

Liberty Church Values: 10. Healthy people, healthy families, healthy communities, healthy cities.

At Liberty church we believe that in order to change our cities we need to allow God to change us first. Our aim is to help people prosper on their journey of discipleship in all areas of the human makeup. We believe that God is committed to the health of every individual in spirit, soul and body and this is the foundation for building healthy relationships. Healthy people help build healthy relationships, healthy relationships help build healthy families, healthy families help build healthy communities, healthy communities help build healthy cities.

Theme of bible study.

We are going to look at scripture that shows us that Gods desire is to transform the whole world and He usually starts with one person to begin the process. Through one person he wants to reach a family. Through the family he wants to reach the community. Through the community He wants to reach a city, and through the cities He wants to reach a nation. (Though we can see from scripture that the whole world will not surrender to Christs lordship and be saved, it still stands that this is the heart of God as He is not willing that anyone should perish but that all should come to repentance **2 Peter 3:9**).

Study sections

- 1/. Biblical basis for this value.**
- 2/. God's plan to populate the whole earth from one man.**
- 3/. God building plan from an earthly perspective.**
- 4/. Gods building plan from a heavenly perspective.**
- 5/. Gods order within families to produce health taught from Ephesians 5 and Ephesians 6.**

1/. Biblical basis for this value.

We believe God is committed to the complete restoration of mankind in Spirit, soul and body.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

3 John 1:2 Beloved, I pray that you (**spirit**) may prosper in all things **and** be in health (**body**), just as your **soul (mind will emotions)** prospers.



Philippians 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

2/. God's plan to populate the whole earth from one man.

- **The first Adam.**

Genesis 2:18. And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

God started with Adam. He made Adam first, then created Eve from Adam and brought them together.

- **Healthy individuals coming together to make a healthy family.**

Genesis 2:24-25 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

- **Mankind suddenly went down hill with the introduction of sin. So God looked for a man. Noah:**

Genesis 6:9 This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

- **After Noah and the flood, mankind went downhill again. Then the lord chose another man. Abram:**

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Vs 1 Now the Lord had said to Abram: Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house,

There needs to be a leaving before there can be a cleaving.

Abrams country was steeped in idolatry. They were moon worshippers of the God named sin. As long as people are still connected to sin, they will never become the healthy, complete people that God has called them to be. Sin always brings with it death and decay.

- **Abrahams family.**



Gods goal was to bring His blessing upon “all the families of the earth” and it was going to start again with one man, Abraham.

From one man taken out of his sinful world and transformed by the grace filled power of God, He was going to produce a family. A family that God was proud to say that he was their God. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Exodus 3:6 Moreover He said, “I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

- **From one family God was going to build a nation.**

From one family God was going to produce a nation, as Jacobs name was changed to Israel. Abraham the father, Isaac the son, Jacob the grandson.

Jacob wrestles with an angel.

Genesis 32:28. And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.”

- **Moses reminds the nation of their heritage.**

Moses quotes God associating Himself with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Israel being the nation that came from one man. God often referred to Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Note : The God of Abraham, to the God of Abrahams family, to The God of Israel. A nation made up of large communities living in beautiful cities.

Deuteronomy 6:10-12. So it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities. which you did not build, houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant—when you have eaten and are full— then beware, lest you forget the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

- **It wasn't to stop there. Next The whole world.**

From one man, one family and one nation, God was going to bless the world.

Genesis 22:15-18 Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”



- **Jesus confirms Gods desire to be associated with the birth and creation of a nation.** Matthew 22:31-32. But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”

3/. Gods building plan from an earthly (natural) perspective.

- **The process starts again with one man.**

Gods new healthy family building program begins again, with one man. Jesus.

Colossians 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

The new creation, the new family, the new community, the new nation, was all to come from one man. Jesus.

From this one man, God wants to bless the **earthly family**.

- **Gods Heart for Healthy earthly families.**

Luke 1:17. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, '**to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,**' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

This must not be confused with Jesus' statement.

Luke 12:34-39. Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

Here Jesus is not stating the will of God for man (ie. setting people against each other) , but the reality of the response of man towards each other because of the gospel message and the need for perseverance under persecution in order to follow Christ.

- **Gods heart for the family reaffirmed.**

Acts 2:38-39. Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."



Question : "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call" ? **What is the promise for them ?** The free gift of forgiveness of sins, entrance into the family of God and the indwelling, abiding presence of the Holy Spirit, Gods Spirit, with us and in us for eternity. This is not the heart of a God who wants to bring division.

- **The true desire of God for the family shown through the ministry of Paul.**

Acts 16:29-33. Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, **you and your household.**" Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.

- **Gods heart is for a healthy community.**

Acts 2:42-47 Now **all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.** So continuing daily with **one accord** in the temple, and breaking bread from **house to house**, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

- **Gods heart is for a healthy city**

Titus 1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and **appoint elders in every city** as I commanded you—

A list of a few Cities and regions that were touched by God.

Romans 1:7 to all who are in Rome.

1 Corinthians 1:2 / 2 Corinthians 1:1. To the church at Corinth.

Galatians 1:2 to the churches of Galatia.

Ephesians 1:1 To the saints who are in Ephesus.

Philippians 1:1 To all the saints in Christ who at at Philippi.

Colossians 1:2 To the saints in Colosse.

1 Thessalonians 1:1 / 2 Thessalonians 1:1. To the church of the Thessalonians.

1 Peter 1:1 Cities and regions . To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

Revelation 1:4 To the seven churches which are in Asia. Larger region.



4/. Gods building plan form a heavenly perspective. (Spiritual)

- **It starts with spiritual individuals.**

2 Corinthians 5:17. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- **It grows into a spiritual family.**

Matthew 12:49-50 And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."

- **Becomes a spiritual community**

Ephesians 2:19-22 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

1 Peter 2:4-5 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- **Built up to become a spiritual city.**

Hebrews 12:22. But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,

- **To be a part of a spiritual Nation.**

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Death reigned through one man. Life reigns through one man.

5/. Gods order within families to produce health taught from Ephesians 5 and Ephesians 6.

5:22/33. Wives submitting to and respecting their husbands.

5:25 Husbands loving their wives. **Agape.**



6:1 Children obeying and honouring their parents. **WHY?** "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

"6:4 Fathers treating children with fairness, gentleness, understanding, teaching them in the heart and ways of the lord.

God wants His kingdom to spread into every area of life. To effect change within the individual, from there to the family, to the community, out into the city and touching the nations.

• **Jesus Himself gave His Disciples a great commission to go and make disciples of every nation in Matthew 28 and Acts 1:8**

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Conclusion:

Isaiah 9:6-7 For unto us a Child is born (start), Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end (this is his goal)**, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

