



## **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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## **Father -- a Special Man**

I hope everyone has a wonderful Father's Day this year. I wanted to share some thoughts about fathers. Being a father of two, I know we need to take a look at our lives from time to time so we can see our progress.

My grandfather says, "Anyone can have a child, but it takes a special man to be a father." I wholeheartedly agree with that statement. Being a father is much more than performing a biological function. It's about loving, caring, building, sharing, and living. Let's notice some of the characteristics of a father.

1) A father offers wise counsel so that he may lead his children to a path of righteousness (Gen. 18:19). He is slow to anger, yet demands respect (Eph. 6:1-3). Good fathers offer advice to their family. At the same time, they will listen to their family and attempt to meet their needs.

2) A father is a great example (Psa. 103:13). A father is strong, reliable, and confident. A father is also tender, loving, and understanding. They also remember to treat their family as they wish to be treated (Matt. 7:12).

3) A father recognizes the importance of making time for those he loves. Little League baseball and dance recitals seem to be his

favorite past time. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it." His love is also seen in his discipline.

4) A father is the head of his family. He does this, not out of insecurity, selfishness, or pride, but out of the desire to be an obedient servant to God (Eph. 5:22). We are called to lead in such a way that our family will glorify God. Many fathers are not the head of their home and they are suffering.

5) A father is a good provider. As long as he is capable, he is willing to labor hard to provide for all of his family's needs.

6) A father is not judged by how much he earns or how many material goods he provides. What matters to his children is how well he is being a father. Children would rather have a father who listens to them and spends time with them, than to have a father that works too hard and neglects them.

May God help us to be better fathers. Have a great week!

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## **Must I Be Baptized?**

An inspired writer once said, "The whole world lieth in the evil one" (1 John 5:19). There are only two kingdoms: God's kingdom and Satan's kingdom. The one who is not in Christ is in the evil one. This is equivalent to saying that he serves Satan's purpose and is a citizen of his kingdom although he may not be aware of it. But all who have been saved are "in Christ." To be in Christ is to be a citizen of His kingdom. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:7). And, in that same chapter, Paul said that God "hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (verse 3). One might be in possession of many blessings outside of Christ, but all spiritual blessings are in Christ.

Now, let us notice two passages which tell us how to get into Christ. "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27). "Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" (Romans 6:3). What do these two passages say? That we were baptized into Christ. The fact is not implied or intimated, but declared. With these plain statements before us, we should not be willing to accept any explanations of these or any other passages that would place a person into Christ without baptism. Salvation by faith alone is a popular

doctrine today - many preachers are telling people they do not have to be baptized to get into Christ. This doctrine cannot be propagated without a virtual denial of the two passages cited above.

There are other passages that teach the same truth in different words: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). "Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). These and many other passages all teach that baptism stands between the alien sinner and the spiritual blessings that are in Christ.

It might be said then, that baptism is the boundary line between the two kingdoms. It is the act by which a person enters Christ.

Have you been baptized into Christ for the remission of your past sins that He might add you to His Kingdom, the church? There is no need for you to delay - obey this plain command of Jesus today!

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## **Families Putting God First!**

Family life has changed immensely. There are few things which have impacted family life like the work schedules of moms and dads. Gone are the traditional days when families did so many things together. In our society today, many families only pass one another at the front door.

A fragmented family is not Gods plan! We can't put God first without serving our families. The first priority in serving our families is to maintain a rich personal relationship with Christ. This doesn't mean a one-day a week faith that comes to life only on Sunday. A daily walk is what is needed. A relationship with Jesus, where we spend time praying, reading His word as we allow the Lord to speak to us through scripture. Husbands and wives will find it very difficult to love one another until they realize and understand Christ's love for the church.

Our priorities to our children imply that when husbands and wives love each other as Christ loved the church, they are then qualified to be parents. Children learn what parents pattern!

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## **Is Preaching Really That Important?**

A minister was greeting people as they left the church building following services one morning when a gentleman approached him, shaking his hand and smiling. He said to the preacher, "I don't know how you do it, preacher; but you always find something to fill up the time." Although amusing, this sadly illustrates what many think about listening to a sermon.

Even the word "preach" has been given a negative connotation, as people will say to somebody who is nagging them about something, "Don't preach to me!" It is unfortunate that a man trying to convince sinners to repent, and Christians to grow, is thought to be nagging. Do they not know what God has said?

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:14-15).

Preaching is how people hear; preaching the Gospel is how people hear the saving message.

"Preach" is translated from the Greek word, *kerusso*, and it means "to herald" (proclaim); to preach (announce) a message publicly and with conviction (persuasion)." That is exactly what the disciples were commanded (Mark 16:15) and it is exactly what they did (Acts 2:14). Does preaching take time? It sure does. It takes time to learn what to proclaim; it takes time to prepare the lessons; it takes time to deliver the lessons. Gospel preachers worth their salt do not simply "work up" lessons to fill a time allotment. Rather, they say what needs saying from the Bible based upon observation of self, others, the church, and society. Yes, preaching really is that important, for it is the way God designed the Message to spread and the church to grow.

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## **The Most Dangerous Sin**

The story is told of a young mother who left her baby in the shade of a big tree and went on her way working in the field nearby. Being busy, she forgot her child. When she finally returned, the summer sun had been shining for some time in the baby's face and blinded it for life. The mother meant no harm, but she and her baby had to pay heavily for her neglect.

The Bible repeatedly warns of the danger of neglect. Of all sins, the sin of negligence is the most dangerous. In the following paragraph we will relate some reasons why this is true.

Neglect is dangerous because of its deceptive nature. God's people recognize murder, lying, drunkenness, adultery, and stealing as great sins, but are often deluded concerning neglect of the many deeds of righteousness that should be attended to. We are alarmed concerning sins of commission, but fail to become alarmed with sins of omission.