

BELIEVE, Belong, Serve
Part 4
“The Benefits of Belonging”

Pastor Eddie Turner

Sunday, November 1, 2015

Heb.10:24-25(NLT) - ²⁴ Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Vision- a destination, a dream, a future and a goal which we are continually moving toward.

Prov. 29:18(KJV) - ¹⁸ Where there is no vision, the people perish.....

Prov. 29:18(NLT) - When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild...

Helen Keller - “the only thing worse than being blind is having sight, but no vision.”

· Your mission is what you do best every single day, and your vision is what the future will be like because you deliver on that mission every day.

The Vision of Family Worship Center is to demonstrate the life of Christ in our community by reaching the unchurched and engaging the believer for service.

- Believe, Belong and Serve

What we believe determines life and death

What you believe about yourself determines your quality of life and your direction in life.

What we believe spiritually determines our eternal future.

Matt. 9:27-30(NLT) - After Jesus left the girl's home, two blind men followed along behind him, shouting, "Son of David, have mercy on us!"

²⁸ They went right into the house where he was staying, and Jesus asked them, "Do you believe I can make you see?" "Yes, Lord," they told him, "we do."

²⁹ Then he touched their eyes and said, "Because of your faith, it will happen." ³⁰ Then their eyes were opened, and they could see! Jesus sternly warned them, "Don't tell anyone about this."

- Why must we get our believing right?

Heb. 11:6(NLT) - ⁶ And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

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- *Believing correctly puts us in a position to receive God's best.*

The first thing we must believe correctly is "that God exist and that he rewards..."

Unfortunately many believe that God exist but that he punishes.

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- *Our whole view of life and our view of ourselves will change if we understand this truth – "God exist and He rewards!"*

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- **Belong:**

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- **increase the average life expectancy of your children by 8 years**
 - **significantly reduce your child's use and risk from Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs**

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- **dramatically lower their risk of suicide**
 - **help them rebound from depression 70% faster**

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- **dramatically reduce their risk for committing a crime**
 - **improve their attitude at school and increase their school participation**

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- **reduce their risk for rebelliousness**

- reduce the likelihood that they would binge drink in college

- improve their odds for a "very happy" life
- provide them with a life-long moral compass

- provide children with a caring extended family
- get them to wear their seatbelts more often

"Active Church Participation"

In study, after study, after study, children who actively engage in a faith community on a regular basis are rewarded with SIGNIFICANTLY reduced likelihood of life problems and risky behaviors, and stand to significantly improve their odds of a happier, healthier, and longer life. These studies show the same results for adults as well.

According to a Barna Research Group study, if a child is not regularly active in church by the age of 12, the odds of them getting active DROPS DRAMATICALLY in their teen years and beyond.

Barna's research indicates that adults who attended church regularly as children -are nearly three times as likely to be attending a church today as their peers who avoided church during childhood.

- **Parents who truly want the best for their children should get their children involved at church now and regularly**

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Why should I belong to a local church?

1). Corporate Worship:

- ***The Church was birthed in a Corporate Gathering:***

Acts 2:1-4(NLT) - On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. ² Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting.³ Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. ⁴ And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

2). The Local Church is a place of equipping and training:

Eph. 4:11-13(NLT) - ¹¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

3). *The Local Church provides a place of protection as false doctrine increases:*

Eph. 4:14-15(NLT) - ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

Acts 20:28-31(NLT) - "So guard yourselves and God's people. Feed and shepherd God's flock—his church, purchased with his own blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders. ²⁹ I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following. ³¹ Watch out! Remember the three years I was with you—my constant watch and care over you night and day, and my many tears for you.

2 Tim. 3:1(NLT) - You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times.

2 Tim. 3:13-16(NLT) - ¹³ But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived.

¹⁴ But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. ¹⁵ You have been taught the Holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by

trusting in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

4). The Local Church provides accountability:

James 5:16(NLT) - ¹⁶ Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.