



Broadfield Christian Fellowship

Broadfield Community Centre, Broadfield Barton, Crawley. Charity no. 1081321

(0845 22 66 498 – Email: fellowship@broadfield.org.uk – Web site: www.broadfield.org.uk

NewsFlash!

Sunday 11th February 2007

This morning: 10.30 am Morning Worship in the Social Hall
Worship: Katie Johnson; Preacher: Adam Hall.

We offer a warm welcome to all visitors to our worship today

Tuesday: 7.30 pm *No House Group this week – everyone is invited to Joel's birthday party at his house in Southgate*

Wednesday: 9.30 am Coffee Shop in the Social Hall (*until 11.30 am*)

Thursday: 9.30 am "Freedom in Christ" in the Social Hall

Next Sunday: 9.15 am Prayer meeting in the Social Hall
9.45 am Set up Social Hall for Morning Worship
10.30 am Morning Worship in the Social Hall, including communion
Worship: Kevin Gordon; Preacher: Ian Johnson.

Thought for the Week – from Caroline

CHURCH DISCIPLINE Part 2

I don't seem to be able to put this particular "bone" down. I have prayed about it and sense it is really important, and so to continue ...

The motive behind discipline must be the love and the welfare of the person concerned and not tyrannical rule. The following definitions are taken from next week's session of "Freedom in Christ" which help to clarify it:

- Judgment is always related to character e.g. "You are a liar" which attacks character.
- Discipline is related to behaviour, e.g. "You have just said something untrue" which is pointing out someone's sinful behaviour.
- Punishment is related to the Old Testament concept of "an eye for an eye." God does not punish us for doing wrong. The punishment we deserved fell on Christ.

God's discipline is a proof of his love, just as it is with our own children. He disciplines us so we won't do it again. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, it is painful, but later it will produce a harvest of righteousness and peace.

WE cannot convict people of their sin – only the Holy Spirit can do that – but we have a responsibility towards them (and to each other). We draw alongside people, we love them and teach them a new way to live. They may well "kick" against it to begin with, which is probably why people are fearful for the unity of the church, but ultimately it is their choice to obey or disobey. Sometimes you can't just pray and leave it to God, you have to do your bit too. Wouldn't parenting be easy if you only had to pray and leave it to God? It is hard disciplining our children and it can make us unpopular but it is

for the best, and so it is with church life as well. We are a family together and if we are to grow and mature, issues need to be dealt with.

A way of thinking has crept into the church (from America I think) called moral individualism where basically the life of the individual is between him and God alone, which is only partly right as it leaves out accountability to each other and, most importantly, to God's appointed leadership and therefore reduces leadership down to a purely administrative role, which is not what God intended. God's appointed leaders are our shepherds who have been given charge to watch over us and protect us (Acts 20:28-29) and that includes the dangers you put yourselves in knowingly or unknowingly through choices or lifestyles.

If we are to be a beacon of light to the community and not a dim torch that needs new batteries, we must be DIFFERENT.

John Leadley Dagg, the author of a well-known and influential church manual of the nineteenth century, noted "It has been remarked, that when discipline leaves a church, Christ goes with it." If so, and I fear it must be so, Christ has abandoned many churches who are blissfully unaware of his departure. This does not mean God will leave us or forsake us – He has promised He will never do that – but we must do things according to His will.

Hebrews 13 verse 17 says this: "Obey your leaders and follow their orders. They watch over your souls without resting, since they must give God an account of their service. If you obey them, they will do their work gladly; if not they will do it with sadness, and that would be of no help to you."

This does not mean "Lording it over you" but that is another subject again and I have to stop somewhere.

Advance Notices

Friday 9th – Sunday 11th March: Church Weekend at Otford Manor, Kent (see below).

Saturday 11th – Saturday 18th August: Revive! 2007: "Faith, Hope and Love Remain" – annual Ichthus

Church Weekend payments: We have now paid in full for the weekend, so it would be appreciated if you could give the balance of your payment to Irma as soon as you are able. If you are already saving regularly with Pat, that's fine – please continue. If you have any difficulty paying in full, please speak to Dave in confidence. We do not want anyone to be excluded because of the cost.