

Continuing in the Faith After High School



Helping students transition to church after graduation

Helping graduates transition to a church home is as important as helping him transition into college or a new community.

Discuss important distinctive beliefs that the new church must practice. WHAT IS NON-NEGOTIABLE?

Sit down with your child and identify the three most important things they should look for in a church. If you raised your child in a Reformed Church, your non-negotiable list might include : 1.) A people who believe in the sovereignty of God, 2.) Elders/pastors who preach Christ in the Old & New Testament, and 3.) A body that has a high view of the church, church membership and accountability. Your student may want a church with a College Ministry or a Family Ministry. Location might be an important aspect to them, especially if they will not have a car. Those things, however, are secondary. Even still, write down every idea.

- **Do your research. START WITH DOCTRINE!** If your child is going to Texas Tech, Google "Reformed Churches in Lubbock." Several churches will pop up. Gather location, service times, elder's phone number, and ministries. If your search yields no results, move to your second distinctive: "Baptist churches in Lubbock". Church websites normally have a tab titled "What We Believe". From there you can determine if their doctrines gel with your local church.
- **Narrow your options. DON'T GET OVERWHELMED!** From what you find online, narrow your church options down to the top two. Remember, you are simply looking for a reasonable starting point based on the non-negotiables.
- **Call the church. INTERVIEW THE PASTOR!** Make a list of 4 or 5 questions and call the church. Tell them that your child is starting college and ask them about their College Ministry. Ask if their church families are involved with the students from the university. Find out if the students attend a separate worship service than the rest of the church body. If they do, ask why? Ask about size, location, and preaching. All of this is important.
- **Plan a visit. GO TO CHURCH WHILE YOU'RE IN TOWN!** In the same way that you visited the campus, visit the church. Meet the Pastor and participate in their Sunday worship service.
- **Follow up. ENCOURAGE YOUR STUDENT TO JOIN AND PARTICIPATE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH!** Help them see the importance of placing themselves under the authority of the local body.