

Insanity or the Cross

Letter

Where will you serve?

Dear Saints,

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

You may not be aware of it, but the church is growing along pretty consistently these days. We just added a new home fellowship, several new folks have been added to the body in the last couple of months, and the CET is reaching a good number of students.

At the same time, we have been expanding into other areas of ministry over the past couple of years. Our outreach to Mexico began when Pedro moved to Ayutla three years ago. Recently, we are seeing opportunities open up in Nicaragua. Over a year ago, we began the home school support group, which now has about 60 families involved.

On the home front, we are developing ministry for children and, pretty soon, teenagers. We have also published the Pastor's Brief and University Christian over the last two years. The Bible School is continuing to develop.

In the midst of growth there are two things that I want you to remember. First, no matter what method we develop for meeting a ministry challenge, loving people and maintaining our relationship to God will always take priority. At any point, we must always be willing to let go of our little program to let God's Spirit do a greater thing.

The other thing you need to realize, is that growth takes work. As we have more younger Christians to minister to, it will take more commitment and time on the part of older Christians in the body. Begin to consider the areas you feel you can strengthen in the church and pray about how you can be involved. Over the summer we will be working on helping people find their place of service in the body.

Get ready to serve!!!

Bless you,

Billy

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Pastor's Brief

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

Keeping on the Forward Edge with Joe Anfuso

April 27-29 was GREAT!

That was the weekend Joe Anfuso was with us. It's also the weekend we went camping, caving, and didn't catch any fish.

Joseph met with us on Friday and Sunday nights at the church building and shared great messages with the body. God seemed to use Joseph to strengthen and deepen us in the call on our lives.

If I were going to try to press home what stood out to me through the teachings I would choose two points:

First, "God wants to use ordinary people to do extraordinary things."

The second would be, "God is interested in how you respond to what He has given you. Some use adversity as an excuse while others use it as a challenge."

God uses Joseph to help people find their callings and special places of service in the body. He was instrumental in helping us find avenues of ministry in Nicaragua and is helping us develop our relations there.

Please continue to pray for Joe as he works with other churches helping them develop missions and mobilize their people to fulfill their God given part in the local church.

We were especially glad that Joseph got to join us for our annual crawl through the cave on the 28th. Believe it or not he enjoyed it. We are planning a sky diving party for his next visit. We want to make sure we help him stay on the...Forward Edge.

Plan now for the next



Where: Big South Fork on the Tennessee Border in the Daniel Boone National Park.

What: Camping, fishing, and WHITE WATER RAFTING!

Nicaraguan outreach

Steve Mazza, Doug Watts, Shayne Pittard and Debbie McManis will leave with Billy for Nicaragua at the end of May.

The trip is a follow up after Billy's visit last summer to Guatemala and Nicaragua. That trip was made to see if there might be a church we could develop relationships with in Nicaragua. We were fortunate to meet Bob Trolese, a missionary for ten years to Nicaragua. The church he has helped establish in Managua is similar to ours only larger. Bob has invited us to come back for a longer visit to get to know the church better.

In addition to spending time with the brethren in the church, we plan to be involved with open air evangelism, ministry in the church run orphanage, and manual labor on the farm. We will be planting a lot of banana trees!

The team from Lexington will join others from around the nation in Arkansas for a couple of days of training. We are especially glad that Scott Williams and some folks from Christian Fellowship of Columbia will be going.

On Tuesday, May 29th, we will fly out of Little Rock for Nicaragua. The first part of the trip will be geared toward evangelism with ministry in the orphanage and on the farm being the idea for the rest of the trip.

You can pray for:

The rest of the finances to come in for the trip. We will take up a special offering May 19 to help pay the team's way.

The individuals from our church who will be going.

The complete team of 24 people from Arkansas, New Jersey, Kentucky, and Missouri.

Physical health.

Our divine appointments with potential Christians.

Time spent with the orphanage.

Our growing relationship with Bob.

The ministry among the team members to one another.

We will return to the United States on June 7. That night will be spent in Arkansas and our team will return to Lexington the following day.

Note: The article on page 14 of the spring issue of University Christian gives a good synopsis of what Bob is involved in.

Overcoming sexual idolotry

This past week I attended part of a seminar on sexual brokenness. One session dealt with sexual addiction. Here is an outline of the notes I took.

Sexual addiction is similar to addiction to drugs or alcohol. It actually produces a physical high. Like any other sin, it can be dealt with through biblical principles.

Here are six reasons why sexual addiction gets started

1. Man has a fallen nature. Adam and Eve fell and their offspring has been produced in their likeness ever since.

Jeremiah said that man is desperately wicked. David said he was born in iniquity. Solomon said that foolishness is pent up in the heart of a child and that there is a way that seems right unto man, but the end is destruction. Paul said our righteousness was like filthy rags.

Man is not inherently good!

2. God created us with a void in our life.

The void in our life was created to cause us to seek God. People are trying to fill that void with the wrong things. The result is emptiness.

You will never fill the void in the world. Even religion will not fill the void. Only God can fill it.

3. We all have natural strengths and weaknesses.

For some people, drinking is a weakness. For others, lying is a weakness. Satan does not tempt people where they are strong. He tempts them where they have a weakness. For many, sexual lust is a weakness.

4. Even though we have a weakness, we have the choice to make. We cannot blame our sin on our weaknesses. Anyone who sins in an area does so because they chose to. You suffer the consequences of wrong choices. You must take responsibility for your own sin.

5. We live in a society that is addicted to pleasure.

Seventy percent of hardcore pornography ends up in the hands of kids. From

a young age, we are saturated with a mindset to satisfy the flesh.

6. Spiritual beings are involved in causing addiction.

Satan and his demons are involved in holding people into sexual bondage. Deviations in sex are always the result of spiritual forces.

Characteristics of the sexual addict

1. They always have some type of fantasy.

For some it is different types of women: blonds, tall, etc. Others like peeping Toms and exhibitionists have different fantasies.

2. They go into different routines.

James 1:14 describes the cycle of the routine. First the temptation or fantasy comes. Next, the fantasy is acted out. The result, of course, is death.

Addicts start thinking about it, and then they go into a sweat.

3. They lead a double life.

4. Common traits:

1. They blame shift. (It's the woman you gave me.)

2. They are manipulative. A married man will lash out in a fit of anger to get his wife off his back.

3. They are critical and attacking as well as judgemental of others.

4. They are overly sensitive. There is a high degree of self centeredness. "Rebuke a fool to your own hurt."

5. They are paranoid. "The wicked flea when no one is pursuing them."

Consequences

1. Deep shame- you carry it around into everything. Your ability to function in all other areas is hindered.

2. Feeling a lack of self worth- this is not a reason, it is a consequence.

God created us to work in a certain way. When you operate in this certain way it works. If you don't do it right, it doesn't work. We are Christians. When we act like Christians it feels right, it feels good.

This is not talking about self esteem. Anybody can esteem themselves. However, we find true self worth in God. The more you get to know yourself, the more you realize how little esteem you're worth.

3. Vicious cycles-

1. Shame- The lousier we feel, the more we need something to make us feel better.

2. Rejection- We become manipulative and attacking because we think people are rejecting us. They then reject us, which causes us to be even more manipulative and attacking.

3. Consequences- The more we sin, the more we suffer consequences.

4. Our walk with God- The more we are disobedient, the more we are separated from Him. The more we are separated from Him, the more we sin.

Steps to overcoming sin

1. Stop the habit of sexual sin by creating accountability.

This accountability can be to time, money, or best to another person. Fight against doing it. Even if you fail, don't quit. Get back up and keep fighting.

Also, resist the enemy as you break the habit.

2. Stop the avenues into the mind which allow the temptations to enter. Quit watching "Die-nasty" (Dynasty), "As the World Burns", or even get rid of the TV altogether if you have trouble with it.

3. Fill your mind with the word of God.

We have a programmable heart and mind. It is our choice to fill it the right way.

4. Spend time with God on a daily basis. Christianity is not to see how you can be blessed. It is to know Him and His purposes.

5. Build up your spiritual man.

The speaker from whom I took these notes, Steve Gallagher, has written a book entitled, "Sexual Idolatry". It will be on sale at the book table.

Your choice

Insanity or the Cross

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." Romans 12:1-3

I had just finished my sermon on the Poseidon Adventure. The title came from a movie involving a capsized ship in which everyone who moved to the bottom was saved, while those who moved to the front or stayed still were washed away.

After finishing my three points (We must choose to seek the low place, as we let God move us to the bottom everything will seem upside down and we will not understand, and some people die along the way) the only way I could think of ending was to have everyone turn to each other and say, "Let's die together."

My attention was drawn to one lady who was visiting. She turned to the person on either side of her and I saw her lips mouth, "Let's live together in Jesus." She obviously had not grasped what I was saying about life only being on the other side of death.

She met me at the door and said, "The worship time was beautiful," and walked on out.

This illustrates that most people really do not understand what these verses in Romans 12 really mean. Most Christians have heard a teaching on verses one and

two.

The basic idea of these verses is that, we must totally lose our lives in order to truly find God's purposes in our lives.

Yet even after hearing these teachings, people go away thinking their own life and happiness is the center of God's will. I'm afraid many Americans would have trouble with my Poseidon Adventure sermon. But the tragedy of this lack of understanding is illuminated in verse three.

"For I say...to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think soberly..."

In this verse we have two ways of thinking. One is to think of yourself more highly than you ought. The word "highly" actually means "to esteem yourself overmuch or to be arrogant."

This manner of thinking is opposed to thinking "soberly."

The word soberly means "to be of sound mind, or sane."

Paul gives two choices. You can have a too great of an esteem for yourself or you can think sanely.

What a truth! Thinking about yourself too highly is insanity.

This is the scriptural truth. It is illustrated over and over throughout the Bible. Nebuchadnezzar is a prime example. In Daniel 4 we read that King Nebuchadnezzar exalted himself

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and declared his own self esteem.

In verse 31 we see that at the very time the King was singing his own praises that God ripped the kingdom from him and he went into total insanity. It describes Nebuchadnezzar as running wild in the fields for years.

Understanding this simple truth gives insight into why so much of today's ministry or coun-

However, if I can totally spend my life on something as great as God and it could be used

by His grace for His glory... Wow!!! That deals with depression, stress, neurosis, and every other mental ailment that can attack.

going through the pains of death as God is preparing a people to truly come forth in the resurrection power. II Timothy 2:12 says "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he will deny us."

Another way to describe this verse would be "If we die to our own desires, we will reign with him: if we choose our way over his, he will disown us."

If my sinful nature was all I had to live for, I believe I would already be insane.

seling leaves people stressed out and on the verge of losing it. If a selfish Christian (is there such a thing?) is feeling bad and goes for counseling in the wrong place, he can be encouraged to try to feel good about himself.

Many times in certain schools of ministry the idea is to convince the person that God wants to bless them and give them what they want. A few misquoted verses patch the guy up and he goes out once again to try to find all of God's blessings on his selfish desires.

It's not long before the guy is back needing more patching because, "God didn't come through." In other words, "He didn't get what he wanted." This goes on for a few years and the guy gets all bent out of shape and burns out.

What many people need when they get to feeling sorry for themselves is to be taught to give their lives to a cause greater than themselves. It is really depressing to think that what this world has to offer is the ultimate. If my sinful nature was all I had to live for, I believe I would already be insane.

not mean that death to self is easy. Quite the opposite is true. Death to self is hard. But, by the grace of God it is possible.

The cross is basically where our own wills and desires cross with the will of God. We must choose to lay down our desires and follow Jesus. If we have not decided to do that then we will never know the true fulfillment that comes from following God.

If it is hard to die to selfish desires, it is even harder to learn the difference between our will and God's. The way many American Christians have been trained, man's will and desires stand at the center of the stage in church life. It generally takes a sovereign move of God to show us how self centered we are.

Many strands of the church are not even close to a revelation of how man centered they are. Those who are getting the revelation are

This principal of insanity as a result of selfcenteredness is really just another way of seeing the whole result of sin. Sin is basically doing your own will. The results are death, loss and destruction. The other side, giving yourself to God's will, produces righteousness, peace and joy.

I believe it is a ploy of Satan to cloak the results of sin in psychological terms that put ministry in the realm of catering to the hurting egos of a spoiled nation.

With this mentality, some would think they will be able to stand before God and plead insanity as the reason they should be received into eternal habitation with Him.

But the fact remains, insanity is often the choice of an individual to live for him or herself rather than to choose the cross.

***So here is the one step plan to good mental health:
"Let's die together with Him."***

Children need early start on financial discipline

by Larry Burkett

There are few events more uplifting for parents than to see their children develop into mature, disciplined adults. Conversely, there is nothing more frustrating and defeating than to see a son or daughter with a great potential suffer and fail because of a lack of self-discipline. Most of these outward signs are symptoms of inner problems, and if the symptoms are not recognized and corrected, the problems persist and become more severe. Some symptoms are detectable at an early age and can be used as measures of spiritual problems. One of these early signs or symptoms is finances.

God's Word tells us that the way someone handles finances is a clear indication of whether or not he can handle greater things (Luke 16:10-11). This principle applies not only to adults but to children as well.

One child will be frugal, disciplined, and willing to accept directions about sharing, saving and budgeting. Another child will spend nearly every penny available, borrow when possible, and defy all attempts at financial discipline.

Discipline vs. desires

Recall that Scripture teaches that the relationship between God and parent is the same as between parents and children (Luke 11:11-13). God promises us the desires of our hearts (Psalm 37:4). But before we can achieve those desires, we must make His way our way (Psalm 37:5, Proverbs 3:6, Matthew 6:33). Giving to children with no controls is not beneficial. You must be certain that their hearts are committed to your way (God's way).

Short-term peace

Often parents yield to the weaknesses of an undisciplined child to obtain some short-term peace (having been there, I sympathize). An undisciplined child forcefully demands more and is rarely satisfied. A parent must accept the responsibility of withholding in the short run in order for discipline to be ingrained in the long run. "The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his

own way brings shame to his mother" (Proverbs 29:15).

Visible signs of problems

Most young children like to spend their available money. A few are self-disciplined and save for future needs with little or no encouragement. When you have one of these, just praise the Lord and help him to reach a good balance between hoarding a spending. A large number of children will spend, if allowed, or will save, if required. Parents who establish early, routine discipline will achieve good results with these children if they are consistent. At the other end of the spectrum are children who must spend everything they have quickly and often foolishly. Any attempt at control is usually met by resentment and, where allowed, blatant disobedience. These are outward, visible symptoms of much greater spiritual problems.

These attitudes are correctable by parents if handled at an early age. A rebellious child is actually testing his or her boundaries. Contrary to popular "opinion," discipline does not retard a child's potential; it expands it. "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid" (Proverbs 12:1).

Short-term financial goals

It is necessary for parents to establish some short-term goals for their children to help them see the purpose and logic of saving money. Initially, these goals should be very short-range, such as saving to buy a book, record or game. Later the goals should be extended to cover things such as trips, vacations and bicycles. It is also important to instill written goals. This means keeping a savings ledger and a written prayer goal.

Your goals and standards for handling money must be fair and consistent. Both husband and wife should agree and be willing to live by the same standards they set for their children.

Allowances

In addition to having rules and punishment, parents should develop a "re-

ward" system. Just as God rewards us for our work and obedience, we should reward our children. One method to do this is through an "allowance." However, the traditional allowance is not scriptural, because it is usually given without any restrictions or controls. An "allowance" should be given only as a reward for completing assigned tasks (work).

Giving

Giving should be an early discipline. Obviously, most young children won't fully understand why they're giving. But if their parents help them see the result of their gifts, they will come to understand. An early habit of giving does not ensure a commitment to God, but an early habit of not giving usually instills a later attitude of not giving (Proverbs 22:6).

Parental loans

Should a parent lend money to a child? I believe so. After all, eventually someone else will, and credit is not the problem; the misuse of credit is. If you lend money, do so only for specific projects, preferably those that will generate income, such as buying a lawn mower, materials for car washing, a bicycle for a paper route, etc. The contract to repay should be in writing, and interest should be charged (and collected). The purpose is to establish a discipline of repayment under the same conditions as a creditor would operate. Thus, if he doesn't pay, repossess the bicycle (Proverbs 3:13).

Vocational goals

No one is in a better position to give direction on vocation goals than you, as a parent. Therefore, it is important that, as basic abilities and desires become apparent, some vocation direction be suggested. It may not be possible to select the exact vocation, but it is possible to eliminate the wrong vocations. "A plan in the heart of a man is like deep water, but a man of understanding draws it out" (Proverbs 20:5).

Reprinted with permission from "How to manage your money," April, 1990.

Sensuality

Daddy, why is she sucking that man's lip?

No doubt about it, sensuality is the biggest manifestation of sin in my generation. Modern views toward relationship to the opposite sex are responsible for the epidemic of divorce and broken relationship our culture is experiencing. If people could grasp how dangerous the situation is it would be easier for them to understand why we take the stands we do on dating and premarital counseling. (For those of you who don't know, we ask people to be very conservative in regards to dating, and to go through at least six months of premarital counseling as their marriage approaches.)

However, we are seeing a new opportunity to promote proper relationship among the sexes as we are raising our own children to serve God. We need to diligently prepare our children to enter into the right kinds of relationships as they reach the age that they will become aware of the possibility of taking on a wife or a husband. Here are some keys to begin seeding into your children:

1. Guard them from sensuality- We were watching *The Last Crusade* on video about a month ago and a scene came on where a woman was saying goodbye to Indiana Jones. It included a close up of a sensual kiss where the lady was obviously sucking on Indy's lower lip. She said, "That's the way Austrian's say goodbye." Indiana said, "I like the way the Austrians say goodbye..." Now by today's standards, that seems harmless enough. But I wonder what a scene like that says to a six year old. And then there's that pornographic Land's End catalog laying on the book end. (Usually they use a little more restraint than Avon or Lazarus.) We won't even begin to mention beer and cigarette billboards.

It seems a little old fashioned to try to shield our kids from these "bites" of sensuality. More than old fashioned, it seems impossible. But there are some things we can resensitize ourselves to and begin to weed them out of our children's lives.

2. Talk to your children about these sorts of things. When you happen to be watching a family show and they slip in a scene where the guy is obviously interested in a woman's body, you are responsible to point out the wrongness of that attitude.

And, when you see an interest in the opposite sex by your children, move in very quickly to help them deal with their feelings.

3. Encourage right relationships between your children and other children of both sexes. Teaching them true friendship is a good protection from developing wrong relationships.

4. Be loving parents. Many times, young teens launch out into romantic relationships because they do not know the security of loving parents. Being loving parents won't keep your children from one day desiring a mate and marriage. It will prepare them to give themselves to another person from a place of wholeness.

5. Most of all, we must help our children develop real and meaningful relationship with their heavenly Father. It is knowing His love that keeps us all from using others to gratify our own needs.

6. Keep your own relationship to God strong. The best way to cultivate relationship with God in your kids is to let them see yours.

As we have taken seriously our commission to train our children up in the Lord it would be easy to center on "what they are going to do." But what is more important is how they are going to relate to God and their fellow man.

Since the great command is to love God, and the second is to love your neighbor, that should be our emphasis over giftings, talents, and intelligence in our children.

Women's potluck and Fellowship Wednesday, May 23

The married women are having a pot luck at Judy Greer's Wednesday, May 23rd at 6:00 pm. Call Judy to find out what you can bring. Brenda Henderson will briefly share the vision of the women's ministry in this church and some things we can do for June and July, but mostly it will be a time to fellowship together.

New homefellowship

About a month ago, we added a new home fellowship to the ranks. The HF that had been meeting at the Scales' house has been split. Half of the people now meet at the John's house on Tuesdays. The other half meets at the Schwartz's on Mondays.

The Monday night home fellowship is actually a new training team which Billy is heading up for one year. That group will be going through the Plumblin teachings, as well as other times of training. It is meeting every Monday night rather than every other week. Pray for the people involved in this year of training. They are: The Pascuccis, Treens, Schwartzs, Starnes, Mr. McGuire, Shayne, Debbie, and Leta.

Also pray for the home fellowship at the John's house. Larry, Bill, Robert and Rob are working together to lead that fellowship.

May/June 1990

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
13 5:00 pm Worship at Woodland	14 Training Team 7:00	15 7:30 p.m. Childrens Home Fellowship	16	17 6:00 am prayer	18 Gregg's HF 7:00	19
20 5:00 pm Worship at Woodland	21 Training Team 7:00	22 HF at the John's 7:00	23 Women's potluck at Greer's 6:00 pm	24 6:00 am prayer Jimmy's HF 7:00 Home School Fine Arts Festival	25	26 Nicaragua team leaves for Arkansas
27 5:00 pm Worship at Woodland	28 Training Team 7:00	29	30	31 6:00 am prayer	1	2
.....Team in Nicaragua.....						
3 5:00 pm Worship at Woodland	4 Training Team 7:00	5 7:30 Children's Home Fellowship	6	7 6:00 am prayer	8 Gregg's HF 7:00	9
.....Team in Nicaragua.....						
10 5:00 pm Worship at Woodland	11 Training Team 7:00	12 HF at the John's 7:00	13	14 6:00 am prayer Jimmy's HF 7:00	15	16

Pastor's Brief

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