

Grace Bible Fellowship
Distinctive – Nurture of the Whole Family and the Whole Person

Key verse – Colossians 1:28:

We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

We proclaim him

The focus of GBF should be on proclaiming Christ – holding him up as the example to be followed. Christ should also be the focus of our teaching. Don't mix in anything else.

1 Cor2:1

1When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.^[a] 2For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling.

1 Corinthians 3:10

10By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. 11For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. 14If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. 15If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

If we build on anything besides Christ then we are doomed to fail. Many churches fall into this trap. Christ's death is the basis of our salvation and relationship with God. It must be the focus of our teaching and our lives. Many churches appear Christian but don't have the same understanding of Christ as we do. Example of the Mormons.

Christ is the model that we should strive for.

Ephesians 4:32

32Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 5:1

1Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Phil 2:5

5Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

6Who, being in very nature^[a] God,

did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

7but made himself nothing,

taking the very nature^[b] of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

Admonishing and Teaching

The goal of both these is to help us grow up and be “perfect in Christ”. The approach is different. Teaching is one of the spiritual gifts and refers to the orderly and organized presentation of knowledge or information.

It can be in a big group setting – like the worship service or Sunday school, or one-on-one

Deuteronomy 6:1

1 These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, 2 so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. 3 Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you.

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ^[a] 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

The church usually has teaching in formal settings down. The goal is a changed life, but knowledge by itself is not enough. We have to go a step further and make it personal. This requires admonishing. It means to warn

1. to caution, advise, or counsel against something.
2. to reprove or scold, esp. in a mild and good-willed manner: The teacher admonished him about excessive noise.
3. to urge to a duty; remind: to admonish them about their obligations.

There is a whole continuum that we see in Scripture

Encourage → Admonish → Correct → Rebuke → Church discipline

But we need to take admonishing with the same seriousness. That is why we need women's groups, men's groups, accountability groups, etc.

The Lord does it to us:

Proverbs 3:

11 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline
and do not resent his rebuke,

12 because the LORD disciplines those he loves,
as a father ^[b] the son he delights in.

We also have a tendency to listen to the word and then not make changes in our lives.

James 1:

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.
23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who
looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and
immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But the man who looks intently into the
perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has
heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

We also need to do it to one. We will discuss this further next week when we cover
accountability.

Gal 6:1-3:

1 Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him
gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. 2 Carry each other's
burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. 3 If anyone thinks he is
something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

Why does scripture take sin in the congregation so seriously? It is a bad witness. It can
also corrupt the rest of the church:

1 Corinthians 5:1 – Expel the immoral brother.

1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind
that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife. 2 And you
are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of
your fellowship the man who did this? 3 Even though I am not physically present, I
am with you in spirit. And I have already passed judgment on the one who did
this, just as if I were present. 4 When you are assembled in the name of our Lord
Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present,
5 hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature^[a] may be destroyed and
his spirit saved on the day of the Lord. 6 Your boasting is not good. Don't you
know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough?

Everyone

This includes men, women, children, teenagers.

Married or single.

Young or old.

With kids, without kids.

Different levels of maturity as well.

The church needs to be able to minister to many different people.

Note, that most admonishing is on a personal one-on-one basis. You need to teach and admonish each other and hold each other accountable. It happens best through personal relationships. That is why we have fellowship meals. To build relationships.

We want to equip parents to raise their kids.

With all wisdom

Relate this back to building on a different foundation other than Christ.

2 Tim 2:15

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

2 Tim 4:1

1In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. 3For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

This one sobers me:

2 Tim 2:17

17Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Excellence in ministry. Bible based

So that we may present everyone perfect in Christ

What does this look like?

Doctrinally accurate

Ephesians 4:11

11It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

14Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16From 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.

Personal purity and holiness

Ephesians 4:

25Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. 26"In your anger do not sin"^[d]: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27and do not give the devil a foothold. 28He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

29Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Colossians 3:

5Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.^[b] 7You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Romans 12. Sin also distorts our minds

1Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual^[a] act of worship. 2Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Serving

Romans 12

3For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. 4Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his^[b] faith. 7If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Nurturing

There are many aspects to nurturing. This command is throughout scripture.

Luke 10

27He answered: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'^[c]; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'^[d]"

Heart – emotional wellness

Soul – in a spiritually right relationship with God. Pure and holy.

Strength – are you physically well?

Mind – Do you have a clear understanding of God and how he wants you to live your life?

There are metaphors in scripture that describe how God takes care of us. Like a mother and child. Like a hen and her chicks. A father and son.

Isaiah 49:

13 Shout for joy, O heavens;
rejoice, O earth;
burst into song, O mountains!
For the LORD comforts his people
and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

14 But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me,
the Lord has forgotten me."

15 "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast
and have no compassion on the child she has borne?
Though she may forget,
I will not forget you!

16 See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;
your walls are ever before me.

1 Thess 2:

As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, ⁷but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. ⁸We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. ⁹Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.