

The "Great Church"

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Letter

What is the definition of a great church?

Dear Saints,

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Last Sunday night I began the teaching with this statement: "I have a vision for a great church and if we will get our relationships together we can go on to build that great church." When I asked for a response there were voices of approval and some amens.

However, I went on to explain the fallacy with the statement. "Getting our relationships together is the building of the Church!" There is no greater church than a people living together in love and harmony.

There is always this "nebulous, great church" lurking out there that people are trying to attain to. Well, according to the Bible, the great church is simply a people living together in common commitment to Him and His purposes. It is up to us, then, to quit trying to build a vision of "great things", according to the religious world's idea of greatness.

As we sit around and try to envision the glorious church, we should get a picture of people relating together. We should see brothers pouring out their lives to and for each other. We should see households of singles serving and growing together. Parents laying down their lives for children and children loving and obeying their parents is the Kingdom of God. Husbands and wives reflecting Christ in their marriage is what the great church is all about. Extending this love in relationship to the lost is the best understanding of true evangelism.

The true measure of greatness for any church is the depth of relationship among the people. That's it, nothing more and nothing less. Relationship is the great church of God.

Of course, relationship with others can only occur if each individual is first and foremost in relationship with the Father, through the Lord Jesus.

Bless you,
Billy

Tapes

Refresh your memory; Give heed to the Word

There are three very important areas of teaching that have been given to LCF in the past couple of years. They are: 1)The Fatherhood of God, 2)Servanthood, and 3)Relationships.

Often we hear the truths of God's word and mentally affirm them without internalizing them. We are exposed to so much teaching that it sometimes becomes no more than entertainment.

However, these three areas are essential. You cannot move on into maturity without having them built into your life.

Thankfully, these teachings were recorded and you have access to go back and refresh your mind to the truths in these areas.

The three series of four tapes sell for \$8.00 a series. That is four tapes in an album for less than what you would pay for one music tape. Sandy volunteers her time to put together the tapes so that they can be sold at such an affordable rate.

Every member in the church should have one of each of these sets. More important, every person should be walking in servanthood, relationship, and intimate knowledge of the Fatherhood of God.

In short, "Buy the tapes, listen to the tapes, do the tapes."

Note: Tapes are available at the book table, or may be special ordered from Sandy.

Wrong Question**Which Bible School?**

For many young people called of God into deeper ministry, the question is, "Where should I go to Bible school to be trained. That is the wrong question. The place for young ministry to be trained is through the local church.

With the institutionalization of the Church, people took on the world's mentality toward training. As a result, groups of young people were sent off to a Bible school in order to learn the Bible. Unfortunately for them, the Bible cannot be learned outside the context of the local church.

Everything in the Bible is an explanation of God and how He interacts with people and people with each other. A bunch of kids thrown together in dormitories trying to learn how to put sermons together has nothing to do with real learning.

The local church should be the setting for learning the Bible in depth. The great battle though, is a mind game. For many, it is hard to be convinced that they can really know the Bible without having a degree to hang on the wall.

In the early church, training was from mature ministry to younger ministry. The confirmation that was given to new ministry was not a degree to hang on the wall, but a laying on of hands by men of God who declared, this ministry is ready.

At Lexington Christian Fellowship we are standing for God's way of training. We are doing all that we can to provide in-depth training for everyone.

Pastor's Brief

This newsletter is produced by Billy Henderson for members and friends of LCF. It is intended to clarify the vision of this church, as well as encourage and instruct.

Discipleship**LCF offers many opportunities for training; All are based on the biblical pattern of church**

We have several avenues of training at LCF. Here is an explanation of some of them.

BIBLE SCHOOL

The LCF Bible School is organized to give opportunity for deeper study of the word of God. Through LCFBS a student can cover the same material that would be covered in a traditional Bible school while being actively involved in the local church.

The material covered over a four year period would be:

- OT and NT surveys
- Studies of 3-4 NT sections
- Studies of 3-4 OT sections

The classes run concurrently with UK semesters and are taught Monday nights from 7:00-8:30. The book of Acts will begin in the middle of January.

FOUNDATIONS MANUAL

Every member of the body is strongly urged to go through the foundations manual. It is taught on a one-to-one basis and covers three basic areas: 1) knowing God's extension of grace to the individual through salvation, 2) understanding how we relate to God through worship, prayer, and the word, and 3) understanding how we relate to the church and the world.

These are the basic teachings all Christians need. A person is not ready to go on to other teaching until these areas have begun to be worked into his or her life.

If you have not been tutored through a manual, please see your home fellowship pastor. He will help find someone to go through the lessons with you.

SPECIAL TRAINING

Most people do not know about special training classes that are offered to people expressing a desire to grow in ministry. As individuals in the body express a desire to grow in a certain area, we offer personal training in that area.

Right now we have training sessions in evangelism, pastoring, and servanthood. If you need special training, contact Billy.

THE CHURCH

By far the most important aspect of training is everything that goes on in the daily life of the church. Beyond the classes, every interaction in the church is training. The best training program is living your life out with other people (See article on this page entitled "Which Bible School?").

As we continue to develop areas of training we must see each area as an extension of the church. For instance, the goal of the foundations manual is not to get people through a curriculum. The purpose is to build people in their ability to know God and walk together with others.

Home Schooling**Home Schoolers Better Educated Nationally; Parental Involvement is the Key**

Two concerns of home schooling parents are whether or not their children are getting a good academic education and if they are receiving proper socialization.

The August 12 Christianity Today gave an encouraging assesment in an article entitled "The Kitchen classroom."

According to the article, home schoolers are reported by a number of states as scoring equal to or higher than students in the public system on standardized tests. The state education departments of Tennessee, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska are cited as reporting their home schoolers as scoring better on their tests. Additional independent research has arrived at the same conclusion.

Although socialization is not as easy to measure, available empirical data stack up in favor of home education. The Christianity Today article sights studies by various authorities which affirm the socialization process of home schoolers.

One observation is suggested. "Home school parents, the large majority of whom appear to be evangelical Christians, obviously hold a special interest in their children's development. They are willing to make great personal sacrifices for their children's total growth and development--academic, social, and spiritual. Given the parental support and commitment they experience at home, it may be that these home-educated children would have done just as well, academically and socially, in conventional schools."

If this is the case, then those parents who put their children in public or private schools can achieve the same positive results through committed involvement with the child's learning process.

One definite advantage to home schooling did surface through a study by psychologist Mona Moarse Delahooke. "Home educated children appeared to be less peer oriented than those in schools. (Children from private schools exhibited a significantly greater focus on peers and nonfamily individuals. This finding tends to confirm that home schooling may...reduce the influence of peer pressure."

Holiness**Thou Shalt not Take the name of God in Vain**

Nothing is more embarassing than to be with a brother in the Lord who is constantly making a social gaff and doesn't realize it. What is worse is to be with a brother who is continually sinning openly and doesn't acknowledge it.

The third commandment says, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." Stated another way, "You should only use the name of God with awe and respect." It seems, then, to use the name of God for emphasis (G-- , that was awful) would be breaking the law.

Just as we tell a brother in love when he has mustard on his face, we should point out when as a matter of habit he profanes God.

Just for the record, Webster's defines the word "gosh" as "an exclamation of surprise, etc.; a euphemism for God."

Spelunking**LCF Goes Underground**

Saturday, November 5, members of the church will be exploring a wild cave in Jessamine Gorge.

Groups from the church have been on this expidition in the past and have always seen it as a highlight of their year.

The time spent in the cave is 5-6 hours. It begins with about a 150 yard crawl through a tight vertical passageway. This crawl is especially interesting because of the underground stream which flows through it.

At the end of the crawl, three different horizontal shafts offer themselves as relief. The third, which is the one usually taken by groups, is two 15 foot climbs. The first climb is through the small waterfall that feeds the stream.

At the top of the shaft, another vertical passageway appears. It is larger and goes in two directions. One direction leads you back into a stream. You can wade up this stream for about 45 minutes and you find a larger cavern with a beautiful miniature water fall that has created a small bath in the solid rock below.

On the other hand, you could go the other direction in this vertical tunnel, and find what no one from LCF has never seen.

After the walk through this part of the cave you are dried and warm. Then you return to the horizontal descent to be reinvigorated by the falling water and crawl home.

If you are interested in going on this trip you can get more information from Steve Mazza or Laura Feeney.

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Election Day

Get Registered, Get Informed, and Vote!

October 11 is the deadline for voter registration. After that, Americans will have a little less than one month to become informed about the government officials they will elect to office on November 8.

There are four major offices that Lexingtonians will be voting for in the election, as well as other less important positions. Here is a quick listing of three offices, the candidates, and where they stand on issues that relate to family and morality.

PRESIDENT

George Bush-Opposed to abortion except in cases of rape, incest, and the life of the mother. Co-sponsored amendment allowing voluntary prayer in school. Opposes homosexuals as foster parents.

Mike Dukakis-Favors federal funding of abortion. Opposed to prayer in schools. Favors homosexuals serving as foster parents.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Arbogast-Very strong activist in pro-life activities. Supports voluntary school prayer.

Scorsone-Actively supports legislation favoring homosexual activity. Is pro-abortion.

U.S. CONGRESS

Hopkins-Votes conservative, but could be stronger.

Patton-Politically liberal in moral, family issues.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Prayer 6-7 AM
Every Day

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
9 Worship & Teaching	10	11 Billy's HF Jimmy's HF	12 Children's Church	13	14 Weekend Camping Trip For more information call Mike Treen who just bought a 17 foot camping trailer	15
16 Worship & Teaching	17 C	18 Jimmy's HF	19 Children's Church	20	21 Gregg's HF	22
23 Worship & Teaching * SC Music room	24	25 Billy's HF Jimmy's HF	26 Children's Church	27	28	29
30 Worship & Teaching * Woodland Church	31	1 Jimmy's HF	2 Children's Church	3	4 Gregg's HF	5 Caving Expedition
6 Worship & Teaching * SC Music room	7	8 Election Day Billy's HF Jimmy's HF	9 Children's Church	10	11 Home School Workshop Friday Evening and All day Saturday. More info? Call Brenda	12