



DALLAS  
PRIMITIVE BAPTIST  
CHURCH

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August 2014

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**Worship Services:**

Sunday 10:30am

Wednesday 7:00pm

P.O. Box 924

227 Legion Road

Dallas, GA 30132

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## **Parenting in the Pew**

### **Family Integrated Worship**

In the early 1900's, John Dewey and several other prominent humanists designed what has become the modern education system. In this system, it was decided the best way to educate children was to divide them into groups of similar age. Many Christian churches observed the implementation of this system and liked what they saw. As a result, this invention of modern culture spilled over into the church. In many institutions of worship, the congregation has been increasingly separated by age groups. This separation has created a demand for teachers/worship leaders for each individual age group. In many cases, several of God's children are attending worship without ever hearing the Gospel preached by a God-called minister of the Gospel of Christ. Baptist churches, in general, were already headed in this direction due to the "Sunday School" movement that had invaded her walls even before 1800. However, in recent years, many Christians have begun to see the fallacy of this movement toward age segregated worship and are returning to what is now being called a family integrated church.

It is interesting that the concept of family integrated churches is being viewed by many spiritual leaders as a new and innovative way to worship. There are many churches in the world, including the Primitive Baptists, which never fell for the false hope touted by the rather modern educational phenomenon of age segregated worship. While other church movements are BECOMING family integrated, Primitive Baptist churches have always been family integrated in their worship style. One could argue that they have been family integrated since the days of the Apostles. The family integrated church model of worship

was the apostolic model for worship. That is an easy statement to make, but it is only important if scripture agrees. In Ephesians 6:1, Paul wrote *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.”* The letter to the church at Ephesus was a circular letter that was meant to be read aloud during public worship. The fact that Paul included instruction to the children in the letter shows that Paul assumed the children would be in the congregation to be instructed. The only reason that Paul would make such an assumption is if it were the common practice of the church for entire families to worship together in a unified manner. In addition, scripture clearly places the primary responsibility for the instruction of children upon the parents. In Ephesians 6:4, Paul instructs the fathers by saying *“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”* It is the father that is charged with the primary responsibility for the spiritual instruction of his child. To segregate children from their parents during the worship service so that they can be instructed by other worship leaders, usurps the role of the parents in the spiritual nurturing of their children. The parents are not in a position to hear what their children are being taught and participate in that instruction. The parents must rely on the child’s own recollections of the lessons that they are taught. It also minimizes the role of the families’ pastor in the counseling and education of both the parents and children.

Family integrated church worship does not come without its challenges. Just ask parents that have attended worship services with small children, and they can tell you how difficult it can be. Children can get extremely restless and at very young ages their attention spans can vary greatly. As a result, the child can be a huge distraction to their parents. The parents will often conclude that the children are a huge distraction to others. I have even heard of situations where pastors and preachers have indicated that children were a distraction to them. Being a pastor and a parent, I can assure you that children attending services are not a distraction. With proper teaching and instruction, even young children can be a wonderful spiritual addition to a worship service. As parents, my wife and I have learned a lot of hard lessons with regard to having our children in church. I certainly sympathize with parents in family integrated churches. For instance, I watched my wife deal with all three of our children, essentially alone, as I was often occupied by my duties as the pastor/preacher. Much of what we have learned comes from experience. Some comes from advice we received from others. One

thing I would like all parents to keep in mind is this: your children are nearly always a bigger distraction to you than they are to others, and they will never learn if you do not bring them to church! In the next several installments on this subject, I will provide some practical instruction that will be helpful to parents that are worshipping in a family integrated church.

Elder Marty Hoskins, Pastor

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### ***Prayer Requests/Praise Reports***

- **Brother Brian Clayton** and family
- **Sister Twanna Hoskins'** parents
- **Sister Patsy McAllister's** mother in law
- **Pastor Hoskins'** parents, uncle, and co worker
- **Brother Sid Bulford's** brother and daughter
- **Sister Allison Speer's** upcoming marriage
- **Sister Sara Clayton's** friend's grandfather
- **Praise for Sister Sibilla Blair's** new job

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### ***Upcoming Events:***

- Tallapoosa Annual Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in August
- Little River Association Meeting August 15-17 held at Crossroads in Woodstock
- August 31 Elder Charles Godwin will be filling in at Dallas PBC
- **Prayer on the square held 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month on Dallas Square at 8pm**
- **North Georgia Fellowship Meeting Jan. 24 and 25 held at Dallas PBC**

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### ***Birthdays and Anniversaries:***

- August 1 Bro. Victor Halbgewachs' birthday
- August 9 Sis. Hannah Hoskins' birthday

*Lunch is covered dish every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, Sandwiches on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Pizza on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday*

