

Upcoming Events...

Business Meeting: next Sunday, August 13 at 4:30 p.m.

1 Corinthians Class: Every Tuesday at 12:00 p.m.

Barnabas Group Meeting: July 25

Bible Quotations about Loving Rebuke

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Be zealous therefore, and repent." Revelation 3:19

"It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees!...I know, O Lord, that in faithfulness You have afflicted me!" Psalm 119:71,75

July Birthdays

22 Morgie McKnight 30 Willie Henderson

August Birthdays

4 Noah Perales 6 Gigi Zamarripa 12 Debbie Hoffman
16 Nick Hoffman 19 Keith Lovelady 25 Pat Limburg

August Anniversaries

2 Buddy & Dolly Cashion

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Love, Rebuke, and Help

By Tim Dooley



Can I accept rebuke lovingly?

None of us is every right 100% of the time. We sin and fall short (Romans 3:23) and at times need loving correction (Galatians 6:1). But, nobody likes to be told that they are wrong and our attitude toward sin and righteous living dictates how we accept righteous rebuke.

King David asks for the righteous to smite him: *"Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness: and let him reprove me; it shall be an excellent oil, which shall not break my head: for yet my prayer also shall be in their calamities"* (Psalm 141:5). Notice he called it a kindness and said their reproof was an excellent oil. The apostle Paul asked the Galatian brethren, *"Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?"* (Galatians 4:16).

A true friend will tell us when we are wrong and a righteous heart will receive the rebuke in love and do some-thing to make it right. Proverbs 27:6, *"Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."* Thankfully God is always near when we call on Him in truth for forgiveness and support. Let brotherly love continue and be faithful to the God of all creation.

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

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Signs of a Dying Church

By Shane Idleman

Church is boring for many because the power of God has vanished from many congregations...there is a lack of desire to pursue Him in the pulpit as well as in the pew. Like Samson, they *"know not that the Spirit of the Lord has departed"* (cf. Judge 16:20). High attendance is not the gauge of success, faithfulness is. Granted, a healthy church should experience seasons of growth, but even cults generate large numbers of followers. Here are some simple ways to gauge the health of a church (continued from last week).

Is love a concept or a reality? True love is a "choice" and a commitment that we make to do good to others; it is not a "feeling." If love is the greatest commandment, it should be our first priority. When our concept of love is different from God's, unity suffers. Strive to develop the type of love that protects and defends others. For instance, stop yourself when you're tempted to gossip or belittle others, and turn the conversation if someone is taking you in that direction. The Bible is clear: If you have not love, it profits you nothing (cf. 1 Corinthians 13:3). You can be well read in all sixty-six books of the Bible, preach as well as Whitefield, Moody, and Spurgeon, and have a Ph.D. in theology, but if you don't have love, you have nothing. Make love, forgiveness, and unity top priorities. They will not rise to that level on their own.

Is there a love for the truth? Ironically, churches that are "all about love" forget the other side of the coin: judgment is never mentioned; repentance is never sought; and sin is often excused. They want to build a church rather than break a heart; be politically correct rather than biblically correct; coddle and comfort rather than stir and convict. This leaves people confused and deceived because they believe in a cross-less Christianity that bears no resemblance to Jesus' sobering call to repentance. Christianity only makes sense in light of the consequences of sin. The good news about Christ can only be appreciated with the bad news as the backdrop.

There are times when the saints must be fed, and there are times when the sinners must be warned (C.H. Spurgeon).

Preachers must find the balance—preach the difficult truths as well as the joyful ones; preach the cross and the new life; preach hell and preach heaven; preach damnation and preach salvation; preach sin and preach grace; preach wrath and preach love; preach judgment and preach mercy; preach obedience and preach forgiveness; preach that God "is love," but don't forget that God is just. Ironically, it's the love of God that compels us to share all of His truth, including those things that are hard to hear.

Although disheartening, this trend away from God's truth is not surprising. The apostle Paul warned centuries ago: *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine [God's Word], but according to their own desires...they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables"* (2 Timothy 4:3-4). If this isn't exactly what we see today, I don't know what is.

The Power of Short Prayers

Excerpted from article by Dan Jenkins

Sometimes you hear Christians say, "I do not know how to pray." If by this they mean they could not pray the long, flowery prayers we sometimes hear, there is a sense in which this is a blessing. Remember what Jesus said about praying. *"And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words"* (Matt. 6:7). Long prayers are not wrong, unless they are filled with empty words or unless the one praying them thinks the length of the prayer is a measure of how powerful a prayer is. Consider some of the powerful short prayers in the Bible. Here's just one...

"God, be merciful to me a sinner." Two men entered the temple to pray at the hour of prayer. One prayed "with himself" and the other prayed "unto heaven." The first told God what a good man he had been and how righteous he was. The other's humility would not even allow him to raise his eyes toward heaven. He pounded his chest as a sign of his distress and simply prayed, *"God, be merciful to me a sinner"* (Luke 18:13). Think of the power of this short prayer.