

ARE YOU A SLAVE?

By Pastor Larry Rupp

In today's self-absorbed, consumer culture, we are told that we, as individuals, are the most important. Our comfort and desires are not to be denied and in fact they are to be encouraged. We are to consume what we want and as much as we want. Sadly, this narcissistic culture has even infiltrated the church of Jesus Christ. The church feeds this culture by blending and compromising with a world that can never truly be our friends. We read books that tell us: We must give people what they want. We must not offend anyone with the truth of the word of God. We must not confront sin even though we see lives being destroyed. We must not bore anyone by studying the bible or coming together for prayer. With these things in mind, asking the question, are you a slave? May be the ultimate offensive question to ask or lifestyle to suggest. Yet I am convinced that we must not only embrace but even revel in the reality that we should be slaves of Jesus Christ.



For me, coming to the reality of being a slave has come through many years of frustration, discouragement, and disappointment. I have desired life to be fair, filled with rewards, and appreciation. Trouble is, I have expectations, which continue to go unfulfilled. One night when I was feeling particularly sorry for myself, the Holy Spirit brought to mind the Apostles and their writings in the New Testaments. The verses He brought to my memory were usually from the beginning or end of their epistles. You know those verses we just read over and never really ponder. Such as 2 Peter 1:1: "***Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ.***" Servant is translated variously in our English translations as "slave" or "bondservant." Peter, Paul and the other apostles realized and counted it a privilege to be a slave of Jesus Christ. These guys all gave up their personal desires and lives for the Gospel. Are we willing to be this radical?

The truth that I must face is that I am not important. Only God is important. My hurts, frustrations, and anger, indicates that my rights have been violated. My rights are not important. Fulfilling what God has called me to do is what is important. I must be a slave to God and our Lord Jesus Christ. Slaves do not have rights, and they do not have possessions. Rather, they are possessed and live and die at the will of their masters. Through God's love, we have been purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ, we are not our own. Jesus Christ must be Lord of our life. This means He is the ruler, the sovereign, a "filter" by which all things that we do in life must pass through, **a God to be in love with, and a God to serve.** I believe this lack of realization is the core of the problems that we have in the church today. This is why we do not have victory, growth, commitment, and revival. We must be in love with God and make Christ Lord of our lives to the point in which we become joyful slaves.

May Grace Bible Church surrender and become a slave for Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior!

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH CONNECTION

MAY 2010

Adventureland!

Yes, you read that right - that wonderful theme park in Des Moines which encapsulates all that is Iowa. Well, not exactly... At any rate, our church will be having a family fun day at Adventureland on June 26th from 1-6pm. All ages are invited to attend as we have a great day of fun in the sun by riding roller coasters, getting shot up into the sky (and hopefully landing safely!) and spending time with one another in a relaxed and memorable environment. Please let Kevin know if you are planning on attending - price will depend upon the number of people who come.

Summer VBS is coming soon !

We are planning on holding our regular VBS program the week of July 18th -22nd from 5:45-8:30pm. Our theme this year will be “Saddle Ridge Ranch” and we’re looking forward to a great week of western-themed Christian fun. We will begin holding planning meetings in May, so now’s the time to start looking at your summer calendar. If you’d like to help out, please see the sign-up sheet in the sanctuary or speak with Pastor Kevin - we would love to find a place for you to serve this coming summer.

Yeehaw!

SUMMER ACTIVITY CAMPS

IN CONJUNCTION WITH A FEW MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH, WE ARE LOOKING AT *POSSIBLY* HOLDING SEVERAL THEMED DAY-CAMPS THIS SUMMER RELATED TO SPORTS, MUSIC, AND THE ARTS IN ADDITION TO OUR REGULAR VBS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING TO FACILITATE IN ANY OF THESE AREAS, PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR KEVIN AND LET HIM KNOW HOW YOU’D LIKE TO BE INVOLVED. DETAILS ABOUT DATES/TIMES AND SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES WILL BE FORTHCOMING AS THEY ARE FINALIZED.



Training Up Children**Pastor Kevin**

On my shelf, at this very moment, is a book that I can't wait to get to. It concerns a topic that has been on Melanie and I's mind for the past several months and it is one that we have often pondered: what does it look like to train up our soon-to-be-born child to love and respect God? What are some practical steps that we can take as parents to help ensure that our child will see a godly example to follow in her mother and father? What does it look like to train up children from a young age concerning God, the Bible, their sinfulness and Jesus' righteous sacrifice? And how do imperfect and sinful parents even attempt to do any of this?!

Melanie and I have been (and will continue to be) searching the Scriptures constantly over the past several months and have learned a great deal about how the Israelites trained up their children. It all starts in that favorite passage of mine, Deuteronomy 6. It is here that we see the Biblical pattern of showing our daughter that she is constantly blessed by and under the authority of God and, as a result, that she owes Him her allegiance. This is seen in 6:4-6. However, the Scriptures also point out how this is to be accomplished: we find these instructions in 6:7, where the parents are commanded to speak of God and His standards as a normal part of life. We see in 6:9 that even the physical surroundings of the home should be a reminder of who we serve (Gosh - can you imagine that? What do our homes show about who or what we value most?).

We also see throughout the Old Testament several passages which have the common phrase of "When your son / child asks you in the time to come..." which seems to indicate that we as parents should be prepared with adequate Biblical explanations for many of the insightful and probing questions that our children will ask. One such passage is found in 6:20-25. Though we are not Israelites, we can learn much from the ways that God has shown parents of old how to disciple their children towards faithfulness and maturity.

On the New Testament front, there are various examples as well. Perhaps the one that sticks out to me the most is found in Titus chapter two, in which older men and women are commanded to teach sound doctrine (or, said another way: right and Biblical ways of living and thinking) to those who are younger than them. Indeed, as we read more we find that this is to be the very model of the church, and - so it would seem - this should be true of our homes as well.

To help Melanie and I think through this, we've acquired, begged, and borrowed a number of books written by wise teachers and recommended by several of those whose parenting we have seen in action. One such book - the very one that sits upon my shelf at this very moment - is Bruce Ware's "Big Truths for Young Hearts: Teaching and Learning the Greatness of God." Ware is a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY and has written a number of theological works that are first class and it appears that he has done just the same in this book aimed at parents. I fully anticipate that Melanie and I will learn much about God, children, and our role as parents from the insights in this book.

What about you? Are you still striving to teach your children through word and deed about the God you serve? Have you thought about family devotions? What does it look like to shepherd your children well? These are the questions that Melanie and I are looking forward to asking and answering as we seek God together in community. It's our prayer that we would be faithful parents and be found to be a faithful church when it comes to raising up the next generation of Christians. To God be the glory!

**CHANGING LIVES
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST**

Grace Bible Church
308 Mathews Drive
P.O., Box 189
Gilbert, IA 50105

Larry Rupp - Lead Pastor

Kevin Miller - Discipleship & Community

Engagement Pastor

Amanda Jennings - Worship Director

Service Times:

Sunday morning prayer: 8:30am

Sunday School : 9:00 a.m.

Church Service: 10:30 a.m.

E.K.G. - Wednesday 6:00pm

Phone: 515-232-1126

Parsonage: 515-232-2821

E-mail: gilbertefc@msn.com

Website: gracebible50105.org

*CONNECTING TO THE GILBERT AREA
WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST*



Women of Grace

Meeting 2nd & 4th (May 10 & 24)

Mondays at 7:00pm

All ladies Welcome!

See Cheryl Rupp or Bonnie Baker if you have questions

National Day of Prayer

Special E.K.G.

Dinner: 6:00-6:45

Worship and Prayer: 6:45

Wednesday May 5, 2010

Ministering to the Lord, His Church, and One Another

Date	Nursery	Ushers/Greeters	Treats	Cleaning	EKG Nursery
05-02-10	Annette & Michelle	Trent & Joseph	Edith	Lorntson's	Anita (5/5)
05-09-10	Susan & Lindsey	Dave R. & Kirk	Holck	Dunshee's	Annette (5/12)
05-16-10	Jan & Holly	Wade & Annette	Cindy	Miller's	Trent (5/19)
05-23-10	Bonnie	Marvin & Dick	Anita	Eubanks's	Edith (5/26)
05-30-10	Cindy & Anita	Ed & Cal	Bakers	Rupp's	

Reminder: Please clean up and do dishes after treats!

If you are unable to serve your date, please find a replacement to switch with or a substitute.

Thanks for serving - we appreciate you!