

# YOUTH CAMP 2011



## Weekly Bible studies are happening NOW!!

Our Jr. and Sr. high kids (5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade) will meet Wednesday evenings at the church from 7:00pm – 8:30pm UNLESS it's the first Sunday of the month. Every first Sunday youth group will be held at the Doeblers' home.



### Dates to remember:

9/10 – Youth Group Fiesta Fundraiser !  
This will include dinner and entertainment by our talented youth (6pm – 8pm).



## Grace Presbyterian Church

### September 2011

## THE CASE FOR LIFE Equipping Christians to Engage the Culture

By Scott Klusendorf  
Review by Mary Montague

Have you ever found yourself in a discussion on abortion with a so-called “pro-choice” advocate (or, as I prefer to call a “pro=death” advocate), and wished you had better arguments to offer? Then *The Case for Life* is the book for you. The author, Scott Klusendorf, takes all the standard “pro-choice” arguments and deftly rebuts them. Some of the questions he answers, for example: Why do appeals to privacy and choice miss the point? What about the common objection raised by pro-choicers that rape justifies abortion? He also takes on the “bodily autonomy” argument: It’s my body, I’ll decide. This and other pro-choice arguments are all too often based on the assumption that the unborn are not human beings. This misguided belief is thoroughly countered in Klusendorf’s book, and given a good deal of documentation to the contrary. It is in fact a common thread throughout the book and is essential for the pro-lifer to

understand, from a scientific as well as a spiritual base, in order to defend the case for life.

Other topics covered by the author include embryonic stem cell research, or ESCR, and a closely related process known as somatic cell nuclear transfer, or SCNT. ESCR involves destroying an embryo to secure its stem cells. SCNT is a cloning process which creates an embryo as a source for stem cells for research purposes. At the bottom of all this lies the definition of “embryo.” Is it a human being or not? With a compelling line of reasoning he settles that argument, ending with this statement: “Pro-lifers are not opposed to stem cell research. But, we are opposed to one kind of kind of stem cell research that involves killing defenseless human beings so that others may ‘allegedly’ benefit. That is immoral.”

If you would like models for pro-life arguments and desire factual bases for your pro-life stance, this book can be a very helpful read. His examples and sample ‘scripts’ are clear and

### CAN YOU HELP?

**Care Net Yard Sale: September 17<sup>th</sup>.** They are asking for donations and also muscle on the day before and of the sale

convincing and will arm you with good ammunition for destroying the arguments of the pro-choice (pro-death) crowd. In addition to the general index, there is a Scriptural index. Another reviewer, Chuck Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship says, in part, “This is a great tool for the layman who knows he or she is pro-life, but doesn’t know the presumptions on which his or her beliefs are based or who doesn’t feel equipped to defend or discuss the issue with others.”

The book is available on Amazon.com and other retail outlets.

*The Case for Life* has its own website, [www.caseforlife.com](http://www.caseforlife.com) for summaries of the book and the author’s answers to your questions.

### GPC Worship Schedule:

Sunday Worship 11am  
Sunday School (all ages) 10am  
Red Bluff Mission Worship 5pm  
Bible Study (all ages) Wednesday 6:30 – 8pm

### Find Us:

El Verano St. Redding CA 96002  
(530)223-5288  
[www.gpcredding.com](http://www.gpcredding.com)  
Check us out on Facebook!





Lord Jesus Christ told us that because of sin, friendship would become a rare thing. “And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” Matthew 24:12. We see this in our own day. As Christians we are called to persevere in love and friendship.

“A man that has friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.” Proverbs 18:24. I think it goes without saying that the last half of the above verse is a reference to the Lord Jesus Christ. He’s the friend that has promised to never leave us nor forsake us. “Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.” Proverbs 27:6. He’s willing to wound us if that is what it takes to get us in the path of life and keep us there. “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.” Revelation 3:19.

“Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so does the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel. Your own friend, and your father's friend, forsake not; neither go into your brother's house in the day of your calamity: for better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off.” Proverbs 27:9-10

The above reminds us that there’s a sweetness to friendship. A friend will want to see God’s best in your life and will try to always give you good and helpful advice. But even the best advice will need to be taken to God’s word to make sure that it’s the right way to go. Friends can sometimes get things wrong, even if their intentions are good. But we should be able at least to know that our friends have the best for us in their view when they share their thoughts. We need to have the same goal also when we counsel others.

The second verse is a good reminder that we shouldn’t take old friendships for granted. An old tree in order to survive and bear fruit needs to be watered too.

“Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.” Proverbs 27:17

When iron sharpens iron there will occasionally be sparks. Friends can disagree. Sometimes it can be pretty strong. Remember the Apostle Paul’s disagreement with his friend and colleague Barnabas in Acts 15:1-2.

“Greater love has no man than this, that a man lays down his life for his friends.” John 15:13

This means that if we would be friends with God and His people, it may cost us plenty. If we understand the treasure of friendship in Christ, that cost will seem small.

An old Latin proverb says, “Amicus vitae solatium.” (“A friend is the comfort of life.”) May the Lord be pleased to teach us the beauty of covenant friendship in Christ our Lord.

## PETER SLEEPS BY SETH STARK

A few of weeks ago, at Communion Presbyterian Church (Irvine, CA), we had a guest preacher fill our pulpit. Our guest speaker preached on Luke 8:22-25. This passage tells the familiar tale of Jesus with the disciples on the Sea of Galilee. While Jesus sleeps in the stern of the boat, a great storm arises on the sea. So great it is, that the experienced fishermen that the disciples were are fearful for their lives. They truly believed the ship was going to succumb to the wind and the waves that tossed their ship back and forth. No doubt they bailed water in a vain attempt to keep the vessel afloat. In a final act of desperation, the disciples wake Jesus who is sleeping through all this, and tell Him, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” Peter is one of the disciples who wakes Jesus, fearful for his life. Jesus' response was "Where is your faith?"

In our midweek Bible study at Communion Presbyterian, we've been going through the Book of Acts. In Acts 12, there is another interesting account involving Peter and sleeping, only this time he is the one sleeping during what can only be described as perilous times:

*Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover. Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. (Acts 12:1-6)*

James had been martyred, and Peter had been arrested and was awaiting his own execution in the morning, and yet Peter slept that night. How could he? Why would he? In part, he slept because Peter had learned his lesson on the Sea of Galilee those years prior. Peter's faith was in the Lord to do with him as He would please. Peter knew that He who controlled the wind and the waves also held the heart of the king in His hand. Peter had nothing to fear, even with his own execution coming in the morning. Peter slept.

Will you learn from the example of Jesus and Peter? Will you trust in the Lord during times of trial? Will your soul be so at rest that you sleep the night before your life will be demanded of you?

Where is your faith?

## PRAISES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Carl Miller and family as the travel to visit and have Baby Ella baptized. Also that Carl will find work and housing in CA.

Alex and Brianna Holt as they try to adopt Virginia.

Those looking for housing and/or work

Health concerns for Mary Montague, Cora Dore, and Ansel Wilder (and wisdom for his parents)

Judy Holt and family while Jack is away fighting fires.

Francis Ott as she has knee surgery on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September.

Fantastic time of bonding and learning for the youth at Youth Group Camp.

All the internal and external work done on the church property by so many willing helpful hands.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible studies are happening on Wednesdays from 7 – 8:30

Fellowship dinner is on Sunday 9/4 – please see the bulletin board for the theme.



## Futher Thoughts on Friendship

By Pastor David Stark

Some of the “big box” super churches are known as great places for entertainment and “feel good” Christianity. When I was in Garden Grove recently visiting my son and his family, I joked about going to one well known super-church in that town on Sunday evening to “catch a show.” (I didn’t go.) Upon reflection I wasn’t sure if we should’ve laughed or cried. There’s nothing wrong with a Church having a large membership, if it can be done without compromise or introducing entertainment in place of biblical worship. There are some large Churches that are faithful, and there are some little ones that are compromised and man centered. But generally, telling people what they want to hear by promising prosperity and “happy, happy, happy” living with worldly power and wealth and no crosses to bear usually attracts a large dedicated audience. A big box store is a place where one can get just about anything he or she desires without having to pay full price. Everything is discounted. When churches go “big-box” they get rid of all those harsh doctrines that people don’t care to hear, like God’s sovereign election, repentance and taking up the Cross at full cost and following Jesus Christ as Lord. Faithfulness to God’s word is our first calling. If we grow on that basis the Church will be healthy.

One of the areas we need to improve upon as a local congregation is friendship within the covenant community of God’s people. Helpfulness, hospitality, friendship. These are all areas where we need to break out of our peer group comforts and make honest efforts to establish and grow friendships with our brothers and sisters with whom we worship each week. I would encourage each family in our congregation to begin inviting over for hospitality and fellowship those in the church who are not part of your “peer group.” Break out of your comfort zone.

The following are some texts and commentary to encourage you in this idea of hospitality and friendship.

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.” Proverbs 17:17.

To be friends we need to be people of consistent character. The phrase, “A friend loves at all times.” reminds us of wedding vows, “for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health.” There’s a reason for this. Friendship involves a covenant relationship of trust and love. Our