



This is for the dads out there: Do you realize the amazing gift it is to be a dad?! Do you fathom the importance of your role?! Do you take being a father seriously?! The importance of being a good dad is paramount!

Ephesians 6:4 says, "And now a word to you fathers. Don't make your children angry by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction approved by the Lord."

Dads, this is for us! Moms are so important, no doubt, but this instruction is for fathers. Too often we leave

SCRIBBLINGS FROM SCOTT

DADS—A CHALLENGE AND A GIFT

the responsibility of "discipline and instruction" up to the moms, and that's not fair. We are called to step up and treat our kids the right way, not provoking them to anger with a mean spirit or wrong actions but to raise them up with Godly discipline and instruction. How is that going, dad? Are you patient with your kids? Do they see you modeling in word and action that you belong to Jesus? Do you tell them about the Lord and what it means to follow Him daily? Are you praying *for* your family? Are you praying *with* your family? I believe and studies show that a big reason there are so many problems in our society today is because there is a lack of dads,

especially engaged, godly fathers. I once heard a pastor ask fathers, "What if we put the same kind of passion into being a father as we put into work?" What a great question! Dads, let's step it up! Kids are a gift from the Lord. Remember Psalm 127:3, "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him." How are we raising up our kids, our special gifts from God?! Dads—follow the Lord daily! Your actions speak and impact your kids **big time**. Modeling is the most powerful way to teach. Pray for your kids and with your kids. Love on them! Hug them and tell them daily how much you care about them

and are proud of them. Finally, follow Deuteronomy 6:7 which says to talk about God's commands again and again, when you are away, lying down, and even getting up. In other words, make the Lord and His ways a regular part of your everyday talk and life. The way to grow in this is to **start doing it**. Dads, your role is so important! It is never too late to make the effort to be a great dad. Consider this a challenge fellas! A challenge for you and me. Here we go! This is one of the most important things you will ever do—being a dad. What a gift!

-SCOTT

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First Baptist Church

WITH ALL WE ARE, LOVING GOD AND LOVING PEOPLE THROUGH CHRIST



From the Desk of
Pastor Rich...

Bodylife-#6 "Bodylife Brings Joy"

During the Last Supper before He went to the cross, Jesus repeatedly announced a new provision of His grace—"joy." In John 15:11 He reveals that joy is full and joy is permanent only when we are bearing fruit and abiding in God's love.

In John 16:20-24 joy and pain are juxtaposed. Amazingly, God turns the very thing that causes suffering into a source of joy. Such blessing comes only through intimate relationship with Him and an open

line of communication through prayer.

Then, in His magnificent prayer (John 17) the Savior relates our fullness of joy to His ascension to heaven and taking His place at the right hand of the Father (vs. 13).

Joy is clearly something far more significant than mere happiness as a result of pleasant situations. Anyone can feel delight when things are going well. However, joy that is produced by the Holy

Spirit is founded on relationship, not circumstance.

William Barclay notes that "...joy is the distinguishing atmosphere of the Christian life. We may put it this way—whatever be the ingredients of the Christian life, and in whatever proportions they are mixed together, joy is one of them."

(Barclay, *Flesh and Spirit*, p. 77)

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When Jesus spoke to Nicodemus, He astonished him with news about the new birth—declaring it to be prerequisite for two things: “seeing” the Kingdom of God (John 3:3) and “entering” the Kingdom of God (John 3:5). We understand the second part, but what about the first? Why should salvation be necessary before one can even perceive or comprehend the Kingdom of God, that spiritual realm where beings are willingly submissive to the work and will of God?

Paul’s answer comes in Romans 14:17. Believers can perceive what unbelievers cannot. Christians can see truth to which the world is blind. Believers can understand the reality of ethereal things like peace and righteousness and joy. The work of the Holy Spirit is necessary to produce such conditions, and Paul names both joy and peace as products of His sweet grace (Gal. 5:22).

The world may look for self-

serving shortcuts, but the believer walking with the Lord insists on doing things right, regardless of the cost. In disturbing circumstances the worldly person grasps at any straw, seeking immediate relief. The Christian, however, has resources from God to internally rest in peace and to experience joy, even while the storm rages outside. Through our relationships with one another, through serving one another in love, we perceive the reality of God’s kingdom.

One of the most dramatic images of finding joy through serving others comes from the pen of Paul in Philippians 2:17-18. With an abrupt concessive clause, Paul declares, “Even if it should come to this...that I were to be offered...I rejoice.” In this analogy he refers to two sacrifices. One is big—the “sacrificial animal” as it were—which is the service coming from this church’s faith. The other sacrifice is small—a simple “drink offering”—poured out on top of the big sacrifice and burned up as an extra measure of praise to God.

Paul’s perspective is clear: Even if my life were to be consumed like a vaporized drink offering because of serving you, I would rejoice!

Is that how we view serving others? Is that how important Body of Christ life is to us?

As Irene and I draw near the close of our pastoral ministry here, I encourage each one to find “fullness of joy” through living *Bodylife*. Build connections that matter; serve the Lord by serving others with fervor. *Life Groups* is a great vehicle to accomplish this. From our perspective, many in First B. are growing spiritually by doing this, and they have found real joy that lasts. Others need to engage more earnestly.

During this time of transition, faithfulness to God and commitment to one another are so very important. Of one thing I remain convinced—the Lord’s best for First B. is still ahead!

Pastor Rich



Please pray...

† For grieving families

† For our nation, the election

† For our military and families

Tyler Budge
Michael Humphrey
Chris Patchen
Jon Roberts
Brian Garrison
Jason Stewart, nephew
of Jane Kranenberg

† For those undergoing surgery, cancer treatments, medical care and ongoing health issues

† For world leaders

† For our missionaries - at home and overseas

Upcoming Events...

For further details, refer to our weekly bulletin.

- July 4 FRANKFURTERS FOR FAMILY Fundraiser—Parking lot
- 5 Missionaries to China, Craig and Deborah Graber speaking @ both Worship services
- 8 Gals’ Nite 6-10pm—FH
- 9 Elder Mtg. @ 5:30pm; Diaconate Mtg. @ 7pm
- 19 Baptisms and Baby Dedication during Worship Frontline Ministry Luncheon @ 11:45am—FH
- 23 Elder Mtg. @ 6pm
- August 2 L.I.F.E. Group Picnic @ Noon—Mike Yokel Park
- 5 Gals’ Nite, 6-10pm in Fellowship Hall
- 13 Elder Mtg. @ 5:30pm; Diaconate Mtg. @ 7pm
- 27 Elder Mtg. @ 6pm



THE NUMBERS OF HOPE

Weekly Events You Can Count On...

Sundays:

- 9:00 am: Morning Praise, Adult Sunday School Class
- 10:30 am: TRADITIONS Young Adult Study
- 7-9pm Junior High Youth (Except July 5)

Mondays:

- 6:15 pm: Monday Nights @ FBC Infant care provided

Wednesdays:

- 7:30 am: Hour of Prayer
- 7:00 pm: High School Youth



Frontline Ministry News...

There will be a Frontline Ministry Team luncheon after church on July 19. Let us serve you to say *Thank You* for serving in this vital ministry. If you are on the team or are interested in joining Frontline, please come! Call Diane (733-3706) or Mark and Debbie (733-3906) or Ray and Suzanne (699-1205)

A Note from our Church Leaders...

FRANKFURTERS FOR FAMILY

First B is having a fundraiser!

All proceeds raised from the sale of our fabulous frankfurters will go to the Jeff Gaertner memorial fund to support kids affected by the tragic car accident that claimed the life of Jeff Gaertner. As you may know, Eddy Eiden, a student involved in First B's senior high youth group, was injured and has required surgeries and ongoing medical treatment for a severely broken leg. Our hope is to raise funds to help defray

the costs for rescue, current and future medical needs and travel expenses. 100% of the funds will be used to help Eddy Eiden and his family, and if possible, the other injured teens involved. The event will take place on July 4th from 11am till 2pm, and will resume again from 7pm till 10pm.

Come by the church parking lot on Saturday and pick up a flame-broiled hotdog, a bag of chips and a soda. All for a donation of just \$5!

(Donations are also being accepted at 1st Interstate Bank under Jeff Gaertner Memorial Fund.)



Junior High Youth Group schedule through the end of the summer:

Sunday, July 5..... No Jr High youth group meeting

We will meet every Sunday evening from July 12 through August 30, 7-9pm.

We have lots of great things planned and want YOU to be a part!

For information on special events planned, please contact Mark or Brenda Hull @ 734-1377.

Senior High Youth Group schedule through July and August, Please check the church website: firstbjackson.org or call Nick Craig @ 858-775-8149 or Joel Ahlum @ 690-1006.

We are looking forward to hearing about what God has done through our students that went to Memphis, Tennessee to serve with SOS ministries!



Hope you are having a great summer!



Is Your L.I.F.E. Group Growing?

Ephesians 4:16—From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Join us for a summer picnic on August 2nd at noon at Mike Yokel Park!

- Are you looking for a group?
• Is your group ready to grow?
• Are you interested in hosting a group at your home?

Let's get together for food, fun and talk about LIFE Groups! We will provide the main dish and drinks. We are asking folks with the last names A-M to bring desserts, and names N-Z to bring a salad or side dish to share. See YOU there! For more information, please call Dave or Dawn Hazen 734-1382.