



FAQ's About Family Integration

1. What about kids from non-Christian homes?

Q: MOST OF THE KIDS IN OUR YOUTH MINISTRY COME FROM NON-CHRISTIAN HOMES. WHAT DOES THE FIC MODEL DO IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES?

A. This issue is a product of the youth ministry structure. The reason most youth ministries are filled with unchurched teens from unchurched families is that the structure attracts teens and not families. As a result, this phenomenon is unusual in FIC circles. We rarely see unattached teens. However, when we do, there are several differences in the way we proceed.

First, the FIC model promotes inter-generational fellowship. Thus, teens who come to our church will likely have come with a family who has shown them hospitality and not with other teens who know them in isolation. As a result, the FIC model presents a ready-made environment for inter-generational interaction.

Second, at CRCC we believe teens are young men and women, not big children. Thus, we believe the most important relationships they can have are not those with other teens, but with older adults. Teens will rise to the level of behavior expected of them. If we place them in a room filled with carnal teens, they are not likely to mimic the behavior of responsible adults.

Finally, teens from non-Christian homes need their parents to be reached and influenced. Because the FIC model involves these teens in meaningful relationships with families, there is a natural connection between families in our church who are ministering to the teen and the family who needs to be reached with the gospel.

2. What about families who don't or won't disciple their children?

MOST OF OUR FAMILIES ARE HEADED BY NOMINAL BELIEVERS. HOW CAN WE EXPECT THEM TO DISCIPLE THEIR CHILDREN?

A. Unfortunately, this is normal. True biblical discipleship is a rarity in the modern American church. Rare is the family headed by a godly father who actually sees discipleship as his responsibility. Rarer still is the man who is equipped for the task. As a result, this is a very real issue that must be addressed.

At CRCC, we rely on catechism as a discipleship tool. As a result, we tell our men, "You only have to be a day ahead." A man who is catechizing his children is also catechizing himself. Moreover, a man who is encouraged and expected to lead in family worship on a



regular basis will be transformed in a very short time into something he never knew he could be:

As they pray for each other their mutual love is strengthened. Reading and memorizing Scripture and the catechisms of the church results in incredible development of children, both spiritually and intellectually. What families regard as important is evidenced by the manner in which they spend their time. Therefore, regular family worship shows the children that their parents believe that Jesus Christ is central to all of life. This practice leaves a legacy that will benefit thousands in generations to come.

(David Wegoner, JBMW)

Men must be challenged. They must have mountains to climb; foes to conquer. The FIC says to men, "Here is your challenges... go make disciples in your home. No one is going to do it for you. You simply must get it done." We will offer help, encouragement, accountability and training. But it is ultimately up to our men to get the job done (Deuteronomy 6:4-15; Ephesians 6:1-4).

3. **What about disruptive children in the service?**

Q. MOST CHURCHES SEND THE CHILDREN TO THE NURSERY TO CREATE A MORE WORSHIPFUL ENVIRONMENT. HOW DO YOU CONDUCT WORSHIP WITH DISRUPTIVE CHILDREN?

A. We encourage all families to bring their children into the sanctuary. Crying babies don't bother us one bit. We recognize that some infants will need to be taken out for feedings, etc., and we have no problem with that. However, we do not provide a nursery. The Bible frequently mentions children in the context of the corporate gathering of God's people (Deut. 31:12-13; Ezra 10:1; Matt. 18:1-5; 19:13-15; Eph. 6:1-4; Col. 3:20). Moreover, we believe it is important for children to worship with their parents, and to be taught how to sit through the service.

Nurseries tend to hide problems that need to be corrected. Children who cannot sit through a service need training and discipline, not isolation. Moreover, if these children cannot sit through the service, they are probably giving their parents fits at home (thus their desire to dump them off at the nursery on Sunday morning). We patiently teach inexperienced families how to walk with their children through this process and it blesses their home, their marriage, their relationship with their children and the testimony of the church.

4. **What do you do about Sunday school?**

Q. HOW DO YOU DO SUNDAY SCHOOL IF YOU HAVE NO AGE SEGREGATION?

A. By the end of April 2010 we will not have Sunday school at CRCC. However, if we did, it would be age-integrated. We would simply offer a variety of classes and allow families to



choose which ones they wanted to attend. For now, though, we recognize that our weekly 3 services (8:00am, 9:45am, and 11:30am), and Care Groups represent a large time commitment. Family takes time. We want to minimize the requirements placed on families and encourage them to maximize their time together for family worship, prayer, Bible reading and catechism.

5. **What curriculum do you use for family discipleship?**

Q. WHAT CURRICULUM DO YOU USE FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHP

A. We encourage our families to use the Charles Spurgeon's Catechism, Big truths for little kids: "teaching your children to live for God" or our book of the month Family Devotions Based on the shorter catechism "training hearts teaching minds", by Starr Meade. The most of the material have catechisms, Scripture memory, Bible reading. It is also designed for accountability as dates are recorded when material is memorized.

6. **What about Singles?**

Q. DOES YOUR FAMILY DISCIPLESHP FOCUS (AND EMPHASIS ON FATHERS) ALIENATE SINGLES/SINGLE MOMS?

A. Absolutely not! In fact, the opposite is true. This question has several underlying assumptions:

Assumption #1

FIC Sermons Focus on 'Families'

The truth is CRCC is committed to 'systematic exposition.' In other words, we preach through the Bible systematically. We start with a book or large segment in the Bible and work our way through verse by verse. This way we teach "the whole council of God" and not just the latest hot topic. This way every believer gets what he or she needs regardless of situation in life.

Assumption #2

The Family Discipleship Emphasis Excludes Singles

The truth is our emphasis on family discipleship is truly an emphasis on discipleship 'in the home.' Everyone lives in a home and should learn how to get into the word in that home whether they live alone or with a spouse and five children.

Assumption #3

The Emphasis on Traditional Families Alienates Single Mothers



The truth is children growing up in single parent homes need the same thing every other child needs. The FIC offers a place for single moms to expose their children to godly male role models who are doing and being exactly what she wants her children to become.

Single moms also have the benefit of a strong men's ministry to minister to their special needs.

Assumption #4

The Emphasis on Training Fathers Excludes Single Men

The truth is fathers are not a separate, or special breed of man. Fatherhood is simply a context in which biblical manhood is expressed. The tools needed to be a godly husband and father are the same tools needed to be a godly man. The FIC is about training men and women to thrive in their biblical roles whether they marry or not.

Assumption #5

The FIC Doesn't Offer Activities for Singles

The truth is we offer a number of activities for singles. We just don't offer activities that set singles apart in segregated, isolated settings. Our Institute offers discipleship for all believers. Our home groups study materials that singles need to learn. More importantly, singles can learn from (and teach) married adults.

Assumption #6

Singles Will Feel Pressured to Get Married

The truth is the high view of marriage at CRCC is just as likely to elicit higher levels of caution in single adults considering marriage. Our emphasis on biblical courtship, biblical manhood and womanhood, and multigenerational faithfulness means the bar is set high for marriage. Thus, one could argue that there would be less pressure to just 'get married.'

Although we would hope that a church filled with men and women striving to grow in grace and exemplify biblical marriage would ignite a godly desire for marriage in all those who have not been called by our Lord to a life of singleness.

Grace Family Baptist Church Frequently Asked Questions. (n.d.). Retrieved April 2010, from Grace Family Baptist Church Home Page: http://www.gracefamilybaptist.net/GFBC2/FAQ_5.html