

## I Got Your Back

### Unrealistic Expectations

- Life should be fair
- Opportunities will fall into my lap
- Everyone should like me
- People know what I am trying to say
- Things will make me happy
- I can change him/her

Dr. Travis Bradberry wrote, "Your expectations more than anything else in life determines your reality. People who believe they will succeed use more metacognitive functions than those who don't. This means they use more of their brains and have more brainpower to solve problems." A Harvard study revealed that when teachers were told that certain selected children were smart, those kids performed better in the classroom and also on standardized tests. When the teachers believed the best of those students:

- They treated them better
- They gave them more opportunities to succeed
- They gave them more accurate and helpful feedback
- They did more actual teaching because they believed it was time well spent

Letting your doubts cloud your belief in someone or something practically ensures their failure. Patients who have low expectations for medical procedures tend to have poorer results. Your expectations shape your reality. What does the Bible teach us about what we should believe concerning others?

- **Philippians 2:3-5:** Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus
- **1 Corinthians 13:** Love does not insist on its own rights or its own way; it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it. Love is ever ready to believe the best of every person.
- Love others as we love ourselves.

One unrealistic expectation we often have is that solely the leader determines success or failure of a thing. If the football team loses, it's the coach or quarterback's fault. If the economy falls, it's the President's fault. The success or failure of a church is greatly determined by the pastor, but not solely. The pastor has his part, but so also does every member of the church body.

### Ephesians 4:11-16

- The role primarily of church leaders is equipping saints to do the work of ministry.
- The role primarily of the saints is doing the work of ministry.
- We all have a role to fulfill in causing growth in Christ's body.
- We are helping the church, Christ's body, to grow by serving and giving; or we are damaging Christ's body through criticism and/or selfish demanding.

### Exodus 17:8-15

- The setting and characters of Exodus have symbolic meaning for today. Egypt is a type of the world system. Pharaoh is a type of Satan. Moses is a type of Christ. The

children of Israel represent us, the church. The wilderness is obvious. Canaan, the Promised Land, is a type of the abundant life Jesus came to provide us.

- There are obvious enemies to defeat in this narrative. We find one in this text.
- Israel's (the church's) victory was not solely determined by Joshua nor Moses.
- Moses needed Aaron and Hur to hold up his arms. Joshua needed men to fight.

## **Exodus 18:13-26**

### **Leadership lesson from Jethro**

- Moses was hurting the whole nation as well as himself by the unrealistic expectation of doing everything himself.
- The needs of the people were not being met in an efficient and timely manner. Because of fatigue, I believe Moses quite possibly was not giving the best advice and judgments.
- The gifts and callings of the other leaders in the nation were being ignored and undeveloped. Therefore, the entire nation was suffering and their entire potential was being stunted.
- In delegating authority, Moses freed himself to a more devoted prayer life (v. 19).
- Moses was more committed to training and communication with his leaders (v. 20).
- He consistently shared the vision.
- He had more time to develop plans for the future success of Israel.
- The needs of the people were handled much better manner (v. 22).
- Moses did only what the other leaders could or should not do (v. 26).

## **Conclusion**

Cornerstone Church is such a wonderful church family. We have enormous potential to become an even greater blessing to this community and region. Chillicothe and Northern Missouri will be greatly blessed if individually and collectively we believe that our best days are ahead of us; and if each of us takes personal responsibility in exercising our gifts & talents in building God's kingdom. Let's do it together! I got your back. Do you have mine and Michelle's & Chad and Kortney's back?