

CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH

Kevin Booker

The Lord Jesus has enabled us to serve in the following capacity:

Evangelist
Pedro Gelabert

Spanish Evangelist
Charlie Gómez

Campus Minister
Ladipo Davies

Family Minister
Robert Young

Worship Directors
David Luhrs
George Bullinger

Minister of Finance
Arthur Shlesinger

Long Island School
of Evangelism

Office Telephone
(631) 348-7322

www.licoc.org

info@licoc.org

PO Box 607M
Bay Shore, NY
11706

When I was in the world, I always thought that who I was, or what I was able to accomplish in life would make me a better person. So things, like how I looked, the type of clothes that I wore, or how smart or educated I was, what type of car I drove, or the house that I lived in was very important. I thought that the type of career I had, or how much money I made, or the neighborhood that I lived in would define me. Consequently when I seemed to be doing good in life I was confident but when things did not go well I would get down.

When I first came to Christ I continued in that attitude. I thought that when I was preaching the gospel, or baptizing someone, or because I knew the Word very well that God was pleased with me but when I sinned that God was angry with me.

Perhaps at times, brothers and sisters, you too have put confidence in your flesh in a similar way. The reality, however, is that the only thing our flesh can earn for us is condemnation! **(Rom 3:23)** Although the flesh can appear to bring us good things in this life, such as prestige or material wealth, these things are only temporary and they give us a false sense of security. Furthermore, the lack of fleshly success can take away all confidence as well, resulting in depression.

In **Phil 3:3-9** Paul states, **“For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh-- though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—“**

Paul was speaking to those who claimed to be Christians but wanted to justify themselves by their actions or who they were.

Whenever we think that we are better people because of what we've done, our talents and abilities, or who we are, we are putting confidence in the flesh. Whether it is our material wealth, intelligence, the family or culture we grew up in, our schooling or career, the home or car that we own, how many people we preached to or baptized, how good of a bible teacher we are, or how many scriptures we've memorized, the bottom line is that our flesh cannot justify us!

Paul understood and makes it clear that we can only be justified by faith in Christ Jesus! So let us remember that our righteousness comes not from ourselves or anything that we have done, but rather by Jesus Christ and what he did on the cross, sacrificing his body and shedding his blood to take away our sin and completely cleanse us!

(2Co 5:21) For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

“As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” Joshua 24:15

FAMILY MATTERS

SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Robert Young Sr.

When I became a Christian, one of the first passages of scripture shared with me was **Matthew 6:33: “Seek first the kingdom of God...”** And in the beginning for me that meant to be fully committed to the attendance of mentorship, Wednesday night bible class, Devotional, and Sunday services. As I continue to grow in Christ I have become aware of the fact that church attendance is only beginning to scratch the surface of what it means to **“Seek first the kingdom of God.”** What I have grown to understand is that seeking first the kingdom means that I am called to put the Church and her interests above my own interests. Although it seems we have a built in compass that only points to "me", our true purpose in Christ is to serve others. When I focus on my needs, it only causes me to worry which leads to stress, anxiety and a quick death (**Matthew 6:27**). My true blessing on this side of heaven is that I do not have to be stressed out about my life, about what I shall eat or what I shall drink; or about my body, what clothes I shall wear. We can continue this list of possible worries with where I will live, what school I will attend, who I will marry, etc. Life or should I say the purpose of life is much more important than these things. Instead of being focused on myself, God has taught me that He will take care of me and my needs as I seek first His kingdom. So as I decide where to live it should be a place in which the church will benefit. The school that I attend, and the schedule I choose should be a blessing to the church. The person I choose to marry should be my partner in building God's kingdom. I have decided that everything I do I want it to be done while seeking first the kingdom of God. Knowing that He is taking care of me frees my mind and gives me peace so that I can fulfill His purpose for me and take care of His Church. Amen?

“And the Lord added to their number” Acts 2:47

BAPTISMS

Frank Giambrone	March, 2015
Russel Silverman	March, 2015
Mark Brazier	February, 2015
Selena Jules	January, 2015
Michelette Langs	November, 2014

Tevin Rouse	October, 2014
Leah Young	July, 2014
D'ona Patterson	July, 2014
Amanda Catherine	May, 2014
Judy Jarrett	May, 2014

“They gave themselves first to the Lord” 2 Corinthians 8:5

CONTRIBUTIONS

Time Period	Weekly Attendance (Average)	Weekly Contribution (Average)
January 2015	246	\$8,612
February 2015	248	\$9,578
March 2015	247	\$9,820
Weekly Averages for Q1	247	\$9,364

Weekly Budget: \$9,000

FORGIVENESS

Carolyn Shlesinger

I am so grateful for the recent sermons on persistent love and forgiveness. Even after all these years of discipleship, I have so much growing to do in this area. It is the key to having good relationships, and being useful to God. Only the Lord can teach us these truths! Only in Christ can you learn these truths!

Just a few of the verses from recent sermons that I am focusing on, trying to memorize, and are making a difference for me are the following:

Matthew 6:14-15 basically says if you forgive you will be forgiven; don't forgive, you won't be forgiven. Self-preservation is good motivation to make the choice to forgive! In fact you cannot be a disciple and not be forgiving. We all desperately need love and forgiveness. Jesus forgave me and I am called to have that same mind.

James 2:13 Judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment! We need to let mercy rule in our homes first, then in all our relationships.

Proverbs 10:12 Love covers all offenses. I want the Lord to look at me and be able to say, she has covered a multitude of sins with her love and forgiveness.

Proverbs 17:9 We ought to cover one another's wrongs, not hide it, but not display it either (Satan wants to display it).

1 Peter 4:8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Love forgives again and again.

Over 20 years ago I went to a preacher to complain about one of my relationships (ok, you guessed it, my husband—spouses are easy targets). The preacher told me to memorize **Matthew 18:21-35**--to internalize it, and that my success in forgiving would be directly proportionate to my diligence in this. Notice he didn't sit there and go over all the presumed offenses of my husband, what good would that do? Rather he instructed me to learn to forgive, practice it, and to work at it. Praise God for useful counsel! I've had to re-memorize this verse from time to time. As we recently heard preached, "it is absurd to resent your spouse (or anyone) because they are a sinner."

I want to quote something Debi Pearl wrote in her "Helpmeet" book. It says a lot about the need for forgiveness in marriage—and in all of our relationships. She writes, "The difference between a good marriage and a lousy one is not found in good husbands and good wives versus bad husbands and bad wives, for all marriages are made up of two sinners with lots of faults. A good marriage is good because one or both of them have learned to overlook the other's faults, to love the other as he or she is and to not attempt to change the other or bring him or her to repentance. A bad marriage is not one that contains more faults between the two of them; it is a marriage where one or both of them gets worked up over issues that good marriage partners let slide and cover up with love and forgiveness." Forgiveness is key to having the relationships God wants us to have!

A final thought that helps sober me up when I'm having trouble forgiving is taken from "The Marriage Builder" book. He writes something like "if there is no joy in honoring the marriage commitment, the fault does not lie in one's spouse, no matter how disagreeable he or she may be; the reason for lack of joy can be traced to a deficient awareness of the goodness of God." This is a statement I have referred back to many times. Being able to forgive goes back to looking at myself and my relationship with God. Every time I reflect on that thought--the goodness of God--forgiving others becomes instant. Remembering the goodness of God helps me instantly forgive in my marriage, in my parenting, and all my relationships and helps me get back to training myself in persistent love.

“Good works, which God prepared beforehand” Eph. 2:10

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- † Off Bible Class Dates: Apr 8th, May 13th, Jun 10th
- † Devotional Service Dates: Apr 3rd, Apr 17th, May 8th, May 22th, Jun 29th
- † City Women’s Fellowship: Apr 18th 10:00am -12:00pm at Smallstey Residence
- † Hope for Life Campaign: May 31 – June 5th at Suffolk County Community College - Brentwood, NY
- † Men’s Order of Service Meetings: Apr 19th, May 17th, Jun 21st
- † Children’s Ministry Meeting: May 3rd at 3:45PM
- † Children’s Ministry Supervisors’ Meeting: Apr 26th, Jun 28th, at 3:45PM
- † Keep up with all church events by joining LIChurch Space! Go to www.licoc.org and click the LIChurch Space link!
- † All announcements should be submitted to David Luhrs.
- † Address/telephone changes can be sent to directory@licoc.org or posted in the Directory Group on LIChurch Space.
- † **Parking reminder** - Public Safety has issued a statement requesting that all church members and visitors **refrain** from parking on any **grass areas** beyond the parking lots surrounding the chapel. Thank you for your cooperation!

“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel” Mark 16:15

MISSION WORK

- † Apologetics Press.....International
- † We Care Ministries.....West Monroe, Louisiana
- † Ron Clayton.....India
- † Queens & Long Island Harvest Campaigns.....Central Islip, NY
- † Hope of Life, Orphans, Lifeline Int’l (providing orphan rescue, adoption assistance, and children’s homes)...International
- † Healing Hands Disaster Relief.....International

“Watch your life and doctrine closely” 1 Timothy 4:16

BIBLE CLASSES

Long Island Ministry

Wednesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm
Arthur Shlesinger (631) 293-0632
New York Institute of Technology Chapel
Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, N.Y.

City Ministry

Wednesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm
Pedro Gelabert (347) 732-2101
St Luke’s Baptist Church Laurelton Sr Center
133-21 232nd Street
Jamaica, NY 11413

College Ministry

Thursdays 7:20pm-8:20pm
Ladi Davies (631) 413-5863
SAC Room 308 at Stony Brook University
100 Nicolls Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790

Spanish Ministry

Tuesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm
Charlie Gómez (631) 772-2889
New York Institute of Technology Chapel
Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, N.Y.

Sunday Bible Classes

Grades 2-12 and Adults
Sundays 12:30pm-1:15pm
Pedro Gelabert, Robert Young
New York Institute of Technology Chapel
Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, N.Y.