

by David Nelson

Pastor of Discipleship

Comfort, Fun & Pleasure

All of us love comfort, fun, and pleasure. Often, strange ideas about these arise in Christian circles; ideas like - *'pleasure is sinful,'* or *'this is church, it's not supposed to be fun,'* or *'it's irreverent to laugh or smile during a sermon or in prayer.'*

Other strange ideas about the mixing OR NOT of the spiritual and physical have dominated various cultures throughout history. The extremes of these views, *'it doesn't matter what you do physically because the spiritual is all that matters,'* and, *'completely deny your physical wants and needs because the spiritual is all that matters.'* In other words, complete physical indulgence OR complete physical denial because *'the spiritual is all that matters.'*

What does scripture say? God created us like we are and we bear His image (Genesis 1:26 ff), physical and spiritual combined. The resurrection we hope for is physical and spiritual as well (1 Corinthians 15:12-20). So, in the Bible, from the beginning of man to the ultimate end of man, the spiritual and the physical are an integrated whole; from creation to consummation both matter to God.

In light of this, what should we think about our pursuit of comfort, fun and pleasure as they relate to Christian living? Jesus said, *"anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."* (Mark 10:15) Have you ever watched children play? They have fun unabashed and uninhibited... and their fun is usually what we consider to be 'innocent' fun!



I suspect many of you have your kids playing baseball because you want them to have fun and it brings you great joy to help and watch them do so. That is a worthy Christian ideal!

Here are a few examples of God's concern for our combined physical and spiritual welfare.

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to Me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to Me; hear Me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, My faithful love promised to David." Isaiah 55:1-3

David shows he knows about this eternal physical and spiritual existence in Psalm 16,

... my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. (vv 9-11)

And, Jesus is no stranger to the fun! His first miracle? He made wine to keep a wedding banquet going!

Likewise, Jesus tells us heaven is a wedding banquet where those invited will feast on the richest of fare and enjoy eternal pleasures both physical and spiritual forever and ever! (Matthew 22 & Revelation 19)

Upcoming Youth Events

Summer Happenings

Pre-School (ages 3 - 5)
School Age (rising 1st - 6th grades)

Son Rock Kids Camp

Tues., July 21
Peter Denies Jesus
Pre-School 10:00am - 11:30am
School Age 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Vacation Bible School

July 26 - July 30, 2009
Ages 3 - 6th grade
6:30pm - 8:30pm
Mark your calendars!

Son Rock Kids Camp

Tues., Aug 4th
Pool Party
Pre-School time - TBD
School Age time - TBD

Son Rock Kids Camp

Tues., Aug 11th
Peter Helps A Lame Man
Pre-School 10:00am - 11:30am
School Age 1:00pm - 3:00pm



He Is Just A Little Boy

Chaplain Bob Fox

He stands at the plate with his heart pounding fast.

The bases are loaded, the die has been cast.

Mom and Dad cannot help him, he stands alone.

A hit at this moment would send the team home.

The ball meets the plate, he swings and misses.

There's a groan from the crowd, with some boos and some hisses.

A thoughtless voice cries, "Strike out the bum."

Tears fill his eyes, the game's no longer fun.

So open your heart and give him a break,

For it's moments like this a man you can make.

Please keep in mind when you hear someone forget,

He is just a little boy, and not a man yet.

Baseball News

Calling "Time"

- In T-Ball, an infielder must be in possession of the ball to call timeout ("Time"). The infielder can raise the ball over his shoulder and loudly call Time, regardless of the play action. Runners have to stop and either go back or advance one base depending on the location of the runner at that time.
- In Coach Pitch, the umpire grants Time. Once a play has stopped, an infielder with the ball can request Time from the umpire. The umpire will verify the play is stopped before granting Time to the defensive team. On an overthrow, one base will be awarded to the runner.



Photos Courtesy of Bill Ward
Ace Sports & Action Photography
www.bwasap.com

Isaiah 40:31

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will SOAR on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not grow faint.

First
Presbyterian
Church

Stanley, North Carolina

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

Morning Service

8:30 Worship Service

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship Service

Evening Service

6:30 Family Worship

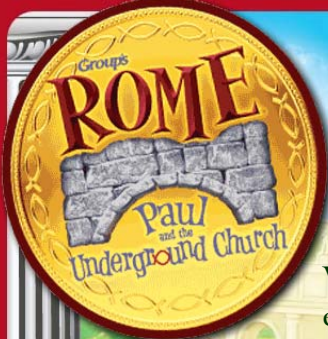
On the first Sunday night each month, we'll have a family meal at 6pm & worship at 7pm

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at

www.fpcstanley.org

Team Rosters
Game Schedule
Parent's Corner




YBS

July 26th - 30th

Ages 3 - rising 6th grade

6:30pm - 8:30pm



Welcome to Rome, where families meet Paul and early Christians from the underground Church.

During the Holy Land Adventure, kids and adults become apprentices in a variety of hands-on marketplace shops, play high-energy games, take part in eye-catching dramas, and visit with Paul - who's under house arrest!

Bible truths come to life as learners of all ages discover what it was like to be part of the early church.

Register today by calling the church office or online at www.groupvbs.com/webtoybox/myvbs/FirstPresStanley. A snack supper will be provided Mon - Thurs at 5:45pm. Participants must register for the snack supper.