



New Life Christian Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

Sunday, September 9, 2018

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PASTORAL PONDERING

Family Ministry ~ In the Home and Local Church

Family Ministry has been talked about frequently the last few months at New Life. One might say, "There has been so much talk of family ministry lately, is family ministry going to take over our 'Only Jesus' on the sign in front of the building?" Certainly not! Our aim in everything we do at New Life and in our homes is to proclaim, "Only Jesus." A crucial part of this proclaiming is done in the out workings of the body of Christ as each member works in the various roles of ministry God has given them. So, what exactly do we mean when we say family ministry? It's not something that is quickly defined by one verse; rather it is a structure of the **Home** and the **Body of Christ** by God's good design in Christ as seen throughout the Word. Here is a definition from Timothy Paul Jones, a seminary professor of Family Ministry.

"Family ministry is the process of coordinating a church's practices so that all members develop diverse discipling relationships and so that parents are acknowledged, equipped, and held accountable as primary disciple-makers in their children's lives."

Family ministry is both **equipping parents** for discipling their children and **equipping the whole body of Christ** to be discipling one another with the spiritual gifts given to them by the Spirit for the building up and maturing of the Church.

This understanding of family ministry is not something foreign to the way New Life has functioned as a local church body, however, we want to see this done more and more. The Word teaches us that we ought to be supporting, equipping, honoring, and encouraging parents to be the primary disciplers of their children in the Home. Here are some examples:

- Moses instructed a new generation that they were to "impress [these commandments] upon your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." ([Deuteronomy 6:7](#))
- Parents are to tell the next generation all the great and wondrous works the Lord performed in their midst and to warn them about disobedience so that they may know and fear the Lord. ([Psalm 78](#))
- The book of Proverbs begins with an extended lesson from father to son on the nature and value of wisdom. ([Proverbs 1-9](#))
- Paul commands fathers to, "bring [your children] up in the training and instruction of the Lord." ([Ephesians 6:4](#))

The Word also teaches us how we should function together as the body, discipling one another:

- Timothy's mother and grandmother are commended as models of a sincere faith "that now lives in [Timothy] also." ([2 Timothy 1:5](#))
- The apostle Paul calls both Timothy and Titus "a true child in the faith."
- Inter-generational discipleship is seen from passages such as [Titus 2](#) that tells older men to be sober-minded, sound in faith, in love urging younger men to have self-control.

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PASTORAL PONDERING *continued from first page*

Older women are to be reverent and they are to teach what is good and so train young women to love their husbands and children etc.

Timothy Jones goes on to describe the practical out workings of family ministry in the whole body when he says,

"...Christian households' function as miniature communities of the larger community of faith, with families learning and living the gospel together. (Exodus 12:25-28; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; 11:1-12). When these dynamic takes root in a church, children and teenagers whose parents aren't believers find their lives intertwined with more mature believers who become spiritual parents and grandparents. Married couples mentor singles, and new parents learn child-rearing from empty nesters. The entire congregation works together to meet the needs of widows and orphans (James 1:27). The dynamic of church-as-family declares that, inasmuch as I am united with Jesus Christ and adopted in him, my first family includes anyone who does the will of our Father in heaven (Mark 3:35). "God, in Jesus' great work of redemption, was not establishing a series of isolated personal relationships with his individual followers. He was creating a family of sons and daughters. The saving work of Christ therefore has a corporate, as well as an individual, dimension."

This ministry is not for only pastors; rather, pastors are to work to equip **all the saints** for the work of ministry, specifically by encouraging and supporting parents in their ministry to their family and also equipping the **whole body** to do their work of ministry to one another.

This changes how we see evangelism and discipleship. There is not a pastor for discipleship, a pastor for evangelism, a pastor for youth, but rather the whole body is to be engaged in these tasks. As Greg, one of our elders, stated in our last vision sharing time, "Fathers, grandfathers, mothers etc. we need to be stepping up to the plate, and children are not to be innocent bystanders."

Are our eyes to now be fixed on Family Ministry? No! It is still Jesus and ONLY Jesus. As we look to Jesus, who is the designer of, sustainer of, and perfecter of His Bride; may we all prayerfully consider our roles in proclaiming Jesus in this body of Christ, New Life.

Serving alongside all of you in the role given me and done in His strength alone,

Paul Linzmeier

September Memory Verse

Acts 2:38-39

"Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.'" (ESV)

Announcements and Upcoming Events

WOMENS COFFEE NIGHT

Friday, September 14th from 6pm to 8pm is our Sept coffee night at Three Arrows Coffee Company. If you haven't been there yet it's just under highway 8 in the old Nazarene church just off Hwy 8 and Hwy 35. Hope you can make it and feel free to invite a friend!

PARTNER VOTE

Reminder that we will be holding a partner vote **Sunday, September 16th** after service for Bennett as the new Associate Pastor of Music.

MINISTRY TEAM FAIR

Interested in serving and being a part of ministries at New Life? There are many ways to be involved and to serve with the gifts that God has given. The Lord supplies gifts to His Church to be used for the building up of the body in love. (Ephesians 4) This will occur after service on **Sunday, September 23rd**. As you make your way through the food line you will be directed through one of the classrooms for opportunity to walk through our Ministry Team Fair and talk with our New Life ministry team leaders. Please prayerfully consider how the Lord might want you to serve.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

As a church body we are collecting items for shoeboxes being sent to children through the season of Christmas as part of Samaritan's Purse mission of spreading the gospel. There is a hamper by the Resource Center, as well as a list of potential gifts for various age groups. We pray people will be open to donating WOW gifts as we have purchased other personal/school type items. Examples of Wow items can be: age 2- a soft doll/wood truck, age 4- a stuffed animal/small magic screen they draw on, age 8- a craft age 10-16 - a non-graphic t-shirt or blouse, soccer ball with needles and pump, sewing kits... games, puzzles... remember, they need to fit into the space of a small shoe box. We will need Wow gifts by **October 9, 2018**. You can contribute in other ways as well by donating money to cover the cost of box transport (goal 84 boxes @ \$9.00 per box) or donate money for Wow items in need. Additionally, you can go online to samaritanspurse.org and donate or purchase gospel tracts which are included in the boxes for sharing the love of Jesus and making disciple makers of nations. Prayer is a needed and welcome gift too. Thank you for your support.



Classes have begun, **Wednesday nights from 6:15 to 7:30pm**. There are classes for the whole family from nursery to adults. Young adult/Adult classes include: A study through the book of John, personal spiritual disciplines, and biblical manhood and womanhood. These times are a great opportunity to 'immerse' ourselves in the Word and cultivate inter-generational relationships with one another in the body. If you haven't yet, come and join a study!

Check out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

Find Links to:

• *Events* • *Sermons Online* •
New Life Connect • *Set Lists* • &
More

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This Week's Schedule of Events:

- Sep 12 Women's Bible Study
12:30 pm at NLCC
- Sep 12 Immerse Family Studies
6:15-7:30 pm at NLCC
- Sep 13 Men's Bible Study
6:30 am at NLCC
- Sep 13 Women's Bible Study
9:30 am at NLCC
- Sep 13 Adult GriefShare
6:30-8:30 pm at NLCC
- Sep 13 Ezekiel Bible Study
7-8:30 pm at NLCC

Upcoming Potluck/Meal Teams:

- Sep 16 Meal Team #6
Sep 23 Meal Team #7

Please join us for fellowship and a meal
following our service today!



Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the Old Testament book,
Judges 12:1:15

Sermon Notes: