

A Strong Sense of Family

Trevor Matich was being interviewed on ESPN radio, asked about why he thought that Clemson had built such a strong football program in the last few years. His quick response was, "They have built a strong sense of family." He talked about how Head Coach Dabo Sweeney and his staff wanted players to see their coaches not just as coaches but also as husbands and fathers. Consequently, the coaches' families spend a lot of time around the athletic facilities or hanging out with the players. They have intentionally built a strong family environment that doesn't compartmentalize but rather coalesces. Recruits talk about sensing it when they make a visit, but, more importantly, players on the roster speak just as strongly about it.

How many teams make such an emphasis isn't clear, but you don't seem to hear that said often enough. While I find such human interest stories heartwarming, it makes me wonder, "Do people describe our congregation with similar terminology?" Are we creating, developing, and nurturing a strong sense of family?

The early church definitely majored in that priority. From the time the first church of our Savior was established, we find this emphasis (Acts 2:42-47). Often, New Testament writers spoke of the church with family terminology (Eph. 2:19; 3:15; 1 Tim. 3:15; 5:1-2; Ti. 2:1-8; etc.). The church exists as a subcommunity within the broader community around them. People from that broader community are looking for greater intimacy and meaningful relationships. One place they often turn is to various churches. Whether through our efforts to evangelize or through their seeking that brings them within our walls, we have an opportunity to expose them to a "strong sense of family."

But, by being faithful to New Testament teaching, we offer this in the context of truth rather than error. We cannot settle for simply offering truth, as eternally vital as that is. Along with it, we must love, embrace, and work to incorporate them into our family. God has His church designed to follow His written will in the context of a tight-knit, spiritual family. A true sense of family will draw them into a relationship with us. It will better open their hearts and minds to being drawn into a relationship with Christ. The net effect will be greater than a national championship. It will be many, many souls won to eternal life. We cannot afford to miss the opportunity to be spiritual family!

Neal Pollard preaches for the
Bear Valley church of Christ in Denver, CO

Schedule of Services:

Greeting: Mark

Song Leader: Mark

Opening Hymn:

21—Safely Through Another Week

Opening Prayer:

Myron

Hymn:

49—Kneel at the Cross

Scripture Reading:

Gary

Acts 2:40-47

Hymn:

299—Lead Me to Calvary

Lord's Supper:

Ray & Dale

Hymn:

664—On Zion's Glorious Summit

Sermon: Mark

Invitation Hymn:

598—Lord I'm Coming Home

Closing Hymn:

6—We Shall See the King Some-
day

Closing Prayer: Tom

PRAYER LIST

- *Tom & Nina both have colds.
- *Pat was with us last week and is feeling better.
- *Juanita and her family.
- *Dale's friend Zarna and her family.
- *Larry and Ruth..
- *Dale, his mother and his cousin Jayna and her family.
- *Ray, Rebecca, and Steven.
- *Our congregation
- *Our Veterans
- *Our Nation

CALENDAR

- Apr. 7—Bible Study 10 am
Tom
- Apr. 7—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Mark
- Apr. 7—Business Meeting
- Apr. 12—Friday Night Sing
Orrville
- Apr. 14—Bible Study 10 am
Tom
- Apr. 14—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Mark
- Apr. 14—Pot Luck
- Apr. 16—b. Eric
- Apr. 14—b. Sara
- Apr. 14—a. Brendan & Lisa Marie
- Apr. 14—Bible Study 10 am
Tom
- Apr. 14—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Mark
- Apr. 19—Friday Night Sing Mi-
nerva
- Apr. 21—Bible Study 10 am

Answer to Puzzle: continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart

A Vital Church Grows

Acts 2:40-47

ANYONE	APOSTLES	BAPTIZED	BELIEVED
BREAKING	COMMON	FELLOWSHIP	GENERATION
GLADLY	HAVING	PEOPLE	PERVERSE
POSSESSIONS	PRAISING	PRAYERS	RECEIVED
SAYING	STEADFASTLY	TESTIFIED	THOUSAND
THROUGH	TOGETHER	WONDERS	

P C O N S T D S I N P Y N C U I N D
 N I G D A N E E O I L E O L Y W I E
 O T H H O L O I V T N N R D E G A T
 M C C S T O T I S E T R O V N D I R
 M N T S W A H A S I I C E I E T E O
 O M O P R O F L N S T L S E A R B H
 C P N E D D L U B R E I E D R A S X
 A E N A A K E L I I A S E B P D T E
 N E G E B D R N E R E I S T T E H W
 G A T D D F E R P F F O I O T V O O
 N S M H I O U S E I T Z G H P I U N
 I O H O U V S E T T E E R H E E S D
 Y L D A L G I S E D T O Y E O C A E
 A A T E T H E D E H U I N R P E N R
 S F O O D T W I E G T O H G L R D S
 P R A Y E R S R H D Y L A D E N E S
 H A V I N G S A N N D S I M P L I C
 I T Y O G N I K A E R B F H E A R T

Hidden Message: _____

“Youth would be an ideal state if it came a little later in life.” (Henry Asquith)

SUNDAY: Bible Class — 10:00 am; Worship — 11:00 am; Evening — 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study — 7:00 pm
Website: Chardonchurchofchrist.org
E-mail: Church_of_christ@roadrunner.com
Pod Cast: Chardon.podbean.com