

PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

By Scott Parker

SUMMER RECRUITING CAMPS

Those of us who know the truth concerning institutionalism have long understood that Florida College is a spiritual human institution. Even Florida College admits such. Below is a quotation straight from the horse’s mouth:

*“Florida College is more than classes and campus life. **We believe that college should instruct your soul** as much as your mind and we hope to encourage you to live above the world and look beyond this life. Our professors, in addition to being experts in their fields, are first and foremost servants of Christ. As such, they teach their classes with the ultimate aim of helping you become the best servant you can be in God’s kingdom”* (www.floridacollege.edu/StudentLife/Spirituality.asp).

Where do we find in the New Testament that a college should instruct one’s soul? Let that unscriptural human institution provide the scriptures that gel with the quotation above. Again, please provide Scripture. No human arguments, just Scripture. No “*We believe*” statements, just Scripture (note: this is the standard of authority cited above). No “*It’s a good work*” statements, just Scripture. If a college should, indeed, be in the edification business then the New Testament must teach such. Yet, the New Testament teaches no such thing. One can read in the New Testament where both individuals (purely individually or concurrently) and local collectivities (local congregations) may engage in edification (**Ax. 15:36-41; 1 Cor. 14:26**), but of colleges doing so, never!

Just like any college, Florida College needs to keep a consistent stream of Freshman enrolling each fall in order to keep the doors open. This is done through recruiting. Well, what does Florida College do to recruit students, so as to instruct their soul? Again, let’s hear from them – this time from an article that appeared some time ago:

*“A 500-student **Christian college** in a suburb 20 minutes northeast of Tampa, Florida College draws about 90 percent of its students from the nation’s nearly 2,000 non-institutional Churches of Christ. However, the 62-year-old higher-ed **institution** remains a relative unknown to the so-called mainstream branch of the fellowship, which includes about 9,800 congregations. **“We have tried mailing (recruiting letters) to mainstream kids... but probably what hurts us a little bit is just the name awareness,”** said Matt Qualls, director of admissions. “Florida College doesn’t mean a lot to somebody who doesn’t know much about who we are” (www.christianchronicle.org/article2158290~A_non-institutional_institution).*

Since letters proved to bear little fruit, Florida College went into its bag of “Things Unauthorized” and came up with a gimmick that would help stimulate admissions... summer recruiting camps. The article continues:

*“Students clad in jeans sang a cappella from blue “Praise for the Lord” hymnals as they gathered for chapel at Florida College on a recent Friday. The young men leading the service wore suits and ties, as is customary. Afterward, 19-year-old Kori Pierson and a group of friends chatted outside before their next class. Like many students, Pierson, a sophomore from Dade City, Fla., got to know many of her future classmates even before she arrived. **Each summer, Florida College operates 21 one-week summer Bible camps all over the nation, from California to Oregon, Louisiana to Minnesota and Florida to New Jersey. The camps, which draw 4,000 young people and involve about 500 volunteers, serve as the college’s major recruiting tool.** Since Florida College doesn’t recruit through churches, Walker said, **‘We have to work a little harder to find out who our kids are and where they come from. That’s why our camps are so important to us’**” (ibid).*

These camps – feeding grounds for a “non-institutional” institution – are unauthorized and are thus sinful. If I am wrong, and these camps are lawful expedients, then one must first demonstrate that the New Testament teaches that a college should instruct one’s soul. Once again, this cannot be done. Therefore, the college operated camps have not a leg to stand on.

The really sad thing is that few examine these camps under the lens of Bible Authority. So many folks, who claim to follow the pattern of sound words (**2 Tim. 1:13**), simply do not hesitate to send their children “*off to camp.*”

I wonder what said types of people are thinking. I know this much, they cannot be thinking about **Col. 3:17; et al.**, or else they would never send their children to begin with – knowing tradition does not trump truth!

Institutional summer camps? You have got to be kidding me!