

THE

Barnabas^{*}

EXPRESS

"Two Firsts"

Apparently, the man was not sincere. An *"expert in religious law, he tried to trap Jesus with this question: Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?"*

Fair enough. Great question, especially if - unlike this teacher - you ask it in earnest.

"Jesus replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.'"

And then Jesus continued: *"A second is equally important: Love your neighbor as yourself. The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."*
(Matt. 22: 35-40, NLT)

If we pay attention, we can learn a great deal from this conversation.

1/ It is never a good idea to toy with Jesus, trying to trap him or denigrate him.

Jesus is the brightest, truest man who ever lived, and he is patient. But he is also discerning and undeterred by insincere conversationalists.

And he is, after all is said and done, the majestic King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

2/ Jesus gets to the heart of the issue quickly.

He refuses to be side-tracked by trickery or diversionary cynicism. And in the process, he shows us the true nature of our own hearts.

3/ Loving God with all our heart, soul and mind always produces the right fruit.

Always.

If we actually love God like this, we will be . . .

. . . quick to forgive (Mark 11:26)

. . . intentional, passionate reconcilers, not quarrelers (2 Cor 5: 16ff)

. . . eager to serve others, not demanding they serve us (John 13)

. . . willing to love, desiring God's best - even for our enemies (Luke 6: 27ff)

4/ Jesus insists that love for God and love for people cannot be separated.

He calls the two loves "equally important."

Sometimes, we try to give ourselves a loophole by reasoning, "God knows that I love him with all my being, but surely he understands that I, being fully human, simply cannot stand certain people and that's just the way it's going to be."

Nice try, but no go.

Jesus came to set us free from that sort of self-serving compartmentalization.

His "two firsts" - loving God and loving people - help us to become more like him, and in the process, flesh out the power and the purification that only he can bring to our wayward hearts!

*In His
Amazing
Love! JAW*

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330-493-1660 1-800-334-8863 FAX: 330-493-0852

*. . . Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement). . . - Acts 4:36b



A Personal Touch...

- Congratulations to Josh and Betsie Walker on the birth of their son, Seth Christopher (7lbs., 6 oz., 19 1/2 inches). He was born on December 14, 2010.
 - Congratulations to Jeremiah and Elisha Kutz on the birth of their son, Judah David (9 lbs. 5 oz., 21 inches). He was born on December 23, 2010.
 - Our deep sympathies to Pastor Don Luellen and family on the passing of his wife, Norma. She passed away on January 9, 2011 at the age of 89.
 - Our sympathies to the family of Ruth Luddington, widow of retired Friends Pastor Charles Luddington. She passed away on December 3, 2010, at the age of 89.
 - Our sympathies to Milford Landwert and family on the passing of his wife, Marjorie Landwert on February 19 at the age of 83. Marjorie wrote Sunday School curriculum and served as Board President for both Christian Education Board and Executive Board for EFC-ER.
 - Our sympathies to Laurel Notturmo and family on the recent passing of her father.
- Please keep these Friends in prayer:**
- Janet Linger continues to recover from hip replacement surgery on January 28, 2011.

Christian Ed. Elders, Sunday School Teachers and Pastors your church has received a packet of AFRICA materials:



Helpful, child-friendly, mission focused materials have been sent to each church from the EFC-NA Christian Ed. Commission.

These materials were produced exclusively for Friends in cooperation with Barclay Press. Additional materials on Friends in Africa are available for free, using links through the Barclay Press website. The exact link is listed below: www.barclypress.com/infodesk.php/christian-education-resources

More materials featuring additional mission fields will be coming in the future. Special thanks to this Commission for their hard work and commitment to expanding the understanding of our children.

Men in Missions Retreat!
 April 29 - May 1
JOEL PENTON
 5-Ring former OSU football champion...
 turned down pro offers to speak for God

APRIL 29-MAY 1
STAND
 your ground.

Membership Certificates now available only on line.

At this time, we will not be selling Membership Covenant Forms at Lion & Lamb Bookstore. They are now available on line as a pdf (legal-size paper) at the EFC-ER website in the "Resources" portion of the website: <http://www.efcer.org/392>



2011 CALENDAR*

March

- 4 Nominating Board, WOC 9:30 am
- 11 CE Board, Camp Gideon 4:00 pm
- 11-12 CE Retreat, Camp Gideon
- 18 Youth Board, Morgantown, West Virginia
- 18-20 SOY Retreat, Morgantown, West Virginia
- 19 Friends Action Board, WOC 9:30 am
- 24 Missionary Board, WOC 9:30 am

April

- 1 Pension Board, WOC 9:30 am
- 7 Executive Committee, WOC 1:00 pm
- 22 W.O.C. Office closed for Good Friday
- 24 Easter Sunday, HE IS RISEN!
- 29 Malone Baccalaureate
- 30 Malone Commencement
- 29-May 1 Men in Missions Retreat, Morengo, OH

May

- 6-7 Malone Spring Board Meetings
- 12 E. P. & E. Board, WOC 9:30 am
- 14 Communications Bd., WOC 9:30 am
- 17-20 Spring Pastor's Conference (Sandy Cove Ministries in North East, MD.)
- 20 Ministerial Accreditation Board
- 21 Finance Board, WOC 9:30 am
- 26 Executive Bd., WOC 9:30 am

June

EFM Meetings in Colorado

July

- 15 New Pastor's Orientation, WOC 9:30 am
- 15 Executive Board, WOC
- 16 Yearly Meeting Board Meetings (AM)
- 16 Yearly Meeting Missionary Banquet
- 16-19 Yearly Meeting, Canton, OH
- 16-19 EFC-ER Youth Conference, Canton, OH

August

September

- 8 Executive Committee, WOC 1:00 pm
- 16-18 WMF Fall Retreat, Seven Springs, PA

October

- 7-8 Malone Fall Board Meetings
- 13 Missions Board
- 13 Friends Adult Retreat, Amish Door in Wilmot, OH
- 21 Youth Board, location TBA

November

- 3-5 EFC-NA Commission Meetings, Colorado
- 11-13 Youth Explosion, Willoughby Hills Friends
- 19 CE Board 9:30 am
- 17 Executive Committee, WOC 1:00 pm
- 24 WOC Office Closed for Thanksgiving

December

- 6 North Mini Conference, Wilmot, OH
- 8 Southern Mini Conf., South Hill, VA
- 24 WOC Office closed for Christmas

Speaking of Numbers...

2010 statistics were due February 15th...

Congratulations to our top 10 Churches providing Yearbook Stats!

1. Byhalia (OH)
2. Orange (OH)
3. Madison Cornerstone (OH)
4. Peniel (VA)
5. Hughesville (PA)
6. Barberton (OH)
7. East Richland (OH)
8. Salem Southeast (OH)
9. Lisbon Trinity (OH)
10. Somersville (OH)

All church stats were due by February 15th ... Thank you for your efficiency in these necessary details. We appreciate it!



Get Your Head In The Game...



Camp Gideon's 2011 Schedule...

Kids Camp (grades 3-5)	June 12-17
NEW High School Retreat (grades 9-12)	June 17-19
Adventure Camp (grades 4-6)	June 19-24
Challenge Camp I (grades 7-9)	June 26- July 1
Day Camp (grades K-2)	July 5-8
Father/Son Camp (grades K-6)	July 8-10
NEW Splash Camp (grades 3-5)	July 10-15
Challenge Camp II (grades 6-8)	July 16-21
NEW Sports Camp (grades 4-6)	July 24-29
NEW Arts & Drama Camp (grades 4-6)	July 24-29
Mother/Daughter Camp (grades K-6)	July 29-31
Mini Camp (grades 2-4)	July 31-Aug. 2

What's New at Camp?

- * High Schoolers are invited back for a weekend camp.
- * Splash Camp will get everyone very wet...
- * The Sports Camp and The Art & Drama Camp are offered at the same time.*
- The Art & Drama Camp focuses on finding God through the fine arts.
- Sports Camp uses our athletic abilities to experience God in a fun and exhilarating way.

Camp Needs Volunteer Nurses...

Camp Gideon is inviting trained nurses to spend a week at camp... You'll get great food, lodging, and lots of fun with energetic kids... We'd love to have one volunteer for each week of summer camp. Call the WOC for more information.

March...a great time to connect with Friends!

CE Retreat March 11-12
register **IMMEDIATELY** to ensure it's a go!

Looking for ideas & encouragement in the area of Christian Education?



Sign up NOW for the CE Retreat at Camp Gideon March 11 - 12, 2011

March 13: Willoughby Hills Friends Church hosting "Love Worth Fighting For"



March 18-20: SOY Retreat

SOY
(Sponsors of Youth) has a new name:

RECONNECT

This retreat is designed to help connect with God,
• with other youth leaders,
• with calling in ministry.
• and connect with training & resources that equip effective ministry..

A new name and, yet the same fellowship, practical help, support and fun!
Join in a GREAT WEEKEND!

Re:Connect



EFC-Eastern Region
Youth Leader Retreat

Complete brochures have been mailed to every church and are available online:
www.efcteens.org

March 18-20 2011



Guest Speaker:
Dr. David Williams
professor at
Barclay College