



Carey Green

Senior | Lead | Teaching Pastor

I am responding to a call to ministry to serve the local church, utilizing my gifts of teaching and leadership. I'm seeking an established, Bible-focused church family that is serious about living out the Christian message through holiness and devotion to Christ. I possess a deep conviction to use the gifts I've been given in this final season of my life (I'm 56 years old). I long to lead God's people into deeper relationship with Him and to teach and model how to live out our identity in Christ in practical ways. I expect that these efforts, empowered by the Holy Spirit, will enable the church family I lead to experience unity as the true body of Christ, to the glory of God, and to the great wonder of those who see it, leading many to faith in Jesus.

Contact

Phone

719-239-0303

Email

carey@careygreen.com

Address

919 Spectrum Loop
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Ministry Portfolio Website

CareyGreen.com

Education & Licensing

1997

M.A. - Pastoral Ministry

Trinity Theological Seminary

1990

B.A. - Youth Ministry & Biblical Studies

Colorado Christian University

1998

Institute for Biblical Community

Dr. Larry Crabb

Ordained Minister

Christian & Missionary Alliance

Experience

2018 to the Present

Founder, CEO

Morning Mindset Media & Podcast Fast Track

MorningMindsetMedia.com & PodcastFastTrack.com

7/2007 to 3/2015

Pastor

Community Church, Leadville, Colorado

5/2004 to 1/2006

Pastor

Lifeway Church Community, Reno, Nevada

11/1998 to 12/2002

Teaching Pastor

Pacific Islands Bible Church, Mililani, Hawaii

5/1995 to 10/1998

Associate Director of Ministry

Grace Church, Arvada, Colorado

1989 to 1991 (part time)

Director of Jr. High Ministries

Bear Creek Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Lakewood, Colorado

Unique Skills & Experiences

Eight years ago I founded a podcast production agency which I still run today. This experience has given me an appreciation for the powerful tool media can be for the expansion of the Kingdom of God.

January 1, 2018, I launched a daily devotional podcast that God has greatly used and blessed: The Morning Mindset Christian Daily Devotional. Among the top 1% of podcasts worldwide, the show averages 12,000 listeners per episode within the first 30 days. Based on this success, my wife Mindi and I founded a non-profit enabling believers in need to receive help from other believers. More at: <https://NotANeedyPerson.org>.

Mindi and I co-host two podcasts, covering the subjects of Christian Marriage and Christian Parenting. This bi-weekly podcast averages over 1000 listeners per episode within the first 30 days. By listening to a handful of these episodes you'll get to know us and how our faith works out in our daily lives. You can find these at <https://MorningMindsetMedia.com>.

- Teaching
- Leadership
- Administration
- Writing & Study development
- Team Building
- Creative Solutions
- Entrepreneurial

Books I've written

- The Elder-Training Handbook
- The Marriage Improvement Project
- Recharge: Devotional Bible Study Methods
- Moving Toward God (lessons for spiritual growth)
- Through Heaven's Eyes (a drama)
- The Great Smizzmozzel Bash (children's picture book)
- The Dragon Slayer Chronicles (3 volume, Christian fiction series)

Influences

- Pastor John Piper
- Oswald Chambers
- Rev. Andrew Murray
- Rev. George Mueller
- Dr. Bill Gillam
- Pastor Jim Cymbala
- Rev. E.M. Bounds
- Dr. Gene Getz
- Rev. Jonathan Edwards
- Rev. John Owen

Personal

- Born in July of 1967
- Born again in 1972
- Married since May of 1989
- Wife: Mindi.
- Mindi was born again in 1972 also
- Five children (all faithful Christian adults): Aaron, Melinda, Madeline, Caleb, Faith
- 5 grandboys (as of August 2023)
- I have two visible tattoos (Some prefer to know this at the outset. I'm happy to chat about it).
- Interests – Family, friends, reading & study, music (listening and performing), hospitality in our home, outdoor activities, writing.

Philosophy of Ministry (summary)

The church's calling is to make mature disciples, people who trust in Jesus as Savior and go on to grow in relationship with Him for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

It's my aim to love, teach, equip, and demonstrate for my church family what it looks like to humbly walk in devoted fellowship with Jesus, day by day, for a lifetime. This is the privilege and joy of all Christians, to joyfully live under the reign of King Jesus. Led and taught properly, the church grows and builds itself up in love and unity, wisdom, and the use of spiritual gifts to build up the body and advance the Kingdom.

Biblical areas of particular importance in my experience:

- [1] Wholehearted love of God (Trinity)
- [2] Biblical plurality of leadership (Elders)
- [3] Pastor as the spiritual leader among equals
- [4] Leadership integrity through holy living
- [5] The practice and power of effective prayer
- [6] Clearly teaching all of scripture for all of life
- [7] Biblical community and accountability
- [8] Relational discipleship and ministry
- [9] Spiritually healthy homes and families
- [10] Biblical discipleship and equipping of men
- [11] Biblical discipleship and equipping of women
- [12] Family-supportive biblical education for youth
- [13] Family-supportive biblical education for children
- [14] Compassionate engagement with the culture

See my "Philosophy of Ministry" document or personal website (CareyGreen.com) for an expansion of my thoughts on each of these topics.

References

Ian & Beth Wienholt

Friends, previous small group members

Phone: 443-324-3721 (Ian)

Email: iwienholt@structural.net (Ian)

Phone: 301-524-2572 (Beth)

Email: wienholtfamily@gmail.com (Beth)

Eric & Sherri Johnston

Friend, former church member

Phone: 719-221-3922 (Eric)

Email: bkfdance60@live.com (Eric)

Email: wianisherri72@gmail.com (Sherri)

Don & Tricia Nelson

Friends, previous small group members

Phone: 303-506-0211

Email: dnelson4god@gmail.com (Don)

Phone: 720-234-0216 (Tricia)

Email: nelsontricia23@gmail.com (Tricia)

Dillon & Christina Cowing

Friends, disciples of ours

Phone: 913-296-2084 (Dillon)

Email: dilloncowing@gmail.com (Dillon)

Email: sailercl@gmail.com (Christina)

Trevor & Natalie Muzzy

Friends, disciples of ours

Phone: 573-525-1050 (Trevor)

Email: tmuzzy11@gmail.com (Trevor)

Phone: 573-525-0363 (Natalie)

Email: fischer.nmf@gmail.com (Natalie)

Daron Crenshaw

Friend, former Elder

Phone: 208-509-2007

Email: crenshawdl@gmail.com

Carey Green

God's Work In Me

One of the things we see over and over in scripture is God's decision to use individuals who nobody else would have chosen to accomplish His mighty plans. From Moses, to David, to Mary and Joseph, to the Apostle Paul, it's an obvious theme in the redemptive story. I love that the LORD graciously includes the weak and unassuming people of the world to make His name great — for the benefit of the nations and His eternal glory — because I've always felt like one of those weak people. This reality has filled my life with hope ever since the day I came to faith in Jesus.

I'm am surely not on par with the biblical figures I've mentioned, but I do believe that I have the same heart they had, one of humble reliance on the LORD, of supreme confidence in His ability to use me. My flesh and failings, as real as they are to me and others, are no obstacle for Him. He's proven Himself faithful to use me as His instrument over and over in my ministry experience and I'm expecting more of the same during this next season of my ministry career. His ability to do His work in and through me is what I'm counting on. E.M. Bounds (one of my most recent "favorite authors") describes this reality in these thrilling words...

"It is not great talents or great learning nor great preachers that God needs, but men great in holiness, great in faith, great in love, great in fidelity, great for God — men always preaching by holy sermons in the pulpit, by holy lives out of it. These can mold a generation for God."

I sense the LORD's call to Pastoral Ministry in stronger ways than I've ever known. I'm certain He's calling me into this role and that in it, He's going to produce fruit like I've never experienced before. I don't know exactly what that means, but I do know that He is capable of much more than I can ask, think, or even imagine (Ephesians 4:20). I'm encouraged and confident as I move forward, trusting that He has already appointed me to serve in a Senior Pastor role alongside a body of believers who are eager to see Him do a work among them that only He can do.

Looking back, I believe that all of the ministry experience He's given me so far is a gracious gift, both in what I've been allowed to do for the sake of His Kingdom and through the smaller contexts in which that ministry has happened. What I mean is this: the LORD was extremely kind to place my family into smaller churches, so that my wife and I could have the time and energy to focus on building a God-fearing and faithful family, the foundation upon which the integrity of any Pastor's ministry rests (1 Timothy 3:4-5). By His grace, all five of our children are adults now, living daily in relationship with the LORD and pursuing His purpose for their lives. Those who have children of their own are faithfully teaching them the ways of the LORD. We are humbled and grateful for what God has done and for how He's done it, and can't imagine how it could have come about had I been in more demanding or high profile roles. To me, the blessing of establishing a legacy of faith that can last for generations (Psalm 78:5-9) was worth every difficulty or limitation He asked me to endure.

Another retrospective observation the LORD has revealed to me is that my 8 years out of the Pastoral role has been a time when He has been encouraging and equipping me for His purposes ahead. He's restored my zeal for Pastoral ministry and for His church. He's grown me in humility and deep reliance on Him. Through the process of building a business He's taught me how to build and support a healthy team of people, nurture a healthy team culture, and connect with the real-life needs of people outside the church (my clients and my team). But greater than all this, the most joyful and needed thing He's done is to draw me into the discipline of prayer like never before. Where before, prayer was a hit-and-miss desire at best, now it is a joyful, daily, relational aspect of my connection with the Father. He's shown me, in unambiguous terms, that prayer is the heartbeat of everything to come, because alongside my study of the Word, it's the basis for my intimacy with Him. Again, E.M. bounds expresses the deepest beliefs of my heart regarding prayer...

"The man — God's man — is made in the closet. His life and his profoundest convictions are born in his secret communion with God. The burdened and tearful agony of his spirit, his weightiest and sweetest messages are got when alone with God. Prayer makes the man; prayer makes the preacher, prayer makes the pastor."

I believe that the church family where the LORD is placing me will resonate with the work the LORD has been doing in my life over the past 25+ years and will see it as His particular way of preparing me to lead their church family to accomplish His amazing work in their midst. Together, we will advance His Kingdom work in our community and across the world.

Carey Green

Statement of Faith

GOD: I believe in one God, who exists eternally in three co-equal Persons: the Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit.

THE BIBLE: I believe the Old and New Testaments of the Bible are divinely inspired, without error, and are the Christian's primary source of authority for faith and living. The Bible is God's holy and truthful word, expressed through human authors.

HUMANITY: I believe that people are born sinful both in identity and action and are therefore separated from God. Though we still bear the image of God from the moment of creation, sin has corrupted us, making no one acceptable before God.

JESUS CHRIST: I believe that because of His love for people, God implemented a way to overcome our sinful condition by sending His divine, eternal, and only Son, Jesus Christ, to die as a propitiation for our sins. Jesus' historical, sacrificial death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead provide the only avenue through which restoration with God the Father is possible. He not only makes it possible for our sin to be forgiven and relationship with God possible, He also fits us for service in the Kingdom of God.

FAITH: I believe that through the simple, personal act of depending on Jesus' death as the full payment for sin, each individual is restored to a right and intimate relationship with God forever (becomes a Christian).

THE HOLY SPIRIT: I believe that the Holy Spirit is the one who both calls people into the family of God and regenerates their sinful hearts through faith. Through the Holy Spirit's regenerating power the identity of repentant people is changed from sinner to saint, from darkness to light. We become new creations in Jesus. This new identity is the basis from which character is transformed and God's work in human beings is displayed. The Holy Spirit serves the believer as their Helper, Teacher, and Guide in all areas of life and spiritual knowledge. He produces fruit in the lives of believers in the form of character, integrity, righteous behavior, and godly perspectives about life, the world, and other people. The Spirit provides supernatural gifts to each Christian, as He desires, for the benefit and health of the church and in some cases, as a witness to those outside the church. No one gift or combination of gifts is an all-in-one evidence of being a Christian. The Spirit assigns and distributes His gifts as He pleases.

HEALING: I believe that provision is made in the work of Jesus Christ for the healing of mankind in body, mind, spirit, emotions, etc. Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil are taught in the Scriptures and are to be practiced today. However, Jesus' provision for healing does not guarantee that healing will occur in every case. All healing, whether physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual occurs only as God, in His sovereignty determines it should.

THE CHURCH: I believe that all people who place their faith in Jesus Christ are united together into one family, one "body," called the church. With Jesus Himself as its leader, the church is to gather together for prayer, teaching, community, and worship. We do this to come to know God intimately, to equip each member, to help others in the church, and to spread the message of salvation and spiritual growth through Jesus to those around us. The hallmark of a vibrant, healthy church is love and unity among its members.

THE FUTURE: I believe that Christ is bodily returning to the earth and at that time will judge the living and the dead. Until His return, believers are to live lives that bring glory to God through Jesus Christ and advance His Kingdom on earth. The Church is to be busy doing the work of evangelism and discipleship, proclaiming the pure, uncompromised gospel of Christ, and living according to the instructions found in the word of God.

CURRENT ISSUES

God determines and irrevocably establishes a person's **sexual identity** at conception, either male or female. It is to each person's benefit and great joy to embrace their sexual identity and seek God's purpose for them within that identity.

Marriage is a covenant between a man, woman, and God that is established by God Himself. It was created by God and exclusively engaged in by one man and one woman.

Sexuality and sexual relations are gifts from God to be practiced and enjoyed only within the context of a marriage relationship. Any sexual activity or sexual relations outside the marriage relationship are sinful.

Health, wealth, and prosperity are nowhere guaranteed for followers of Jesus. Similarly, there is no biblical teaching that promises such things for those who have enough or the right kind of faith, either. The Christian life is one that expresses the nature and heart of its King, Jesus, that of joyful and loving self-sacrifice for the sake of others, to the glory of God.

The Bible is very clear that **human life** begins at the moment of conception and is sacred to God, the Creator. For this reason I believe that the act of abortion is a grievous sin in every instance.

Carey Green

Philosophy of Ministry

[1] Wholehearted love of God

The primary command of Jesus is that His disciples love God with all of their heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30). This emphasis makes God the central focus of all of life, for us as individuals and as the church family as a whole. When we lose sight of this, other things, good and bad, take the primary place as the object of our affections. We are created to be worshipers, it's just a matter of who or what we will worship. The triune God is the only one worthy of our worship.

Church leaders are responsible to hold this glorious objective before the church family at all times, both in the way that they live and in what they teach and emphasize within the church. The church family will follow what the leadership does, not necessarily what they teach.

[2] Biblical plurality of Elders

I've written an entire training workbook on this topic, so for the sake of brevity I'll summarize in the following way:

The Bible clearly designates the role of Elder to be filled by men (not women) of Christian Character. This is expressed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4. It's also clear in scripture that the ideal situation employs a group of qualified men serving in this role together.

The role of the elder is four-fold: Example – Overseer – Doctrinal guardian – Shepherd. Theirs is not primarily an administrative role, though it may at times require attention to administrative tasks, it is primarily a shepherding or pastoral role. They are responsible to oversee the spiritual health and progress of those under their care.

The church family should select these biblically qualified men from among their number and after a time of assessment, the decision should be made as to which men should serve as Elder and which should not. I believe the entire church family should participate in this decision. It is a sometimes a tedious process, but one that is vital and must be carried out with much prayer and great care.

[3] Leadership integrity through holy living

As a church leader (Pastor/Elder) it's my deepest desire to love, teach, equip, and demonstrate for my church family what it looks like to humbly walk in devoted fellowship with Jesus, day by day, for a lifetime.

This principle is clearly taught by Jesus (Matthew 10:25) and expressed in more detail by the Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 11:1). It is also the obvious implication of the character qualifications for Elders expressed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4. The men who lead the church are to be examples of mature Christian living.

I am by no means complete in my Christian journey and will remain in growth-mode for the rest of my life, but I take seriously the scriptural injunction that as a church leader, I am striving, in the power and with the help of the indwelling Holy Spirit, to be a humble and admirable example of a true disciple of Jesus, one who lives a life worthy of the Lord and His glorious gospel. (Ephesians 4:1, Colossians 1:10, Philippians 1:27).

I also expect that those serving with me in leadership will take on the same attitude of diligence. Our example matters. It can cause many to be encouraged or even more to stumble and fall. For the glory of our God and the sake of His name, we must walk in the Spirit and be accountable to others (each other) who are on that same path.

[4] The Pastor as spiritual leader among equals

I believe it is the Pastor's role to set not only the primary example of authentic, Spirit-empowered Christian living, but also to serve as a mentor and encouragement to his fellow Elders in their efforts to live according to Jesus' teaching. The church will never rise above the maturity level of its leadership and the Pastor is responsible to keep a finger on the pulse of the spiritual health of the leaders through biblical, authentic, loving relationship and accountability.

There is no airtight biblical reference that establishes a Pastor as the spiritual leader among the plurality of leadership the bible describes, but there is a broad pattern that we can observe in how the early church functioned. It appears that Peter and James rose to places of influential leadership, even among the Apostles. As well, the Apostle Paul seems to have appointed Timothy, Titus, and others to places of leadership among the Elders of local churches.

Practically, the Pastor should operate under the loving and biblical accountability of the Elder team, but also on their behalf as the "point man" for the church family to follow. He must lead the group in shepherding the people of the church and he must guide them in making biblical decisions for the good of the church family that advance the Kingdom of God.

Being an Elder appointed to serve "full time" on the church's behalf, he will naturally be more mindful of and informed about the practical aspects of implementation, communication, and working relationships within the organization. But even then, his actions and decisions should be made within the authority granted by the Elder team.

The Elders as a group must apply the humility of Jesus ([Philippians 2:5-11](#)) by submitting themselves to the Pastor as their appointed leader while this same self-crucifying attitude enables the pastor to be as one among them who serves ([Matthew 20:26-27](#)).

Carey Green

Philosophy of Ministry

[5] The practice and power of effective prayer

The church, though an organization on some levels, is unlike any organization in the world. Its heartbeat is spiritual, its source of power is divine, its assets are heavenly. Church leaders must model and teach biblically saturated prayer as the means of engaging in fellowship with God and receiving His guidance and power for life and action. I don't believe that the Holy Spirit anoints plans, but men and women of prayer. If the church is to advance the Kingdom of God in our day, it will be done through humble dependence on the Lord, on our knees first.

[6] Clearly teaching all of scripture for all of life

As one with a spiritual gift of teaching, I can easily fall into believing that teaching is more important than it is. I've had to learn that Spirit-led balance is necessary. It's possible to biblically educate people through doctrinally sound teaching without building souls capable of applying what has been taught. For those who teach, it's vital that instruction not only be made from the head, but from the heart, as it is guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit through prayer.

Having said that, the entire Bible (Old and New Testaments) is our source of guidance for all areas of doctrine and life. It's vital that those in God's family learn it thoroughly and understand how to apply its truth to life. For this reason, careful attention must be paid to scriptural fidelity in doctrine and application.

Those within the church family must also be taught to understand and apply scripture for themselves and how to develop personal disciplines of reading, study, and prayer in their private lives. Coupling this with the practice of prayer and the proper use of spiritual gifts, the body will grow and build itself up in love.

The truth of the gospel, contained in the scriptures, is also the power of God for the salvation of everyone who will believe (Romans 1:16). I do my utmost to include a call to repentance and faith in a contextually and culturally relevant way, into every sermon I preach. The reason I do this is because though church gatherings are primarily for the edification and equipping of believers, we never know who might be among us who does not yet know Jesus as Savior and Lord. I want to take every opportunity to invite others into the family of God.

[7] Biblical community and accountability

The New Testament is replete with "one another" instructions, admonitions that insist that believers in Christ put their love for God into action through love for each other. This community (like any true fellowship) is hard to build, but so necessary for the body of Christ to be all God intends for it to be. Non-believers are supposed to be able to recognize that we are disciples of Jesus because of our love for one another (John 13:35) – which means our communal example is to be winsome, something they long to partake in. Practically, this sort of relational closeness typically only happens in smaller settings or individual relationships. I believe that growth happens best in the presence of other committed Christians in small groups, Bible studies, prayer groups, accountability relationships, mentoring partnerships, ministry teams, and more. The face to face element of Christian community is an essential for health and growth.

One of the most difficult parts of this necessity is the application of loving accountability related to sinful behavior. Naturally, the deeper and more genuine our relationships with each other are, the more easily we can address sin issues that might arise. As our brother, the Apostle John explains in his first epistle, the calling to "walk in the light" is a non-negotiable for disciples of Jesus and as a group, we are responsible for each other in this regard (1 John 1:5-2:11). Sin happens, and is easily dealt with through repentance and the forgiveness provided by God's grace, through Jesus. But when repentance is not forthcoming, the church family, out of love, must take additional steps to restore the one caught/trapped in the sinful behavior.

Jesus outlined the "steps" to take in such an instance in Matthew 18:15-20. Rather than walking through that progression here, I'll say that I believe this process must be followed in the church in a faithful manner. I believe that much of the church's ineffectiveness in modern times can be directly traced to the fear modern believers have regarding such confrontations and the resulting neglect of them. For the sake of our brothers and sisters, and for the sake of our King, we cannot be negligent in these matters.

Having said that, let me say this: I am not one to "go on a hunt for sinners in need of a confrontation." I don't make this a major topic of conversation or teaching except where it is directly addressed in the text or applicable to a situation or need.

In addition, I don't believe it's wise to apply the pattern of Matthew 18 across the board for every type or instance of sin that is observed. When Christian community is healthy and strong as it should be, the later steps of the Matthew 18 pattern are a last resort that is seldom needed.

Finally, I should be clear that the goal of any "church discipline" situation such as this is restoration of the sinning brother or sister.

[8] Relational discipleship and ministry

Building on the biblical teaching regarding how Christians are to love one another, build each other up in the Lord, and be a part of the preservation of one another's faith (Hebrews 3:13), I believe that every discipleship relationship and every larger ministry endeavor should be arranged and organized with the nurturing of relationships as a high priority.

This begins with the way the Pastor and Elders relate to each other and do their work of shepherding, to the way they care for the members of the church family, to the approaches applied to leadership, activities, studies, organization, etc. Every ministry endeavor within the church should major on building solid, Christ-honoring relationships between believers as they seek to live out the instructions of Jesus.

Carey Green

Philosophy of Ministry

[9] Spiritually healthy homes and families

Just as the human body can only be as healthy as the individual cells within it, the health of the local church will generally follow the level of health being experienced in the families within the church. For this reason, the church should major in equipping husbands and wives to build Christ-honoring marriages, according to biblical explanations of proper roles within their marriage. The husband is the head of the wife and leader of the family, the wife is the helper God has assigned to him to provide wisdom and strengths that he does not have to the work they are to accomplish together, in their home..

[10] Biblical discipleship and equipping of men

From a biblical perspective, healthy families begin with godly, healthy men who are appointed by God as the spiritual head of the home. For this reason, it's vital for every church body to place considerable emphasis and effort on the salvation, discipleship, and ongoing commitment of the men within their sphere of influence. I truly believe that as the men go, so goes the family, and as the family goes, so goes the church.

[11] Biblical discipleship and equipping of women

Women, married or single, are equal in value and worth with men, and those who have placed their faith in Jesus are co-heirs with Jesus alongside every redeemed man (1 Peter 3:7). For this reason, women play a vital role in the life and health of the church family, serving in Kingdom-advancing roles in both the church and in the home.

[12] Family-supportive biblical education for youth

I've seen a tremendous amount of spiritual fruit produced through the youth ministries of churches. The ones that have been most effective in aiding teens in developing a spiritual walk with Christ that extends into their college years and beyond, are those that come alongside parents to help and equip them, supporting their discipleship efforts in the home. There always will be and always should be students in the youth group who are from non-Christian homes, which makes this type of focus difficult in such cases, but the approach I've described is what I believe to be the best approach overall.

[13] Family-supportive biblical education for children

Children's ministry is a powerful and needed area of ministry for every church, but again, care must be taken to orient the children's ministry in such a way that it augments and supports the discipleship efforts underway in the homes of the children in their care. Parents should feel that the children's ministry is an ally, equipping them in a variety of ways to raise God-fearing children who will one day place their faith in Christ and become members of the family of God who live for Kingdom purposes from their childhood forward.

[14] Compassionate engagement with the culture

A church that isolates itself from the culture is not doing its job as stewards of the gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19). A church that fears the culture is out of touch with the divine authority that belongs to its King, Jesus (Matthew 28:18). A church that accommodates the culture has lost its flavor and has failed to be the light it is called to be in this dark world (Matthew 5:13-15). But the church that engages the culture from a place of compassion, holding out the gospel as God's open invitation to all who will believe, while maintaining its grasp on biblical truth is a church that is poised to make a difference in the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Carey Green

Testimony

My mother often quips that I was “saved out of the sin and degradation of the church nursery.” That has been her way of saying that I was in church the Sunday after I was born. This was the case because my mother was a dedicated Christian woman who has never wavered in her faith to this day. She’s 95 years old. I was five years old when she led me to faith in Jesus kneeling at an old-fashioned altar in the Baptist church we attended. Again, my mother tells the story that when I went to my Kindergarten class the following day, my teacher asked, “Did anyone learn anything new this weekend?” According to my mother’s tale, I raised my hand. When the teacher called on me I told her I’d learned a new song and began to sing, “What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!”

Though my Dad didn’t attend church or even pretend to be a Christian, he was a moral man, so I was raised in a household where integrity and morality were modeled and expected. I was the youngest of five kids and was quick to comply with those standards. I am now glad that was the case. By God’s grace I have been spared many of the heartaches that come from the foolish choices that could have been made during my teenage and college years.

During my Senior year of High School one of my teachers began a Christian club of sorts, which I joined and enjoyed. His encouragement and example stirred a deeper appreciation for Jesus and His place as King of my life. When I left to attend college, my faith was stronger and I was eager to connect with Christian groups on campus. During this season I truly began to grow in my faith. The Bible teaching and instruction I’d been exposed to in my growing-up years took shape, bore fruit, and motivated me to a deeper walk with Jesus.

After one year at West Texas State University, I transferred to Colorado Christian University where I studied Youth Ministry and Biblical Studies. I made this switch after visiting CCU for a campus day. My first opportunity to sit in a classroom where the Bible was taught lit me on fire and I have never looked back. I had to transfer because I had to study the Word of God.

My time at CCU was rich in many ways. I learned, grew personally, and had opportunity to serve in many ways. It’s also at CCU that I met my dear Mindi and we were married between my Junior and Senior years. Next to my salvation, she is the best gift I’ve ever received. Her wisdom, encouragement, and myriad ways of being my helper have and continue to be an incalculable benefit I enjoy.

Together, we’ve served and lived together, making the raising of our family top priority, even over my pastoral roles through the years. We felt that if our family was falling apart or our kids were out of control and living godless lives, we would have no business leading in the church. By God’s magnificent grace, all five of our children are now adults and walking with the Lord. We are so humbled and blessed.

We enter our “empty nest” years with a renewed sense of vision for what the Lord might have in store for us. We both feel that He has greater things in store and wants to use us to lead His church to a deeper, more devoted love for Him. By His grace and through the power of His indwelling Spirit, we will step through the doors He opens for us. Our hearts resonate with Paul’s words in Colossians 1:28-29:

“We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we might present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all His energy which so powerfully works within me.”