



On the Same Page

“the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom *be* the glory forevermore. Amen.” (Galatians 1:3-5 NAS95)

Forever-Family Fellowship

We will teach and practice truth-and-love relationships with brothers-sisters in Christ that must survive/thrive in the present because we believe that these relationships will last forever

All-Week-Long Worship

As the local body of believers gathers each Sunday for worship, we will inspire a worship experience for all age groups that will travel with you all week long. What we do on Sunday will assist you in your singing, in your praying, in your devotion, and in your witness.

Conversely, it is as you worship all-week-long that you will be prepared to enter into gathered worship on Sunday.

Day-to-Day Discipleship

As followers of Christ, we are disciples every single day. Respect for and commitment to Scripture is essential. We will show you how to interact with and respond to God's Word, both as individuals, and in groups.

Moment-by-Moment Mission

God, the Architect of the world and of our lives arranges appointments and interruptions. Each of us is called to represent His Son for the glory of His Name. We will cultivate a mind-set for moment-by-moment mission, whether close to home, or far away.

Everyone in Distress, in Debt, or Discontented (1 Samuel 22:2)

I may be the weird one, but this little triplet from David's experience of fleeing Saul grabs me. The alliteration helps, but I am impressed again with how **God works so much differently than does the world.**

Think of an exercise in **team-building**. Maybe you could think of building a church staff. How are you going to go about it? You might start with a careful description of the skills needed, but then you move on to the personalities and psychological profiles are needed to fill all the seats on the bus. Yes, that is the kind of language that is used in the popular business books, and yet I am not sure at all that building a church staff or building a team has much to do with who sits where on a bus. When I ride the shuttle bus from the parking lot to the airport, I could not care less whether someone is a lion or an otter, extrovert or introvert, Type A or B or Z - everyone looks straight ahead; no one talks, and we just hope to get off the bus.

David, on the run from Saul with his life at risk, **desperately needed a team**. He was able to form such a group, though it seems he never consulted LinkedIn. This group which at one time numbered 600 men were drawn to him perhaps as much by their own personal distress as due to their respect and admiration for David and his reputation. They had lost everything, though we are not sure how. Perhaps the Philistines had taken their land and perhaps destroyed their families. Whatever victories Saul had been able to gain, it had not spared them their dire circumstances. And so they came to David.

But they must have known something of the one to whom they were coming. This was the man who, when a boy, had defeated Goliath. This is the one who was challenged to calm Saul's evil spirit with music. He was the poet who sang to the sheep, and

seemed to treat people as well or better than those sheep. He is the one who would be known as the Shepherd/King. Though not yet a king, these men saw something in David - that he would shepherd them, and they were willing to pledge their lives and service to him.

But there were rough, very rough. They were fashioned into mighty warriors, and probably had plenty of raw material available for that quest, but they were also prone to wanton violence and interpersonal conflict and greed and the immoralities that go along with it. David would have to **patiently and carefully disciple** them to be those who would reflect his own character and then help them to be conversant with God's way rather than man's ways. It would take time, and some would leave and die in their sins.

Corporate style teams cannot afford this much time. They need sterling resumés to start with, and each person needs to gain a following soon after. But **David lovingly struggled with some of these men for the rest of their lives.** I wonder what would happen if we saw "local church" more in David's terms than that of "this present evil age (Gal 1:4)"

From Weakness to Strength by Scott Sauls

The Christian really has a double task. He has to practice both God's holiness and God's love. The Christian is to exhibit that God exists as the infinite-personal God; and then he is to exhibit simultaneously God's character of holiness and love. Not his holiness without his love: that is only harshness. Not his love without his holiness: that is only compromise.

Notes:

Sunday School classes for youth and adults meet each Sunday, 10 a.m.

Ladies Bible Study meets on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. with a study of Ezra and Nehemiah

Men of Action Breakfast and Meeting is this Saturday, March 1, 8 a.m. **American House service** is Sunday at 3 p.m.

Our next **Wednesday night dinner, discussion and prayer**, will be Wednesday, March 5, 6 p.m.

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

Last Sunday, February 23, we combined Titus 3:1-3 with the Old Testament story of Nabal and David and Abigail (1 Sam 25). We found that Christians have a charter to follow, and that abandoning it will only produce poor results. What a wonderful thing when God intervenes. [Listen to the message here](#)

This Sunday, March 2, we continue our Lord's Table series called **Gospel Conversations**, and think about Jesus' interaction with Peter at the foot washing found in John 13. I'm calling it **"It's Time to Watch, not Talk."**

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