

The Messenger

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First Baptist Church
Fort Valley, Georgia

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DEACONS

Leading through Serving.

**Deacon Elections are Sunday, August 11
following each service.
Call or email the church office by Aug 8
to be removed from consideration.**

**Deacon Meeting
Aug 18 @ 4:30 Church Library**

August Memory Verse

But make sure that in your hearts you honor Christ as Lord. Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do it gently and with respect.

I Peter 3:15 (NIRV)

From My Heart



to Yours....

We're all well-trained as customers. We are constantly evaluating products, brands, and advertisements to decide which ones are worthy of our time and money. That mindset serves us well when it comes to buying products or services, but it's the antithesis of what church membership should look like.

Unfortunately, a customer mentality of the church may very well be the prevailing mentality in many congregations today. Let's take a look at three reasons why customer Christianity is wrong, and three ways church leaders can avoid developing customers in the congregations they serve.

Customers aren't loyal

The days of life-long brand loyalty are over. With so much competition, if another company offers a better product at a better value, we switch. Customers have no investment into a company, and therefore they have no reason to be loyal. The same goes for people who come to church as customers. They say things like, "I'm just not getting enough out of this," or "I like the preaching and singing better somewhere else," or "I want to go somewhere different for my kids." Thus, church hopping and church shopping are incredibly common these days. The customer mindset

Customers get their way – or else

"The customer is always right," the old business saying goes. Because of this, customers know they have leverage. When things aren't as they like, some people complain until they get their way. They threaten to take their business elsewhere. In the age of social media, they might even write a review to complain to others about the company.

Customer Christians do essentially the same thing. It might be that they don't like the song selection, that the sermon was too long, that the proverbial carpet color of their choice wasn't chosen, or that they weren't specifically catered to in some way. So they complain, cause division through rumors and gossip, and threaten to leave, because the customer is always right. After all, they contribute and add to the church's attendance numbers, in essence saying, "I don't need you, you need me."

True members know that Christianity can't be separated from Christ's serving heart and His self-denial out of love for others. They may offer an opinion or make a suggestion from time to time, but they don't complain, spread rumors, gossip, demand that they get their way, or threaten to leave. Instead, they look for ways they can serve others more and don't worry about getting their way. They diligently practice the command to "consider others more important than themselves" (Phil. 2:3).

Customers have to be drawn in

Advertising is a trillions of dollars per year industry. Companies compete with each other for customers in every field of business.

Thirty-Niner's

SENIOR MINISTRY OF FBC

The Thirty-Niner's will meet on Thursday, Aug 15, 2019 at 12:00 for a special program by Sandra Crow & Kimberly Sexton. Sandra and her husband, Stewart, who attend our church, recently moved to our community into Bill & Pete Nichols' house. The program will be about their involvement with and support for "To Enable African Missions."

Everyone is invited to hear this exciting program and to enjoy a lunch prepared by Abba House (\$6/person). Please call the church office (478-825-5725) to sign up by Monday, August 12. You will pay the \$6 for the meal when you sign in on Thursday, August 15.

They promote their superior product, their better prices, or whatever else might get someone to bite. In the age of the seeker-sensitive movement, churches do the same thing. We do what we can to get people in the door, and once they're in there we try to give them an experience that makes them want to stay.

Depending on the church, maybe it's the preaching that they count on to get people to come back. Maybe it's the worship. Maybe it's the youth program. Maybe it's the building. Maybe it's all of these things combined. And if people decide that's where they want to go, then we've successfully sold them on our "product."

True Christians go to church with a purpose. They go to church to worship God and be connected relationally with people they can serve and people who will walk with them in the Christian life. Customers go to the person who makes the best bid for their attendance.

There is nothing more sacred here on earth than the church. It is so important to our Savior that it is called His bride (Ephesians 5). It is the church that will live on with Him eternally. That sacredness should lead us to treat the church with the utmost reverence, both as members and leaders.

Customers view the church as something that is there for them to engage with on their own terms and to their own liking. Members appreciate Jesus and His sacrifice too much to do that. Which one will you and I be? Which ones are we creating in our churches?

(Excerpt from Jack Wilkie, *Are you a Church member or a Church customer?*)

He cares, I care,
Brother Ed



**Let's talk about jealousy.
Jealousy says, "God owes me."**

When we think about jealousy or envy, we immediately think of the things others have that we lack—looks, skills, opportunities, health, height, inheritance, etc. We assume our problem is with the person who possesses what we lack. But let's

face it; God could have fixed all of that for us. Whatever he gave your neighbor, he could have given you too. That's why you may feel inside that he owes you.

Jealousy can terrorize your life and wreak havoc in your relationships. The good news is, this behemoth, like the other three, has a vulnerability. And it's something you might not expect: stop coveting what others have and start asking God for what he knows is best for you.

As James says, our external conflicts are the direct result of an internal conflict that has worked its way to the surface. We want something but we don't have it, so we get in fights with others. The desires James is referring to in this passage represent unquenchable thirsts—our thirsts for stuff, money, recognition, success, progress, intimacy, fun, relationship, partnership.

So what do we do with desires and appetites that can never be fully and finally satisfied? James says we take them to the one who created them in the first place. In other words, James is giving us permission to pour out our hearts in an unfiltered conversation with our Creator.

"What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ²You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions." James 4:1-3

Every concern you have, great and small, matters to the Father because *you* matter to the Father. Whether it pertains to your love life, your career, your marriage, your parents, your children, your finances, your education, or your appearance, bring it to him. And keep bringing it to him until you find the peace to get up off your knees and face the day, confident in the knowledge that he cares for you.

What is your heart aching for? Spend some time in absolutely free, uninhibited conversation with God about what you feel you lack. Ask him to bless you in the way he knows is best—and to reveal his love to you along the way.



DOOR OF HOPE
COUNSELING

Partnered in ministry with FBC

LUNCH-N-LEARN Aug 19 @ Noon

Struggling to cope with life? Marriage need a tune up?

Feeling down, sad all the time? Angry all the time?

Lost a loved one? We are here to help.

Call to schedule an appointment (478-822-0033)

Most insurances accepted.

**Brotherhood
Breakfast**



Men's Ministry

Saturday, Aug 10 @ 8am

FBC Fellowship Hall **FREE**

Men, join us for a time of fellowship, faith, and food with your Deacons.

GOD GIVES
US THINGS TO
SHARE; GOD
DOESN'T GIVE US
THINGS TO
HOLD.

Mother Teresa

ChristianQuotes.info

Bended Knee Society



**Wednesdays 7am-8am
Church Library**

THE DANIEL PLAN

Glorifying God in the Way We Eat, Move, and Think!

Come and join us and learn to glorify God in the way we eat, move and think!

Wednesdays @ 8:15am

Exercise Days: Monday & Friday @ 8:15am

Weekly Calendar

Sunday Aug 11

- 9:00 Traditional Service
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 11:00 Contemporary Service
- 5:30 Youth Service
- 6:00 Summer Concert Series

Wednesday Aug 14

- 7:00am Bended Knee Society
- 8:15am Daniel Plan
- 6:00pm Youth/Children Activities
- 6:30pm Prayer Meeting
- 7:35pm Choir Rehearsal

Counting Committee

Ken Grahl
Tim Wilder
Becky Wilder

August Usher

Rick Hudson

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SUMMER CONCERT Series

Sunday Nights in August @ 6pm



Aug 11 Ministry of Kerry Jackson



Together, we can save a life

Tuesday, Sep 3

2pm-7pm

Fellowship Hall

Aug 18 The Amen Choir



RODRIGO RODRIGUEZ

Aug 25



Monday-Thursday

8:30-4:30

Closed for lunch

12:00-12:45

Friday

8:30-2:30

Church office closed Sept 2 in
observance of Labor Day