

"Flesh and Spirit"

Romans 8:1-11

13 July 2008

The Rev. Todd R. Goddard, pastor

[Zion West Walworth United Methodist Church](#)

Romans 8:1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Prayer.

I have good news and bad news: Good news - The Kingdom of Heaven is hiring! Bad news- so is Upside Down 7734.

I found two job descriptions on the employment board, so I made a copy of each and brought them today to read to you. I thought you'd be interested in applying to one of the two. One job title is "Flesh Coordinator," the other "Spirit Coordinator."

"Flesh Coordinator"

Company: Upside Down 7734

Description: Upside Down 7734 is making a difference and so can you!

Our target market is the Zion West Walworth United Methodist church, its members, friends, and neighbors. The Zion West Walworth chapter is a 140 member, \$52K a

year organization, whose vision is to be "An Energetic and Caring Community of Faith Growing in Christ and Serving in the World." The four core values are worship, music, prayer, and mission.

The person serving in this position will make every attempt to destroy the organization, erasing all memories of its existence, selling off all assets, and scattering all members and friends as far away as possible. By working in close association with "He who must not be named" this successful candidate will accomplish this task by convincing and converting members and friends into a completely self-centered, self-absorbed, wholly consumeristic lifestyle. This person will employ a multitude of strategies to convince clients of the advantages of a completely nihilistic lifestyle, including, but not limited to: perversions of sex, addictions and gambling, greed, over consumption, self-righteous disregard for others, and subtle temptations. The successful candidate must be prepared to anger God and to establish a continued hostile strategy to maintain a minimal state of divine anger.

This is a full-time, exempt position.

Essential Job Functions

- Must be repugnant in every respect: foul mouth, poor personal hygiene, disshoveled attire, bad cologne or perfume
- Strong communication skills, especially in areas of subtle manipulation, temptation, lying, simple exaggerations
- Devious, and not afraid of confrontations
- Participate in team disorganization, must be a lone ranger and have an absence of conscience
- Ability to work in a fast paced environment
- Ability to multi-task
- Willingness to travel to hell, and back repeatedly, for an extend period of time

Requirements

- Advanced study in the seven deadly sins
- Minimum of 3 years experience breaking three or more of the ten commandments
- Ability to quote scripture, especially under pressure
- Ability to work one-on-one or in front of large audiences
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Personal ownership of three or more automobiles, houses, large screen televisions, computers, or, the employment of two or more personal assistants, butlers, maids, or slaves
- Self-motivated
- A morbid fascination with carnage and death
- Knowledge of the pornography trade, gambling business models, illegal drug

distribution networks, or money laundering trades preferred

Benefits

- There is no pay, just the satisfaction of leading a gluttonous lifestyle
- An eternity of broken relationships
- The satisfaction of working for a fatally flawed, eventually losing
- An eternity of unlimited fire and brimstone

Spirit Coordinator"

Company: The Kingdom of Heaven

Description: The Kingdom of Heaven is making a difference and so can you!

Our target market is the Zion West Walworth United Methodist church, its members, friends, and neighbors. The Zion West Walworth chapter is a 140 member, \$52K a year organization, whose vision is to be "An Energetic and Caring Community of Faith Growing in Christ and Serving in the World." The four core values are worship, music, prayer, and mission.

The successful candidate serving in this role will listen for, and be responsive to, the work and direction of the Holy Spirit. This person will employ a variety of strategies for success, including, but not limited to: the regular attendance and participation in corporate worship, the regular reading and group study of the Bible and related texts, regular prayer, participation in the celebration of the Sacraments, engagement in organized, systematic acts of charity and outreach, gracious hospitality of others, and the gentle invitation of interested parties into a closer walk with Jesus. This employee will always place the needs and concerns of others before their own needs or concerns.

This is a full-time, exempt position.

Essential Job Functions:

- Must be a disciple of Jesus, and to be willing and able to "go where he leads and do what he wants done."
- Must have strong communication skills, both written and verbal
- Must have the ability to relate to all members of the general public
- Excellent interpersonal skills, demonstrating the vision of the congregation, consistency with scripture, and compassion for all people, regardless of status, race, gender, orientation, religion, or ethnicity.
- Enthusiasm and self-motivated
- Embracing health, healing, wholeness in both word and practice
- Ability to work in a fast paced environment, multitasking, and a flexible team player

- Willingness to travel to heaven or hell and back, to go to the ends of the earth to fulfill divine will or direction

Requirements

- A desire to learn more, or become closer to, Jesus
- A knowledge of scripture preferred, but not necessary
- A loving, forgiving, gentle attitude and a willingness for ongoing personal spiritual development
- The ability to put the past behind, to welcome the Holy Spirit to dwell within your every breath, and to be willing to be joyously and triumphantly welcomed home into the eternal Kingdom of Heaven when your old body is all worn out

Benefits

- An eternity of living in harmony with your fellow-man and woman
- An eternity of living in harmony with God
- The satisfaction of working for the winning team

Now, I understand that people going through a job search often will mail out hundreds of letters of interest and resumes to maximize the likelihood of being hired. But, in this case, I would highly suggest that candidates not apply to both positions.

These two highly competitive organizations do share a common database, thereby mutual applications will result in disqualification from the position in Upside Down 7734. While this will not immediately disqualify you from the position in the Kingdom of Heaven, it will serve as a set back until proper remedies are employed.

Thank you very much for your interest. I hope and pray that your actions and application will be pleasing to the Apostle Paul, and to the "Almighty Authority" in the Kingdom of Heaven, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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