



NEWSLETTER

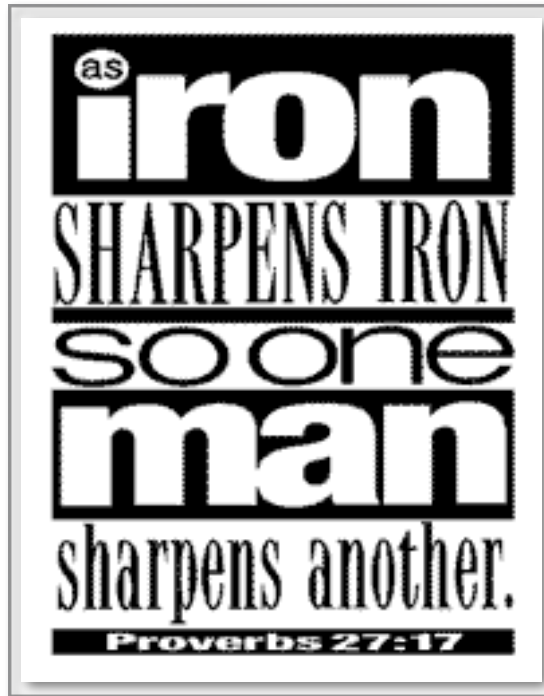
Meaningful Church Membership, Part 4

Holding One Another Accountable

In Proverbs 27:17, Solomon writes that “as iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” For the New Testament believers, where is the primary place that this kind of “sharpening” happens? The answer is . . . in the local church.

The church is the place where we are sharpened into being more Christlike and less like the world. But there’s a catch. Sharpening hurts. And the fact that it hurts means that, left to ourselves, we would avoid being sharpened into Christlikeness. This is why the verse doesn’t say that “iron sharpens itself.” There are certain times in which we must rely upon the accountability that only the brothers and sisters in our church family can give.

Jesus saw the need for members of His church to sharpen one another, and even gave his followers directions on how to do this when the sin of someone in the church became known. In Matthew 18:15-17, Jesus states, “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.” Though these words may sound harsh to our modern ears, they are actually very loving.



When a person in the church sins and stumbles, Jesus wants the other members of the church to love that stumbling brother or sister enough to “sharpen” them by holding them accountable and calling them back to faithfulness to the Lord. Ignoring the stumbling of those around us is unloving. If a person we love is sinning against God, we must love them enough to “sharpen” them for their good and God’s glory.

Does this mean that we need to become “spiritual police,” always looking out for the failures of those around us? Does this mean we have an

excuse to be judgmental? Certainly not. Paul agrees with Christ’s instructions in Matthew 18 and adds some instructions of his own on the manner in which this sharpening should be carried out. In Galatians 6:1-2, Paul writes, “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him *in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.*” We are to sharpen each other, but we are to do so in a spirit of gentleness and humility, realizing that we too are just as susceptible to falling as anyone else. Let’s love one another enough to not let our brothers and sisters grow “dull” spiritually. Let’s sharpen one another in gentleness and out of love.

Blessings in Christ, Pastor Grant



YOUTH ROOM RENOVATIONS



Our students have been working hard to renovate the basement of our church where they meet for Sunday morning Sunday school, Wednesday night Bible study (a.k.a. “Underground”), and at various other times for events. We’re proud of the work they’ve done and wanted to make sure everyone was able to see their handiwork.

As you can see, they’ve given the walls a new coat of paint. They’ve also prepared an area with couches and a coffee table as well as an eating area with table and chairs. This will provide them with a great place where they can feel at home and spend quality time with one another as they study God’s Word, worship together, and have fun just hanging out.

We hope you’ll come down and take a look at it for yourself. More important, however, than this room or any part of the building where our church meets are the things that go on in the rooms. We ask that you would pray for our students. God is doing a work in their lives and wants to do a work in the lives of more students in our community. Pray that this room would simply



be a tool that we will be able to use for the spiritual upbuilding of the students who already attend our church and for those the Lord may allow us to reach with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. May Christ be glorified with everything that happens in our youth room!



GIVING THANKS TO THE LORD



As Thanksgiving approaches let's be reminded of the need to have a biblical view of giving thanks. Here are some things the Bible mentions about giving thanks.

1) Thanksgiving as Praise to God

Offering thanks to God is a way of praising Him for who He is and what He has done.

Psalm 100:4-5, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."

2) Thanksgiving Instead of Filthiness

We should let thanksgiving to God come from our mouths, not filthiness.

Eph 5:4, "Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving."

3) Thanksgiving for Evidences of Grace in the Church

We should give thanks for the ways that God is working in people's lives within the church. If we're like Christ, it's God's doing, not ours.

1 Corinthians 1:4, "I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus."

4) Thanksgiving for Victory Over Sin and Death

We should give thanks for the victory that is ours in Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57, "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Upcoming Events

November 5

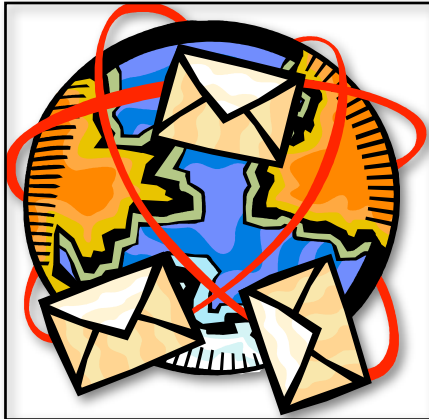
We planned to have a bon fire in October for the youth group but ended up going bowling instead because our county was under a no burning order. So we're going to try it again in November! From 6:00 to 9:00 pm our student ministry will be having a bon fire at the church. We'll roast hotdogs, make smores, sing around the fire, etc. Please invite your teenager and their friends.

November 21

We will be having a Thanksgiving lunch on this Sunday morning after the worship service.



PEOPLE WHO'D LOVE TO RECEIVE MAIL



Bobby Morton

4295 N China Manville Rd
Madison, IN 47250

Bobby Morton is the son of Ron Morton and grandson of Carolyn Morton. He was in a

severe car accident recently. Let's show him the love of Christ by sending him a note and praying for his quick and full recovery.

Lavern Self

8235 State Rd 129
Vevay, IN 47043

Mrs. Self has recently had a new pacemaker put in. Let's let her know that we're thinking about her and praying for her.

If you have names you'd like to add, please call the church at 839-3430 (leave a message if no answer).

Areas of Service

Deacon of the Month

Bill Roberts (427-2901)

Nursery Workers

Nov. 7 — Ingrid Peters

Nov. 14 — Rosemary Jessup

Nov. 21 — Melisa Gaines

Nov. 28 — Volunteers Welcome

Nursing Home Visitation

November 28 — meet at the church at 1:45pm.