



Ivy Memorial Baptist Church
Your family ... in Coliseum Central

July
2020



The Freedom Issue

You may be surprised to know that some of the distinctions that are common to our religious expression are not actually found in the Bible. One such example is the difference between **sacred** and **secular**. There is no such distinction in the Bible. The biblical vision is one in which the entire created order is sacred from its very beginning (*And God said, "It is good."*)

The division between sacred and secular arose in the university setting with the advent of the Age of Reason (18th century). Prior to that time, theology was considered to be the "queen of the sciences" and was the foundation of university life. Eventually two categories were created in universities – theological studies and scientific studies. The word *sacred* was applied to theological studies and the word *secular* was used to refer to scientific studies.

Another false distinction is the difference between the **clergy** and the **laity**. There is no such distinction in the Bible. The term clergy came about in the wake of Emperor Constantine's effort to use Christianity as a tool to unite the crumbling Roman Empire (4th century). As the ministry became more "professionalized" the term clergy was used to distinguish the ministry professionals from the common people (laity).



The church has been steeped in these false distinctions for a very long time. Although the distinctions were intended for good, they have ultimately hampered and dampened the redemptive mission of God in the world. If it were possible to shake ourselves free from the bondage that these false distinctions have held over the church, in what ways would the people of God be more free? Let's take a look by considering **pastoral care** and **ministry leadership**.



We have set a date to connect in person on July 12, 2020

When we re-gather...

- ◇ Live Streaming will continue. Please do not come if you are coughing, sneezing, running a fever or have other health risk concerns.
- ◇ Masks are required when indoors as per our state mandate.
- ◇ Families will sit together with adequate distancing on all sides.
- ◇ Please follow the arrows on the ground to help control the flow of “traffic” while indoors.
- ◇ OFFERING Plates will not be passed. Please use the white boxes or the workroom mail slot to give your tithes.
- ◇ Children of all ages will be with us in the sanctuary. Activity bags will be available at the door. Please take them home, we do not want any of the packet back.

USHERING AND CLEANING SUPPORT IS NEEDED.

We will not be able to meet without certain responsibilities being covered. We need your help. Please connect with Sharon Rossman before Monday July 6 if you are willing to help. This commitment includes attending a training session. Sharon can be reached at grandmarossman@gmail.com, via Facebook, or via cell phone after 5:00pm 757-871-0549

Clarifying Giving Options

Some have asked us to explain the different giving options we have, especially online giving and any fees that may be associated with your gifts. They are listed in order of least or no fees to highest fees.

- ◇ Dropping off or mailing your gift. If you desire to send cash, please put it in your giving envelope. Giving envelopes are not suitable for mailing by themselves. Please put them in another envelope to mail. **The church is charged \$0.00 to process this gift.**
- ◇ Using your online bank’s bill pay system. Depending on your bank this may have a fee associated with it. **The church is charged \$0.00 to process this gift.**
- ◇ Using the Realm Online Giving Portal—using your Bank Account. In the giving portal hit the second tab to switch to the bank account tab. Enter your routing and account number. **The church is charged \$0.35 + 0.65% to process this gift.** (For example: if your gift is \$100, the church will receive \$99 after fees.)
- ◇ Using the Realm Online Giving Portal - using a Discover, Mastercard or Visa - Credit or Debit Card. **The church is charged \$0.35 + 2.65% to process this gift.** (For example: if your gift is \$100, the church will receive \$97 after fees.)
- ◇ Using the Realm Online Giving Portal—using an American Express Card. **The church is charged \$0.35 + 3.5% to process this gift.** (For example: if your gift is \$100, the church will receive \$96.15 after fees.)

We hope this helps you make the best choice when deciding how to give.

Pastoral Care

In our western model of Christianity the role of *pastoral care* has often been a core expectation of the pastor. Although the term itself does not appear in the Bible, it has become a popular expression among churches and the vast majority of pastors are measured not by such things as preaching, teaching, and leading, but by pastoral care. Pastoral care is an essential function of any church family. Unfortunately, in many churches it falls on the shoulders of the pastor.

A more biblical model of pastoral care is one in which every person engages in pastoral care at some level. We are called to love one another. This is the foundational and essential form of pastoral care. It is the particular function of the **Deacon** body to offer and engage in the ministry of pastoral care.

When pastoral care is seen as the primary function of the pastor, the church will be quite limited in its outreach and impact. This is the primary reason why the vast majority of churches in America find it nearly impossible to break the 200 barrier in attendance. However, when pastoral care becomes the culture of the entire church family under the leadership of the deacons, a local church virtually has endless capacity to provide pastoral care to an entire community or city.

In the days ahead, pastoral care is going to be more critical than ever. To maximize our outreach, we will need to become experts in the area of pastoral care. We can begin by simply finding small ways to love not only those who are our family and friends, but those who are not in our circles. We can pray more fervently and offer greater support and encouragement to the **Ivy Deacon Body** as they live on the front lines of pastoral care in a hurting world. Each one of us can also engage in pastoral care as we extend the love of God in the world around us. When we do so, we are not just providing pastoral care for the church family, we are providing pastor care to the entire community.

Ministers at Large

The more we can abandon the vision of the “professional minister” model, the more ministry we can actually do. The false distinction between clergy and laity has tilted the church in the direction of churches being “pastor-centric.” This might stroke the ego of the pastor or provide some measure of comfort to church members but at the end of the day it tends to set up a hierarchical leadership model that reflects more the leadership models of our culture (business, government, military) than it does the servant leadership model of Jesus.

As he so often did, Jesus turned the world upside down. He announced that the Kingdom of God had come and yet he had no palace, no soldiers, no weapons, and no money. Would not these things be essential to a king?

Jesus not only overturned the tables in the Temple, he overturned the very structures of power and leadership. His life and teachings would quite honestly overturn our prevailing models of professionalized clergy. This is not at all to suggest that such things as calling and theological education are not important – they are very important. Rather it is to suggest that every follower of Jesus is called to minister, lead, and serve. These things do not belong to a “professionalized” class of less than 2% of God’s people – they belong to all of God’s people. The reality is that we are all laity (people of God).

Ivy is not a church that *has* ministers, we are a church *of* ministers. Let’s rise to the freedom that God has given us through Jesus and empowers us with through the Spirit. May the love that we have for one another continue to flourish as we share pastoral care together and may you feel fully free to enter the ministry to which God has called you.



The Schedule:

(Some details may change!)

Please call the Church Office, or ask for help on the Friends & Family Facebook page if there's a problem.

Sunday	10:00am	Salvation class Sunday School on Zoom Victory class Sunday School on Zoom
	11:15am	Morning Message Live on the Facebook public page In-Person beginning July 12— <i>subject to change</i>
	7:00pm	YOUTH Connection. Check Facebook for the latest on location.
Monday		Our Ivy Future message usually posted on You Tube
Wednesday	6:00pm	Ivy Family Discussion & Prayer on Zoom (all welcome)
	7:00pm	YOUTH Connection. Check Facebook for the latest on location.

Zoom gatherings are available for your group.

Call the Church Office to schedule a time.

The church has an account and we are scheduling it just like we would schedule a room at the church.



We are meeting over Zoom on Sundays and Wednesdays at 7:00pm

Bryan Gravely and China White are available for one-on-one support if needed.

Do not hesitate to call us!

Sharing Prayer Concerns

Do you have a prayer concern you need to share with us? Consider sending it to us via e-mail!

prayerline@ivymemorial.org

This e-mail address is monitored by the Church Office and one of the Deacons. It's a quick and easy way to be sure we know how and whom to pray for.

Giving Options

Visit www.ivymemorial.org to give online. You can even give via TEXT or by scanning this QR code.



Text **IVYATCC** to **73256** to give to the Unified Budget using your text messaging. *Standard text messaging rates may apply.* If you have questions call the Office at 838-3107.

Mailing your tithes and offerings is a great choice until we are able to gather in person once again. The Church Office is also open if you need to drop if off.

From the Church Office:

Your Church Office is still open

Monday—Thursday

9:00am—3:30pm

757-838-3107

ivymemorial@ivymemorial.org

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Hampton, VA 23666

www.ivymemorial.org