



A
Ministry
of:

**CORNERSTONE
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

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THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS PASTOR LED.

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This much needed message is from *The Baptist Vision*: "Sheep need a shepherd, and our Lord has designed that the local church be led by a shepherd - their pastor. This man is not a hireling; he is a shepherd. He loves the sheep and gives his life for the sheep. Scripture says, **'This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.'** 'Bishop' means one that can oversee. The man of God should be a man who can see further than others in the church because God gives him discernment. He is a discerning man who recognizes things before others recognize them. When little devils pop up, he's going to fight the little devils because he discerns that there is going to be a big devil someday if he does not fight the little ones. There are battles to be fought. These are tests God puts us through to prove the pastor. He leads the people as he looks to the Lord. God enables the pastor. As he raised up Joshua in the eyes of the people, as the pastor seeks wisdom from God to deal with the problems, the Lord will prove Himself through the pastor to the people of the church. They will recognize that they have God's man to lead them. Do not run from your problems: run to the Lord. God said to Moses, 'Go down to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to let my people go.' If anyone knew about Pharaoh, it was Moses. I have a suspicion that Moses thought he'd be better off if God would kill Pharaoh and said, 'Moses, he's dead so you can lead the people out.' God does not kill our Pharaohs. He goes with us to meet them. Every New Testament church should be a pastor-led church. *There are people you are going to meet in your church who cannot lead and will not follow!* That is a tough crowd with which to deal. But if you get in the saddle and ride, God will ride with you. If you say, 'Here we go people. The Lord Jesus is leading us forward,' they will come with you. The New Testament church is a pastor-led church. God's Word gives us the clear pattern for the New Testament church. Jesus said, **'I will build my church.'** Our responsibility is to follow Christ and be obedient to Him. May the Lord help each one of us to find our place in the local New Testament Church?"

Not long ago we wrote an article entitled *"Stop Killing God's Preachers."* The willfulness and disobedience of many members in Fundamental Baptist churches is holding back the work of God and destroying our usefulness. Church splits seem to be the order of the day. Nine times out of ten (if not more), the opposition is against the Pastor, and though *"spiritual"* reasons are given, the problem in reality is his authority. You cannot be obedient to Christ without being obedient to those He placed in leadership. **"Obey them that have the rule over you,"** appears three times in Hebrews thirteen. It is God's order, to have a shepherd for His sheep; it is clearly laid out in His Word. It is brazen and dangerous to fight against the man God has called. It is the responsibility of the shepherd to lead and the duty of the sheep to follow. The best sheep in the world are supposed to follow the shepherd and not try to lead on their own; the truth is THE BEST SHEEP DO FOLLOW the shepherd. One of the greatest problems we have is many professed believers put themselves and their ideas first, instead of putting Christ and His Church first! *If you don't put the Church first, you don't put Christ first!*

YOUTH CORNER

WHAT IS CONSECRATION? A Christian woman said to a preacher, "Will you please tell me in a word, what your idea is of consecration is?" Holding out a blank sheet of paper, the Pastor replied, "It is to sign your name to the bottom of this blank sheet of paper and let God fill in as He wills." Young people, that is basically what the Bible teaches and what God expects of every Christian. The Bible says, "...ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price..." ~1 Corinthians 6:19,20. If you are saved, you belong to God and you have no right to do whatever you want with your life. Who knows what is best for you, you or God? He makes no mistakes but left to ourselves that's all we can make. God says, "**It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.**" ~Jeremiah 10:23. He also said, "**The steps of a good man are ordered of the Lord and he delighteth in his way.**" ~Psalm 37:23. Unless you let the Lord Jesus Christ run your life, you will surely make a mess of it and you will be eternally sorry. "**...whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.**" ~Galatians 6:7.

SECRET OF HOLINESS. "As long, dear Friends as your flesh is indulged and allowed to remain, there is no way for you to go into the Holiest of all. You cannot see it. The old nature hinders our seeing the glory of God. But when self dies, the veil is rent in two and the glory of God is opened." -A. B. Simpson

**But as he which hath called you is holy,
so be ye holy in all manner of conversation:
1 Peter 1:15**

SLOTHFULNESS IS A GREAT SIN! Old Bud Smith was not a very energetic fellow and hunted a long time for a Church that suited him. One day he entered a church as the people were reading in unison, "Oh, Lord, we have done many things we ought not to have done; and we have left many things undone which we ought to have done..." Old Bud settled down in a seat and said to himself, "Thank goodness, at last I have found the right crowd." It seems there are many like that today; they just want some easy place with no effort or responsibility. The man who was given one talent and hid it was called a "**Wicked and slothful servant.**" He was cast into outer darkness. It is a sin to waste the time and energy God has given you! I have read in Spurgeon, Moody and others their belief that a lazy man could not be saved. God says, "**Not slothful...**" ~Romans 12:11.

PARENTS PLEASE TAKE NOTE! A program on *Good Morning America* showed that children as young as seven are aware of sexual content on television. A room full of boys and girls, ages 7 - 10, watched a selection of TV programs while their parents looked on from another room. The children recognized sexual messages and even commented on the tight outfits worn by pop singer Britney Spears. Two boys said the singer wore clothes that made her look "sexy." Believe me, the sexual revolution is winning the battle for our youth. You may say that those young people were not from Christian homes. That's probably true. Christian parents, listen to me-you are too naive about your own children.

SOMETHINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

The reason many can never discover opportunity is that it usually goes about disguised as hard work.

Don't just count time; make time count!

Charity may begin at home but the kind the Bible talks about doesn't end there.

God is still speaking, but only to those who take time to listen!

If you start the day without God, you are not likely to find Him the rest of the day.

For some people, the best sermon is one that goes over their heads - and hits somebody else!

ONLY BROKEN ON ONE SIDE

Sam Jones, the famous American evangelist, held a campaign for the cowboys of Texas. They wanted to take up a love offering for him, but they had so little money, they let him go home without an honorarium. Weeks later he received a telegram from the cowboys stating they were sending him a love offering: a car load of broncos. But what could Sam Jones do with a carload of wild horses? He thought of an idea. He'd hold an auction, sell them and pocket the money. He kept the finest animal for his son. Calling one of the cowboys he asked how much he would charge to break the bronco. "Fifteen dollars," was the reply. "Take him, and break him," said Sam. Two weeks later the cowboy came back with the bronco. "Is he broken?" asked Sam. "Yes, Sir." Sam said, "Can my son ride him?" "Yes, Sir." So, Sam gave him the fifteen dollars. He thought he'd try out the horse. As he approached the animal, the cowboy came running up. "What's wrong?" said Sam. "Why, Sir," said the cowboy, "he has only been broken on one side and you are mounting from, the wrong side." Agreement was made to break him from the other side also for another \$15. Two weeks later the cowboy brought the horse again. "Is he broken now on both sides," said Sam. "Yes, Sir, both sides." "Here is your fifteen dollars." Do you know the trouble with the average Christian? He is only broken on one side! He's like Ephraim: **"Ephraim is a cake not turned."** Half-baked! Many a Christian is like that - he wants his own way; he has never been completely broken! He will do this, but he will not do that. He will go here but he will not go there. He will work on the foreign field but he will not work on the home field, God cannot depend upon him. He has never really been broken. He still wants to have his own way - Oswald Smith.

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WHAT'S WRONG WITH TEENS?

We love teenagers and thank God for them, but you don't have to be a genius to know that most of them are not all that interested in spiritual things. A Gallup poll asked: "*Why do teenagers get out of hand?*" The answers: "1- **Parents** are not strict enough. 2- **Parents** do not provide a proper home life. 3- **Parents** have too many outside interests. 4- **Parents** are too indulgent with their children." Notice, it is not the Church, the school, etc., but the parents! I have been saying for years that the problem with young people is the parents, but few parents want to hear that. I see it all the time; they blame the school or the teacher, the Church or the Pastor, the child's friends, the times, etc. Please listen Dad and Mom; when your children go bad, blaming their behavior on someone else will not save your child. The following is from *Baptist Banner*: "How Teenagers Think: 1-From a very self-centered perspective. 2-Shift blame to others when caught doing wrong. 3-No respect for authority. 4-Very materialistic. 5-Motivated by immediate gratification. 6-Slow to accept responsibility for actions. 7-Worldliness pervades their minds." I believe that is a true appraisal. But where do teenagers get their values? Be honest - from their parents! I often say that the Christian school, no matter how good it is, cannot overcome the behavior and values of the home. Over and over again in our Christian school I see parents defending children that have done wrong or who have not done their work properly. I see parents who undermine the authority of good Christian teachers, administrators and even the Pastor by siding with their disobedient children rather than with the godly leadership. Dad and Mom, please take this to heart, for God holds YOU accountable! Let's work together: the home, the Church and the Christian school.