5:25, 28; Colossians 3:19; 1 Peter 3:7; 1 Corinthians 7:3-4—
Husbands

toward their wives. (**Note:** It is impossible to love without submission!)

☐ Ephesians 5:22, 24; Colossians 3:18; Titus 2:3-5; 1 Peter 3:1-4— **Wives**
to their
husbands.

☐ Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21— **Parents** to Children.

[**Note:** The call of Scripture is NOT for the parents to cave in and allow the children to rule over them. Rather, parenting must be done with Christ like, servant hearted attitudes.]

☐ Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20— **Children** to their parents.

☐ Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 4:1— **Masters (Employers/** those in any level
of

authority over others in the work place) to Servants (Employees/ those
under

the authority of others in the work place)

☐ Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22-25— **Slaves (Employees)** to Masters
(Employers)

☐ Romans 13:1, 5, 7; 1 Peter 2:13-17— **Christians to**
Government/Governmental
officials.

DON'T MISS THIS REALITY: The fundamental problem we have with submission is not the imperfect people to whom we may be called to submit! (Although that is always the smokescreen excuse we always set forth!) The real problem is our rebellious heart against our PERFECT LORD JESUS CHRIST whose Holy Word we are called upon to submit to and obey!

SUBMISSION and/or serving others unselfishly and sacrificially IS A BIG DEAL!

A godly servant of the LORD was once asked how to spell LOVE! This dear Christian went straight to the heart of “how you spell love”— **S A C R I F I C E!**

Love is also spelled this way: S U B M I S S I O N !

And let us all remember: Jesus is the ULTIMATE MODEL of submission! We manifest genuine Christianity — Not when we stand up for our rights — But when we lay them down and instead SERVE others for Jesus' sake! Submission and/or serving others unselfishly and sacrificially is absolutely necessary for HARMONIZING, SYMPHONIZING TEAMWORK!

TEAMWORK AMONG CHRISTIANS IN A LOCAL BODY is not something that can be accomplished with anything less than **total commitment to Jesus Christ the Head**. His commands to each of us in a local body are awesomely comprehensive.

It is a SERIOUS DECEPTION and quenching of the Holy Spirit to refuse to be specifically joined and faithfully committed to a Body of Believers—

New Testament TEAMWORK is expressed through “One anothers” in a local church body! HERE IS BIBLICAL CHURCH WORK/ TEAMWORK for every believer in any local expression of our LORD'S CHURCH:

Love One Another! **Depend** on One Another! **Rejoice** with One Another! **Weep** with One Another! **Don't judge** One Another! **Receive** One Another!

Admonish (Counsel) One Another! **Greet** One Another! **Wait** for One Another!

Serve One Another! **Be kind** to One Another! **Forgive** One Another! **Be tenderhearted** to One Another! **Encourage** One Another! In honor, **prefer** One Another! Be of the **same mind** toward One Another! Have the **same care** for One Another!

Submit to One Another! **Forbear** One Another! **Provoke love** in One Another!

Use **hospitality** toward One Another! **Minister** gifts to One Another! Be clothed in **humility** toward One Another! **Don't speak evil** against One Another!

Don't grumble against One Another! **Confess** your faults to One

Another!

Pray for One Another! **Bear** the burdens of One Another! **Be gentle** toward One Another!

(Jn. 13:34-35; Rom. 12:5; 12:10; 12:15; 14:13; 15:7; 15:14; 16:16; 1 Cor. 11:33; Gal. 5:13; Eph. 4:32; 1 Thess. 5:11; Rom. 12:10; 12:16; 1 Cor. 12:25; Eph. 5:21; 4:2; Heb. 10:24; 1 Peter 4:10; 5:5; James 5:16; Gal. 6:2; James 3:17)

SUCH ARE THE BEAUTIFUL “SOUNDS” OF THE GOD ORDAINED SYMPHONY IN A LOCAL CHURCH FAMILY! And please note: Not all can sing or be smart with numbers. Not many are called to be teachers. Only some are called to be pastors. **HOWEVER, ALL GOD’S SAINTS ARE GIFTED!** And regardless of gifts, **ALL ARE CALLED AND COMPELLED TO “THE ONE ANOTHERS”**.....And O what a Symphony comes forth... and O the blessings of God which flow!

Praise the LORD— For the Symphonic Sounds of Music from so many of you at Southside! **GOD IS CALLING US TO HIGHER HEIGHTS OF GLORIOUS SYMPHONY IN CHRIST!**

Be vigilant to guard the unity of the Holy Spirit! (Eph. 4:1-3) And may such **SYMPHONIC SOUNDS SPRING FORTH** from all local expressions of the Bride of Christ, around the world!

Abounding Grace To All!

James Bell

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

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

WEDNESDAYS:

☐ **6:30pm— Children** Ministry/activities, led by Jody Allen

☐ **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— led by Chris and Rachel Beth Estep **(For both of these... enter via double doors by gym)**

☐ **6:30pm— CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...** Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

LADIES BIBLE STUDY— **NEXT, AUGUST 13, 11:00am**, The Life of David! Cindy Bell, teaching. {Meet in Ladies Sunday School Room: Come in FRONT doors of the church auditorium or the SIDE door at the top of the IRON STEPS!}

* **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, August 9, 16, 23, 30—

AUGUST 9:

9:30am, Sunday School **10:45am**, Worship Service

Noon— Covered dish Meal **1:00pm**, Early Afternoon Service

SPECIAL NOTE FOR AUGUST 9: During the early afternoon service we will have AN OPEN FORUM FOLLOW-UP.

AUGUST 16:

9:30am, Sunday School **10:45am**, Worship Service / LORD'S SUPPER /// NO noon meal or afternoon service.

SEVERAL **HOME GROUPS** MEET AT VARIOUS TIMES, generally during the THIRD SUNDAY weekend! Inquire! Be a part!

AUGUST 23:

9:30am, Sunday School **10:45am**, Worship Service **Noon—** Covered dish Meal

[SPECIAL NOTE: No 'Early Afternoon Service. At 6:00pm UNTIL 7:30pm we will participate in the Bledsoe Baptist Association's 'ON MISSION CONNECTION'... We will have 2 Southern Baptist Missionaries! PLEASE SET ASIDE THIS TIME!]

AUGUST 30:

9:30am, Sunday School **10:45am**, Worship Service // NO noon meal or afternoon service.

[SPECIAL FIFTH SUNDAY EVENING OF PRAISE] We gather as a body of believers to PRAISE THE LORD through the sharing of various songs, hymns, Scripture songs; by sharing Scriptures and testimonies.

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**SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL! Call— 615-452-5951**

Children are like young plants in a garden— while young and tender they must be protected. Southside Christian School works in harmony with the local Church and empowers parents!

<http://www.aceministries.com/curriculum/?content=presentingACE>