

- Have Gatherings and Meetings become a place where we don't lay hands on people to receive the Holy Spirit's Empowerment & Fillings? We need restoration.

Sunday Celebration (11-7-04)
"Semper Reformanda"

Restoration of the Church (Pt. 6)

"Always reforming"

EX'S IN ACTS OF ONGOING REFORMATION (Snapshots from the Family Album)

- **Acts 6** the Reformation of Leadership and Ministry
- **Acts 10** The Reformation of Ministry Philosophy— Not Only to the Jews
- The Reformation of "Strategy"....
Gal 2:9 and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we might go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

The Restoration of BIBLICAL FELLOWSHIP.

- Is Fellowship a "Battleship Word" or a "Cruise Ship Word"? How do you approach the relational dynamic of the church?

- Who Are Going to be the "Church People" in Your Life? Who are you OPEN TOO? Who Are You Pursuing? and WHY?

- Have You Stopped to Consider that by God's Intention, PEOPLE ARE STRATEGICALLY in Your Life? They are not just Random, Chance Encounters or Personal Preferences! — They Are Strategic!!

Heb 3:12-13 ... 10:19-25

" God has appointed a means by which he will enable us to hold our confidence firm to the end. It is this: Develop the kind of Christian relationships in which you help each other hold fast to the promises of God and escape the deceitfulness of sin. Exhort one another day in and day out to stand fast and put on the whole armor of God. ... Children, junior highers, senior highers, college students, single people, married couples, widows, widowers! Are you a part of a cluster of Christian friends who have pledged themselves to help each other fight the fight of faith and protect each other from the subtle encroachments of sin?" John Piper message "Strengthening Each Other's Hands in God" (11-14-86)

Biblical Fellowship is a STRATEGIC NECESSITY in the Battle with the Unholy Trinity and the Advancement of the Gospel... It is Both PROTECTIVE & SUPPORTIVE in Nature.

1. WHY WE NEED THIS PARTICULAR FORM OF REFORMATION AT THIS TIME The STRATEGIC ELEMENT

Ps 78:1-8 The MANDATE to Raise Up The Next Generation to SET THEIR HOPE IN GOD!!

The State of Family Warfare

The State of Youth Families & Youth Ministry in America Signs of the Times

"In a recent research project, a group of seventy-five suburban teenagers were given beepers and belts and asked to write down exactly what they were doing and feeling at the exact moment the beeper sounded. After several months of observation, the results gave a frighteningly accurate portrait of how teens spend their time. The single most disturbing conclusion, as recorded in the book "Being Adolescent", was the unprecedented unavailability of adults in teenagers' lives. The study revealed that teenagers spend less than seven percent of their waking hours with any adults, while spending approximately half of their time with peers." Mark DeVries, "Family-Based Youth Ministry", p. 38

"Adolescence has become a waiting period of enforced leisure with few responsibilities and little or no meaningful contact with adults. Adolescent Rolelessness in Modern Society, A report of the Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development

"More often than not, children are learning major value systems in life from the horizontal peer-culture. The vertical structure is not there in adequate increments of time or intensity to do the job. Gordon MacDonald, "The Effective Father"

"child therapist Ron Taffel, author of The Second Family: "How Adolescent Power Is Challenging the American Family" (St. Martin's Press; 2001). In Taffel's view, the adult establishment has become too weak and weary to inspire rebellion. Getting thongs or tattoos or body piercings, he argues, is actually a "statement to other kids that they are part of this very, very intense, powerful second family of peer group and pop culture that is shaping kids' wants, needs and feelings." This phenomenon is gripping kids at ever earlier ages. Peer pressure is at its most intense between fifth and eighth grade, says Taffel, "but it can begin in first and second grade. Adult forces — parents, schools, churches — find it hard to compete with pop culture. Claudia Wallis, Time Magazine, Oct. 6, 2003

"It might be hoped that churches would stand in the gap and provide an environment in which children and youth could dialogue and collaborate with adults. But sadly enough, for many teenagers active in church, this is the one place where they may just be the most segregated from the world of adults. And the more 'successful' the youth program, often the more exacerbated the isolation becomes. ... Most 'successful' youth ministries have their own youth Sunday school, youth missions, youth small groups, youth evangelism teams, youth worship, youth budget, youth interns, youth committees, youth offering, youth Bible studies, youth 'elders', youth centers, youth choir, youth room, youth discipleship programs, youth conferences, youth retreats, youth fundraisers and youth ministers. ... Even when families do worship together, almost inevitably the parents sit together, the children are shuffled off to 'children's church', and the youth sit in the balcony. The church, the one place where teenagers could logically be linked to the world of adults, has missed the opportunity. Mark DeVries, "Family Based Youth Ministry", p.42

2. WHAT GOD WANTS TO RESTORE [the CORRECTIVE ELEMENT]

Lk 1:17

- Note the Object of This Ministry "A PEOPLE PREPARED FOR THE LORD"
- Note the Highlighted Means "Turning the hearts of **fathers** to their children"
 - We Feel We Need to be MORE EFFECTIVE in Helping This Occur

3. HOW WE WILL ATTEMPT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS

... By Intentionally Building a Biblical Bridge from the Parental World into the Teen World

... By Intentionally Providing a Relational Framework that Serves both Youth and Parents with Timely & Much Needed Reinforcements during this Critical Period of Family Life

HANDOUT: "Upcoming Covenant Group Ministry Changes"