



Cape Coral Church of Christ

1010 S.W. 20th Avenue

Cape Coral, Florida 33991

(239) 283-4880



<http://www.thelordsway.com/capecoralfl>

Schedule of Services

Sunday: Bible Study: 9:30 A.M.

Worship: 10:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday: Bible Study: 6:00 P.M.

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The Church Is a Hospital

Perhaps you have heard the title of this article before. It is meant to illustrate the function of the church. A hospital is a place where people who are physically sick or injured go to get better. The church is also such a place, but in a spiritual way. People who are spiritually sick or injured should find healing through the efforts of the church. Sometimes people criticize the church as being a place of hypocrites precisely because there are spiritually sick or injured people in the church. That would be a valid criticism if the church were not doing anything to heal these spiritually damaged people. However, the goal is for spiritually sick people to become well through the work and teaching of Jesus. He said, "I am not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:32).

We should be careful, though, that the church does not become a spiritual hospice care facility, where the sick go, not to be cured, but to die from their illness. Jesus expects members of his church to put away their sins, not remain in them. Forgiveness is a path to holiness, not a path to ongoing sinfulness. That is why Jesus also said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who

is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). We are to "put away" all the sins of the flesh (Ephesians 4:22, Colossians 3:8). We are to be holy as He is holy (1 Peter 1:15-16). John wrote, "My little children, let no man lead you astray: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous" (1 John 3:7). We must make a serious effort to obey the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Family Worship

It is important for families to worship together. The God who created each and ordained marriage knew the importance of family worship. To a woman who had miserably failed in her family life, Jesus said, "The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him" (John 4:23).

The Father does not need our worship to be a better being. One cannot improve on perfection, but the Father knew each of us needed to worship. The old adage, "A family that prays together stays together" is true. One just does not find those that are truly committed and serving God in the divorce courts.

Families should worship for three major reasons: [1] God commands it (Hebrews 10:25); [2] It helps us influence one another (Matthew 5:15); and [3] it enhances our spiritual and marital lives (Romans 12:1-2).

No family can be completely balanced when there is a major spoke left out of their wheel. Families are to grow physically, intellectually, socially, and spiritually (Luke 2:52). The family that does not worship is missing at least a quarter of this designed growth.

Do you want to offer major blessing to your family? Here is a simple yet life-changing answer: Begin this week to worship God. We hope to see you in worship this week.

The Fear of the Lord

The fear of the Lord is that understanding of God's greatness and power and men's accountability toward Him. A scriptural and saving knowledge of God is the greatest need of every person. An unknown God can neither be trusted, served, nor worshiped. Belief in God is the foundation principle of the Christian faith. The writer of the book

of Hebrews said, "...without faith it is impossible to please Him..." (Hebrews 11:6).

The fear of the Lord leads to finding the knowledge of God. "If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God" (Proverbs 2:4-5). The fear of the Lord awakens feelings of gratitude and love. The fear of the Lord leads us to the Bible so that we might gain the knowledge of God.

The fear of the Lord causes us to depart from evil. God commanded, "Be not wise in thine own eyes; fear the Lord, and depart from evil" (Proverbs 3:7). He also said, "... by the fear of the Lord one departs from evil" (Proverbs 16:6). No one who knows himself should be conceited. There is no experience more humbling than to come face to face with our own sins. One who thinks he knows everything will never come to fear God. Watch and pray constantly against the spirit of self-conceit.

The fear of the Lord produces a satisfied life. "The fear of the Lord tendeth to life, and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil" (Proverbs 19:23). A godly life is a happy and satisfied life, here and hereafter. The fear of the Lord produces a true life. True life, genuine satisfaction, and freedom from sin are all blessings of the fear of the Lord.

The fear of the Lord will cause you to obey the gospel quickly. To become a Christian, you must hear the gospel and believe (John 6:44-45), repent of sins (Acts 2:38), confess Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3-4).

Lessons from a Snowflake

During the huge winter storm that swept across the nation, one weatherman showed an up-close picture of snowflakes, and that reminded me of the amazing beauty of God's creative power. There are many lessons we can learn from the humble snowflake.

Snowflakes show God's amazing design. If you look at a snowflake under magnification, you will see they all have six points or sides, but take on an endless variety of shapes, styles, and sizes. What seems simple to the casual observer is actually an individual work of art by the hand of God. "The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1).

Each snowflake is unique. Millions of snowflakes fall on this earth, and each one is different! Many may look similar, but they each have unique qualities that make them special. People are like that too. "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well" (Psalm 139:14). The unique qualities you have can all be used for God's glory.

The closer you get, the more beautiful they become. Looking at a snowflake from far away, you may not see any design, beauty, or strength to it. But when you get closer, you can see that is not the case! This is how it is with people, as well. The church needs to recognize we are all important and beautiful because we are God's handiwork (1 Cor. 12:12-20)! Draw closer to your brothers and sisters, and you will recognize the value of each.

Snowflakes have greater strength together. One snowflake by itself is not very strong. But put a whole bunch of snowflakes together, and you can make a snowball, a fort, or a snowman. A lot of snow together can stop traffic, shut down electrical grids, and bring daily routines to a grinding halt. This quality of snowflakes reminds us that as Christians, we are stronger together. When the church sets its efforts on a common goal, and works together, we can accomplish great things for the kingdom of God (Acts 9:26-31).

Snowflakes are short lived. From the time it is formed to the time it falls to the ground, then melts and evaporates, is a very short time. Our lives are fleeting as well (James 4:14). That's why we should make the most of the time we are allowed.

So let the humble snowflake point you to God and His amazing creation!

What Will I Make of the Church?

It is composed of people like me. I make it what it is. It will be friendly - if I am. Its pews will be filled - if I help fill them. It will do a good word - if I work. It will make generous gifts to those in need - if I give generously. It will bring many people into its worship and fellowship - if I bring them. It will be a church of loyalty and love, of noble spirit - if I, who make it what it is, if I am filled with all of these. Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want the church to be.