

## LIBERALISM – TRADING “SECURITY” FOR COMMON (OR BETTER YET) *SPIRITUAL SENSE*

Pedro Gelabert

*The Lord Jesus has enabled us to serve in the following capacity:*

**Evangelist**  
Robert Carr

**Associate Evangelist**  
Pedro Gelabert

**Spanish Evangelist**  
Charlie Gomez

**Campus Minister**  
Ladipo Davies

**Family Minister**  
Robert Young

**Worship Directors**  
David Luhrs  
George Bullinger

**Minister of Finance**  
Arthur Shlesinger

**Long Island School of Evangelism**

**Office Telephone**  
(631) 348-7322

[www.licoc.org](http://www.licoc.org)

[info@licoc.org](mailto:info@licoc.org)

**PO Box 607M**  
**Bay Shore, NY**  
**11706**

**Romans 1:20-22 NIV** For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools...

Liberalism embraces subjectivism, which is going by your feelings; going by your prejudice – following your heart's desire. What is wrong with that? Much in light of God's wisdom: **Jeremiah 17:9-10 NIV** The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? 10 'I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve.'

In this time of rampant liberalism, correcting wrongs has become politically incorrect. Biblical child discipline has even been outlawed and replaced with coddling to the demise of the morality of our youth, and therefore their souls. We have become a nation of sin enablers (coddlers) as opposed to sin eradicators. We cannot be prejudiced (**1Co 4:5 judge before the facts are established**) but we need to be holy (**1 Pe 1:15-17**). Favoritism is a type of prejudice. You show *favor* in lieu of the *facts*. Both are subjective judgments as opposed to the objective practices of truth.

Look at the tendency of the world all around you, particularly the tendency to enable people's dependency on something other than their own convictions or God-given power. Governments seek to take away your freedom of choice and to make you feel powerless, like you don't have a choice in matters that only belong between you and God. We see our God-given rights and responsibilities as parents, Christians and responsible adults slowly being peeled away or disabled by an ever-growing presence of liberalism. This evil and demonic trend seeks to enslave us rather than promote individual responsibility and conviction. It seeks to make us dependent on others rather than fostering dependence on God and interdependence between people as a society and a church. It seeks to excuse disobedience, poor choices, greed and laziness as opposed to teaching self-control, responsibility, accountability and a zealous exercise of your God given rights. The liberalism demon seeks to put you to sleep so you won't be zealous and courageous in your kingdom work! Liberalism seeks to make you *fearful* as opposed to *joyful* and it labels you as a *victim* instead of *victorious*.

Liberalism trades *common sense* for a *false sense of security*, *discipline for comfort*; and *dependency on people* and institutions instead of interdependency in society and *dependency on God*.

Let your hope rest of the coming of Jesus because of your obedience to Him (**1 Peter 1:1-5**)! Don't let your suffering disappoint you. Don't let evil wear you down (**Rom 12:21; 16:9**). The Hope of Jesus in you does not disappoint (**Rom 5:5; Col 1:27**)!

**“As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” Joshua 24:15**

## FAMILY MATTERS

### DESPISING THE SHAME OF THE CROSS

Kevin Booker

Brothers and sisters, have you ever been in a situation where you were tempted to be ashamed of the cross of Jesus?

In **Lk 9:23** Jesus said that if anyone would come after him they must take up their cross daily and follow Him. When we carry our cross there is always the possibility of being persecuted in some way. We may be stigmatized or ridiculed or shunned or treated badly by others. Personally there are times when I have been tempted to “put down my cross” because of shame it might bring on me. Whether it is because I don’t laugh at a coarse joke or I walk away from an immoral conversation; or praying in public at a restaurant, or preaching the gospel to the person sitting next to me on the train or bus; or for even refusing to engage in gossip. Whenever we are faced with the temptation of being embarrassed or ashamed **Heb 12:2** teaches us how to overcome these thoughts:

**“looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”**

The word “despise” is the Greek word “kataphroneō”, which means to think against. Although there were many valid reasons for Jesus to have felt shame for being on the cross, including the fact that he was falsely labeled as a criminal and was publicly humiliated, Jesus did not despise the cross or feel ashamed because He was nailed to it even though it caused Him to be ridiculed and insulted. Instead, Jesus rejected any and all ideas of that nature in His mind. In fact Jesus refused to dwell on any negative thoughts associated with being hung on the cross and instead embraced the idea of taking the blame and punishment for our transgressions knowing that His sacrifice would bring us redemption! How amazing is it to know that Jesus was proud to suffer and die for our sake? It was because of His mindset that He endured the cross with joy.

Brothers and sisters, the example that Jesus has set motivates me to proudly pick up my cross and carry it every day knowing that Jesus did the same for me. So whenever the temptation to be ashamed of the cross that you bear comes, look to the author and perfecter of our faith and remember that Jesus despised the shame of the cross and in so doing transformed the idea of the cross as unattractive and unappealing to the very thing that now attracts all men to Him!

**“And the Lord added to their number” Acts 2:47**

## BAPTISMS

Ken Begin	February, 2012	Brittney Gomez	October, 2011
Rhonda Washington	January, 2012	Richard Erwin	October, 2011
Allison Araya	December, 2011	Nicole Brown	October, 2011
Timra Tomengo	December, 2011	George Michel	October, 2011
Cynthia Okot-Kotber	November, 2011	Neil Patel	September, 2011

**“They gave themselves first to the Lord” 2 Corinthians 8:5**

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Time Period	Weekly Attendance (Average)	Weekly Contribution (Average)
January, 2012	278	\$9,084
February, 2012	293	\$9,877
March, 2012	297	\$9,795
<b>Weekly Averages for Q1</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>\$9,547</b>

**Weekly Budget: \$9,000**

## **IT'S NOT TOO HARD**

**Carolyn Shlesinger**

As Jesus was teaching the crowd about faith and following Him, many of the disciples said, **“This is a hard saying, who can listen to it?” John 6:60.**

It's been my experience that people who say “it's too hard” tend to fall away. To put a better handle on this, I call it “divorce”-- they divorce themselves from the Lord, or their husbands, or the congregation -- in other words their pain, their trial, and the very thing that God will use to grow and mature their faith. Just as when we marry, we don't think of divorce as an “option” when the going gets tough, because it isn't. In the same way, when we begin our walk with Christ, and when we are tested, we shouldn't even think of divorce (giving up) as an option. We must have the same attitude as Peter, “Lord where could we go? You have the words of eternal life.” **(John 6:68)**

When you find yourself thinking “it's impossible to work with these people... this husband...this relative...” well of course it's impossible for YOU, but with God all things are possible -- **“Behold, I am the Lord...Is anything too hard for Me?” (Jer 32:27)** He expects you to NOT GIVE UP. God hates divorce. Giving up is the same as divorcing yourself from someone, from your trial, even from the Lord -- your best friend. I have said those words to myself, “it's too hard” when I'm struggling. I know I'm in trouble when I go there in my thinking. Then I humble myself and repent, and get my focus back on Jesus. I pour out my heart to the Lord, and He rescues me **(Psalm 71:2)**. He doesn't remove the difficult situation, but helps me go through it. Our shepherd is with us when we walk through the valleys of life **(Psalm 23:4)**.

Beside our heroes of the faith that we read about in **Hebrews 11**, we have so many disciples right here that have been through the same struggles you are going through right now. Talk to them, seek advice from them, and be encouraged. Our goal is come out as gold when tested, not to give up. **(1 Peter 1:7)**

If you walk by faith **(2 Cor 5:7)** you will grow through your trials. If you remain steadfast, you will be fruitful-- it's a given. And God will never give you more than you can handle **(1 Cor 10:13)**.

The ways of God are awesome. They are not the easy way, but they bring great reward. We have this lifetime to learn and be transformed by them... and quitting is not an option.

**“Good works, which God prepared beforehand” Eph. 2:10**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- † Off Bible Class Dates: April 11<sup>th</sup>, May 9<sup>th</sup>, June 6<sup>th</sup>
- † Devotional Service Dates: April 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>; May 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>; June 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>
- † Women’s Fellowship: April 21<sup>st</sup>, 10am-12pm at Rebecca Young’s home
- † Homeschool Science Fair: April 28<sup>th</sup>, 11am-1pm at the NYIT Chapel
- † College Day at Stony Brook University: April 28<sup>th</sup>, 11am-2pm at SBU in the SAC Room 303
- † Ladies Life Talks: May 5<sup>th</sup>, 11am-1pm at the Jules’ residence
- † Long Island Harvest Campaign: Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> starting at 11am in the NYIT Chapel
- † Queens Harvest Campaign: July 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, see Pedro Gelabert or Robert Young for more info
- † Keep up with all church events by joining LIChurch Space! Go to [www.licoc.org](http://www.licoc.org) and click the LIChurch Space link!
- † If you would like to order a CD of a past sermon or seminar, please see Rob Dixon.
- † All announcements should be submitted to David Luhrs.
- † Address/telephone changes can be sent to [directory@licoc.org](mailto:directory@licoc.org) or posted in the Directory Group on LIChurch Space.
- † **Parking reminder** - Public Safety has issued a statement requesting that all church members and visitors **refrain** from parking on any **grass areas** beyond the parking lots surrounding the chapel. Thank you for your cooperation!

**“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel” Mark 16:15**

**MISSION WORK**

- † Apologetics Press ..... International
- † We Care Ministries ..... West Monroe, Louisiana
- † Ron Clayton ..... India
- † Doug & Lucy McDougale ..... Ukraine, Russia
- † Long Island Harvest Campaign ..... Central Islip, NY

**“Watch your life and doctrine closely” 1 Timothy 4:16**

**BIBLE CLASSES**

**Long Island Ministry**

**Wednesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm**  
Robert Carr (631) 348-7322  
New York Institute of Technology Chapel  
Carleton Avenue  
Central Islip, NY 11722

**City Ministry**

**Wednesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm**  
Pedro Gelabert (347) 732-2101  
St Luke’s Baptist Church Laurelton Sr Center  
133-21 232nd Street  
Jamaica, NY 11413

**College Ministry**

**Thursdays 7:20pm-8:20pm**  
Ladi Davies (631) 413-5863  
SAC Room 308 at Stony Brook University  
100 Nicolls Road  
Stony Brook, NY 11790

**Spanish Ministry**

**Tuesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm**  
Charlie Gómez (631) 772-2889  
New York Institute of Technology Chapel  
Carleton Avenue  
Central Islip, NY 11722

**Sunday Bible Classes**

**Grades 2-12 and Adults**  
**Sundays 12:30pm-1:15pm**  
Pedro Gelabert, Robert Young  
New York Institute of Technology Chapel  
Carleton Avenue  
Central Islip, NY 11722