

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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A GUARENTEED Formula for Church Growth

What do you think the Lord is saying about our efforts to expand the borders of His glorious kingdom? Do you suppose He watches us and says, “Great Job” or is He saying, “I will spew thee out of my mouth” (Rev. 3:16). What is the church currently doing to save lost souls? Too often we do nothing but pray for new members of the body of Christ to move into our area. We sit back idly hoping someone will read our web site and take the Bible correspondence course. We sit back idly hoping to run across someone at work or play who would be willing to talk about Bible matters. We set up booths at city functions hoping someone interested in spiritual matters will come our way. We mail out Bible studies to prisoners in the local penitentiary. We go door to door in our neighborhoods hoping to run across someone who is willing to talk to us about the condition of their soul. We lay tracts out at restaurants hoping that someone will pick it up and read it. We rely on church member’s children to obey the gospel so that we can say, “the kingdom is growing.” We hold gospel meetings hoping someone will obey the gospel. We place ads in Newspapers, phonebooks, and various brotherhood magazines all with the hopes of evangelizing our areas. Though all this is done the church is stagnant. Anyone traveling on vacation and visiting a sound congregation will find a handful of saints meeting in towns across America. I suggest to all who have been using the above mentioned efforts, myself included, that this is NOT ALL the Lord intended when he said, “*Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world*” (Matt. 28:19-20).

Getting back to Bible Examples

Bible authority is established by direct command, inference, and examples. The book of Acts divinely delivers examples of church growth. The church added three thousand souls on Pentecost (Acts

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Announcements:

Christians from the Floral Heights church of Christ will man a booth at the Burkburnet Friendship Festival this October the third 2009. We will need volunteers to man the booth (i.e., pass out invitations for Bible studies and be ready to give answers to any and all regarding the faith we hold [I Peter 3:15]). If you are interested in doing this work please talk to one of the elders or deacons.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

“But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:”

I Peter 2:9

2:41). Two thousand more souls were added after Peter and John were attending an “*hour of prayer*” at the temple (see Acts 3:1; 4:4). During these early days the “*number of the disciples was multiplying*” (Acts 6:1, 7). The Ethiopian eunuch was reading Isaiah when Philip found him (Acts 8:27ff). Saul was exceedingly zealous for God when Jesus appeared to him (Acts 9:1ff). Cornelius was a devout man who feared God (Acts 10:2). Paul preached his first recorded sermon at Antioch of Pisidia in the hearing of the synagogue (Acts 13:14, 42ff). Paul went to the synagogue located in Iconium (Acts 14:1), three straight Sabbaths at the synagogue of Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-3), he preached at the synagogue in Corinth every Sabbath (Acts 18:4), and the synagogue at Ephesus for two straight years (Acts 19:8-10). Paul, when first going to Macedonia, went directly to a place outside the city where women had gathered to pray (Acts 16:13). Paul re-baptized 12 of John’s disciples (Acts 19:1-7). Are you starting to get the picture? The kingdom of God was growing because the target audience was people who already had at least an interest in God.

The guaranteed formula for church Growth

The church is certainly to be commended for its efforts in the above mentioned areas (i.e., advertising, gospel meetings, door to door, etc.). Yet when we turn to the book of Acts we find that the church was growing by leaps and bounds because the gospel was being preached to people who already had a spiritual interest. If you and I are going to follow the examples set forth in the book of Acts then we need to get to the “synagogues and places of prayer.” We need to infiltrate the Bible studies of the Baptists, Methodist, Catholics, Presbyterians, Muslims, Mormons, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and so forth. We need to get into these religious circles and present the truth to a people hungry for Bible preaching and teaching. We need to “GO into all the world...” rather than sitting back hoping that someone comes to our gospel meetings and so forth. When such “going” takes place the church buildings will not be able to contain the new members. The church’s elders will have their loads increased in that many will be, as the parable of the sower suggest, quick to start and quick to exit the church. The deacon’s work will expand. The evangelist will be edifying larger audiences and all members will be edified as we witness the church expanding as God intends. Bible authority in example will not fail. Let us all remember our own background. I came out of the Baptist church... what did you come out of? Surely you were not born a Christian. Brethren, lets get to work!

John C. Robertson

Subjection or Defiance

Which will it be in YOUR Life?

Introduction:

Wichita Falls County Jail recorded the highest number of inmates ever held on August 4, 2009. The County Jail was so full that some of the inmates had to sleep on the floor. According to a June 30, 2008 Bureau of Justice Statistics report, there are currently 2,310,984 prisoners being held in federal or state or local prisons. People find themselves in jail because of a lack of respect for authority. Rebellion and Defiance against the law is a recipe for a troubled life. There are times in all our lives that we are faced with subjecting ourselves to authority. Many are rebellious and defiant against authority in general and thereby cause trouble in their homes, church, work place, and communities they live in. This lesson shall examine the concept of Bible subjection as it relates to authority, rebellion, and defiance.

I. Principles of Authority

(Gen. 49:10; Matt. 28:18-19; Acts 4:12; Matt. 17:5-8; Acts 3:22-23):

- A. Authority = “the power to command, enforce laws, exact obedience, determine, or judge” (AHD 142).
- B. Defiance = disobedient: deliberately and openly disobedient (www.encyclopedia.com).
- C. Rebellion = opposing or defying authority (www.encyclopedia.com).
- D. Subjection = “To place or arrange under... to be obedient... subordinate” (LS 848; Moulton 419).
- E. Why do people defy and rebel against the authoritative words of Jesus? (Matt. 21:23-25)

II. Authority in the Home:

- A. The husband is divinely appointed the power of enforcing law, exacting obedience, and making judgments in the home (Eph. 5:22-25).
- B. The wife is divinely appointed to the role of subjection to her husband (Eph. 5:22).
- C. Why do people defy and rebel against the authoritative words of Jesus? (Matt. 21:23-25)

III. Authority in the Church:

- A. The head of the church of Christ is Jesus (we must obey his words) (Eph. 5:23).
- B. The Lord divinely ordained elders to be the bishops of the church (Acts 20:28).
- C. The Lord divinely ordained members of the church to be subject to elders (Heb. 13:17).
- D. Why do people defy and rebel against the authorized words of Jesus? (Matt. 21:23-25)

IV. Authority at Work:

- A. Imagine a workplace where no supervisors, managers, or foremen exist (i.e., no chain of command).
- B. The Lord divinely ordained workers to be subject to higher authorities (Col. 3:22ff).
- C. Why do people defy and rebel against the authorized words of Jesus? (Matt. 21:23-25)

V. Authority in Government:

- A. Civil Authority is ordained by God (Rom. 13:1ff).
- B. The Lord God Almighty commands respect for these authorized positions (I Pet. 2:17; Acts 26:25).
- C. Why do people defy, rebel, and set at nought the authorized words of Jesus? (Matt. 21:23-25)

Conclusion:

The Almighty paints a clear picture of how authority works in the minds of man. Those who have or cause trouble in the home, church, work, or in society do so because they have troubles SUBMITTING and KNOWING THEIR PLACE. Said men and women think too highly of themselves (Numb. 16:1-3; Rom. 12:3). While man may develop an over inflated view of self God reveals His more important view (see II Pet. 2:10-12; Jude 5-16). Let us not be numbered with the daring, self willed, creatures without reason, and clouds without water!