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From the Pastor

According to the recent book, *unChristian: What a New Generation Thinks About Christianity...and Why It Matters* (Baker Books, 2007), authors David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons describe American unbelievers' (ages 16-29) perceptions of Christians. What this group says about modern day Christianity should at least give us pause and cause us to reflect.

In the book, Kinnaman and Lyons unpack the six negative perceptions which these unbelievers have of Christians. The authors also provide some encouragement as to how followers of Christ may pursue authentic and faithful expressions of the Christian faith.

According to *unChristian*, these 24 million unbelievers view Christians in the following ways:

- **Anti-homosexual:** Christians show contempt for gays and lesbians and some hate the sin and the sinner.
- **Too Political:** Christians are primarily motivated by a right-wing political agenda.
- **Hypocritical:** Christians say one thing, but live something entirely different.
- **Insincere:** Christians are concerned only with collecting converts and are not genuinely interested in others.
- **Sheltered:** Christians are boring, unintelligent, and out of touch with reality.
- **Judgmental:** Christians are prideful and quick to find fault in others.

Well, how are we to think about this?

As folks say, perception is reality. If this is the perception that many unbelieving Americans have about Christians, then we must acknowledge it as such. However, we must also realize that such perceptions cannot be entirely true.

Undoubtedly, these unbelievers have had experiences which have caused them to feel this way. However, an unbeliever's run-in with a "bad" apple should not lead to a conclusion that the whole bunch of apples is "bad." While the charge may be leveled that some Christians are in fact anti-homosexual, too political, hypocritical, insincere, sheltered, and judgmental, it is quite overstated and simply wrong that Christianity and Christians can summarily be described as such.

While "outsiders" will always have thoughts concerning who we are, what we believe, and Whom we follow, we Christians must remember that we get our cues and marching orders from God and His Word.

Does the Bible speak clearly concerning acts of homosexuality? Of course. For that reason, as with the sins of gossip, greed, gluttony, and more, we must always hate the sin. However, we also must always love the sinner. Maintaining this balance is not always easy, but it is always right.

Should Christians be active in politics? Of course. We just don't need to become so immersed in politics and trust in politics that politics is seen as our ultimate hope. Whether we lean right or left politically, our confidence in God should always be abundantly obvious to the world around us.

Hypocrisy and insincerity have no place in the Christian faith. May God deliver us from such attitudes.

It is regrettable that some view us as boring, unintelligent and out of touch with reality. As we seek to love God with our hearts, souls, and minds, and as we love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-40), we should pray that the winsomeness of our lives and the compelling nature of our Christian worldview might cause others to see that we are indeed "in touch with reality"—a reality which is even more real than the reality of this world!

Indeed, we are often prideful and quick to find fault in others. Such an attitude is merely reflective of our continuous struggle with sin. May pride and fault-finding be decreasingly manifest in our lives as we grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is often helpful to consider what the world thinks of us, but we must first and foremost be concerned with what God thinks of us.

As Jesus our Lord told us—*You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.* (Matthew 5:13-16)

Revelation 22:21

Todd Brady
Pastor

"We must first and foremost be concerned with what God thinks of us."

Upcoming Events @ FBC

First Monday Prayer

First Monday Prayer will be held on Monday, March 3. First Baptist's chapel will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on that day for those who wish to come to the chapel and pray. As you pray this month, please include these specific points:

- Pray for God our Father to continually keep us mindful that prayer is our utmost priority at First Baptist Church as we become a people "who delight to revere Thy name." (Nehemiah 1:11).
- Pray for God to grant perseverance to the Union University campus community during this time of tragedy and that we as a church will respond to them in unity as brethren in the Body of Jesus Christ with Godly love and affection. (John 17:11)
- Offer thanksgiving for our pastoral and staff leaders as they share the Gospel with us and with the world. Give thanks for Dr. Todd Brady, Jim Ewing, Hutch Hutcheson, Nathan Hicks, Jeremy Hudgin, Steve Moore, Art DeWeese and Dean Carpenter.
- Pray that we will be obedient to God's voice so that we shall be "My own possession among all the peoples." (Exodus 19:5)

Read the Bible Through in 2008

February 23	Numbers 23-25	March 1	Deuteronomy 1-2
February 24	Numbers 26-27	March 2	Deuteronomy 3-4
February 25	Numbers 28-29	March 3	Deuteronomy 5-7
February 26	Numbers 30-31	March 4	Deuteronomy 8-10
February 27	Numbers 32-33	March 5	Deuteronomy 11-13
February 28	Numbers 34-35	March 6	Deuteronomy 14-16
February 29	Catch up day	March 7	Deuteronomy 17-20
		March 8	Deuteronomy 21-23

Reception for Diane Prow-Boyerski

Diane Prow-Boyerski has resigned her position as the church's Financial Secretary after 24 years of service. Please join us as we honor her with an appreciation reception on Sunday evening, March 2, immediately following the evening worship service.

Billy Graham Library Trip

There is still time to sign up for the trip to the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, NC. The dates for this trip are April 21 to April 24, and the total cost is \$200, with a \$100 deposit to be made in advance. More details are available in the 55+ *Winter Calendar of Events* or you can contact Christi Perkins at the church office, 442-2728.



Women's Ministry

HEART 2 HEART Coffee Kickoff

Women's Mentoring Ministry February 23, 2008
If you believe you would like to be a mentor to other women, be mentored, or would simply like more information, please join us for a *Coffee Kickoff* on Saturday, February 23, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Childcare will be available. You must attend this meeting in order to

be paired with another woman. For more information, please call Ramona Milles at (270) 217-9900, or email her at bowinprayer@yahoo.com.

Living Free by Beth Moore (MOPS)

Thursday mornings: 9:30-11:30 a.m.

February 7 through April 3

Living Free combines content from *Breaking Free* and *Praying God's Word* and applies those concepts to our lives. In this study, Beth shows how focusing on God's grace, praying God's Word, and Bible study can help develop a Godward focus. Cost: \$13

Beginning February 21:

Stepping Up: A Journey through the Psalms of Ascent by Beth Moore

February 21 through April 3, 2008

DAYSRING

Thursday mornings: 9:30-11:30 a.m.

NIGHTWATCH

Thursday evenings: 6:30- 8:30 p.m.

This is Beth Moore's new study on fifteen treasured Psalms. Let's join her and take an in-depth look into unity, joy and gratitude, redemption, repentance, and much more. Cost: \$15

Romans, Part 3 (Precept Upon Precept)

Thursday evenings: 6:00-8:30 p.m. January 17 through March 6

Sunday Nights

If you can't attend either DaySpring or Nightwatch, we offer the video and small group discussions on Sunday nights at 4:45 p.m.

Youth Ministry

Special D and Reset Red in Concert

There will be a special concert by local artists, *Special D* and *Reset Red* on Friday, February 29, at 7:00 p.m. in the First Baptist Church Great Room. The concert is open to the public. For tickets or more information, contact Nathan Hicks at 442-2728.

Children's Choir

Choir Begins at 4:45 p.m.

Children's Choir will meet on Sunday evenings at 4:45 p.m. A light supper will be provided for the children between Children's Choir and Kids on Mission. For further information, contact Terri Dalton at 554-8595.

Preschool Ministry

Preschool Registration for 2008-2009

Beginning Wednesday, February 27, FBC members may enroll their children for Preschool, Mother's Day Out, and Preschool Pals. Open enrollment for the community will begin Thursday, February 28. Enrollment on both days will be from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Preschool Welcome Center. For more information regarding these programs or concerning registration, please call the Preschool Office at 444-0273.

First Sports

Aerobics Classes

STEP+ meets Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:15 p.m. and involves step aerobics, circuit training and Pilates. STEP/CIRCUIT meets Wednesday mornings from 9:30-10:30 a.m. and involves step aerobics and circuit training. This class is being led by Laura Porter. The cost per semester for STEP+ is \$25 and for STEP/CIRCUIT is \$15. Free childcare is provided at the church during class time. For more information, contact the church office or visit our website.

Second Annual Men's Spring Golf Trip

The second annual Men's Golf Trip is scheduled for April 25-26, 2008. The trip includes hotel accommodations for 2 nights, as well as 3 rounds of golf at Capital Hill in Prattville, Alabama (The Judge, The Senator, and The Legislator). The total cost for the trip is \$350; full payment should be made by March 23. See Jeremy Hudgin for more information.

Miscellaneous News

Union University Update

Sunday evening, February 17th, our gathering focused on the events of February 5th at Union University. Because of your desire to send aid to Union University to assist students, First Baptist Church gave an offering of \$13,800.00. The Finance Committee had already voted to match the funds we collected. We mailed a check to Union University on Monday in the amount of \$27,600.00. Thank you, church family, for your love and concern for Union University and particularly for the students there who are recovering from the tragedy.



Staff Anniversaries

March 2

Heather Brown, 3 years

March 14

Deanna Bazzell, 3 years

March 16

Nancy Rogers, 12 years

Welcome New Members

By Statement:

Josh and Laura Porter
2836 Clark Street
Paducah, KY 42001

By Letter:

C. J. and Mitzi Turner
914 North 21st Street
Paducah, KY 42001

By Baptism:

Philip and Julie Higdon
185 Forest Ridge Cove
Paducah, KY 42003

In Memoriam

Ruth Rather departed this life February 14, 2008.

Christian Sympathy

Christian sympathy is extended to Bill Gourley in the loss of his mother.

SOS Items Needed

Share Our Surplus (SOS) is a ministry to connect those who have a material need with those who would like to donate an item such as a washer & dryer, electric or gas stove, microwave, beds and mattresses of all sizes, recliner, household furniture, television, electric heater, curtains and rugs. Please call Colla Ro at 442-3725 if you can help with this ministry.

February Bus Driver

Larry Heavrin—270-898-6056

March Bus Driver

Larry Nunley—270-442-2899

Bus Ministry

The bus ministry is provided to members who are unable to drive to church on Sunday mornings. We have volunteer opportunities for anyone interested in being a part of this ministry, especially for the months of June and July, 2008. For more information, contact Larry Heavrin at 898-6056 or the church office at 442-2728.

Thank You Notes

Thank you very much to the ministers who visited me during my recent hospitalization in December and January. I also appreciated the many prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits from my friends at First Baptist. I came home from the hospital on January 28 and am nicely recovering from my fall and surgery. Thank you for your encouragement and support during these past weeks.

Lennie Connor

Thank you for your prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, food, and other gifts which you provided while Martha was in the hospital. We appreciate First Baptist Church so much and are so thankful to be a part of such a wonderful fellowship.

Ray and Martha Ligon

Weekly Schedule

Sunday, February 24

9:00 a.m. Worship—Great Room
9:30 a.m. Library Open
10:05 a.m. Bible Study
11:10 a.m. Worship—Worship Center
4:30 p.m. "The Truth Project"
4:45 p.m. Children's Choir
5:00 p.m. Adult Discipleship
5:00 p.m. Youth Discipleship
6:00 p.m. Kids on Mission
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship—Worship Center

Monday, February 25

9:00 a.m. Fit For Life Exercise Class

Tuesday, February 26

10:00 a.m. Ministries of Outreach/
Card Writing
6:00 p.m. Aerobics—Gym

Wednesday, February 27

6:00 a.m. Men's Fraternity
9:00 a.m. Fit for Life Exercise Class
9:30 a.m. Aerobics—Gym
5:00 p.m. Fellowship Meal
5:00 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting
6:00 p.m. Livewire Experience
6:00 p.m. AWANA
7:00 p.m. Choir/Orchestra Rehearsal

Thursday, February 28

9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Aerobics
6:30 p.m. Night Watch

Friday, February 29

9:00 a.m. Fit For Life Exercise Class
7:00 p.m. Concert—Great Room

Saturday, March 1

9:00 a.m. Upward Basketball

Sunday, March 2

9:00 a.m. Worship—Great Room
9:30 a.m. Library Open
10:05 a.m. Bible Study
11:10 a.m. Worship—Worship Center
4:45 p.m. Children's Choir
5:00 p.m. Adult Discipleship
5:00 p.m. Youth Discipleship
6:00 p.m. Kids on Mission
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship—Worship Center

Monday, March 3

6:00 a.m. First Monday Prayer
9:00 a.m. Fit For Life Exercise Class
10:00 a.m. Sampson II Group

Tuesday, March 4

9:30 a.m. MOPS
10:00 a.m. Ministries of Outreach
6:00 p.m. Aerobics

Wednesday, March 5

6:00 a.m. Men's Fraternity
9:00 a.m. Fit for Life Exercise Class
9:30 a.m. Aerobics
10:00 a.m. Bea Walker Roundtable
5:00 p.m. Fellowship Meal
5:00 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting
6:00 p.m. Livewire Experience
6:00 p.m. AWANA
7:00 p.m. Choir/Orchestra Rehearsal

Thursday, March 6

9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. NO Aerobics
6:30 p.m. Night Watch

Friday, March 7

9:00 a.m. Fit For Life Exercise Class

Saturday, March 8

9:00 a.m. Upward Basketball



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

What You See!

Here is a schedule of our FBC programs along with scheduled air times.

Comcast Channel 37:

Sunday Morning Schedule

- 8:00- 9:00 a.m. - FBC Music (Taped)
- 10:00-10:45 a.m. - Chapel Bible Class (Live)
- 10:45-11:10 a.m. - FBC Music (Taped)
- 11:10-12:10 a.m. - Worship Service (Live)

Sunday Evening Schedule

- 6:00- 7:00 p.m. - Morning Service (Taped)

Tuesday Schedule

- 9:00-10:00 p.m. - FBC Music (Taped)

Wednesday Schedule

- 9:00-10:00 a.m. - Chapel Bible Class (Taped)
- 9:00-10:00 p.m. - Morning Service (Taped)

Thursday Schedule

- 9:00-10:00 p.m. - Morning Service (Taped)

Channel 6:

Sunday Morning Schedule

- 11:00-12:00 - Sunday Morning Worship Service
(Tape Delayed from Previous Week)

Financial News

February 10, 2008

Budget Received: \$53,595.67
Designations: \$3,879.50

February 17, 2008

Budget Received: \$38,723.251
Designations: \$17,325.18

Totals to Date:

Total Budget Received: \$317,966.77
Total Budget Required: \$319,423.43
Total Designations: \$30,439.28

Sunday School Attendance

February 10—726
February 17—655

Menu

Wednesday Night Meals

February 27

Fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, buttered corn, biscuit, tossed salad, assorted desserts

March 5

Chicken cannelloni, Italian vegetables, garlic bread, tossed salad, assorted desserts

Children's Menu Available upon Request

LifeLine Deadline

The deadline for items to be submitted for the next Lifeline is February 29, 2008.
You may e-mail your items to cperkins@fbcpaducah.org