

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

February 14, 2021

"The heart of the matter is a matter of the heart." "As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart" (Prov. 27:19).

A loving heart can only demonstrate love whether it is in the form of discipline or other loving demonstrations, and sometimes in the most difficult times of a person's life. An unloving heart reveals itself in some of the most despicable ways, such as criticism unforgiveness, jealousy, self-centeredness, hatefulness, vengefulness, and disrespect (Matt. 15-17). The song "What the World Needs Now is Love Sweet Love," written some years ago, continues to be the cry of this decade.



Often our circle of love can be limited to small groups, our immediate family, and social or religious groups. But if for one moment, on this Valentine Day, we can enlarge our circle and embrace the unlovable this would be pleasing to the Lord. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven ... For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? ... And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others?... (Matt. 5:43-48; NASB) Jesus reminds us of a category of people in Matt. 15:8. "This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from me." Enlarge your circle by embracing those least likely to be in your path.

"I vividly remember an incident that took place at our Greek Keswick in Macedonia one year. The Lord had just opened the door for a special ministry among the Turks. After I announced it, a devout Christian woman came up to me, placed some Greek currency in my hand, and said, "I want this used to win Turks to Christ. They killed my brother, but I want to be the first to contribute to their cause." There will be a special reward for that woman at the day of judgment for believers." (from Illustrations of Bible Truths Copyright © 1995, 1998 by AMG International, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.) "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity" (Prov. 17:17).

"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; ... Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not. ... Never pay back evil for evil to anyone... If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, .... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Rom. 12:9-21; NASB; John 13:34-35)

So, go ahead and enlarge your circle and send something meaningful to a women's shelter or adopt a missionary, just some examples.

## UPCOMING Events



### Contribution Statement 2020

**PLEASE ALLOW 48 HOURS TO PROCESS!**

Visit the church's website ([www.lwfellowshipchurch.org](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org)) and follow these steps:

- Step 1:** Click contribution statement
- Step 2:** Fill out form
- Step 3:** Press submit

### LIFE APP

#### Life Application Class

[Bit.ly/lwfclifeapp](http://Bit.ly/lwfclifeapp)

This is the link in which to retrieve our Life App lessons. Please join us each **Sunday at 10am.**

### NEXT STEPS

#### New Members Classes

The New Member Orientation Class has resumed each **Sunday, from 8am - 10am**, Legacy Fellowship Hall (*in person*). **Online** classes will be at the same time and a link will be provided for you.

Contact Pastor Lawrence (281) 260-7402 or [dlawrence@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:dlawrence@lwfellowshipchurch.org).



#### Black History Month

We would like to commemorate those who strive to achieve change and make differences across the world. In celebration, we will have several events throughout the month of February within different ministries.

#### Family Movie Night

Join us for an exciting **outdoor movie night** as we view a historical film on **Friday, Feb. 19th @ 7pm.**



#### Annual Black Heritage Sunday

We encourage everyone to wear African Heritage attire on **Sunday, February 21st.**

#### Black History Exhibit | LWFC KIDZ Ministry

Gaze your eyes on the strengths displayed in many of the African American exhibits located in the Children's Wing; from the struggles in the "cotton field" all the way to "voting in elections."



We invite you to deepen your knowledge of the past, present, and future accomplishments demonstrated by our heritage.

You may also view the exhibit **online** through our **virtual tour** located on the church's website and social media or **after service.**



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

The Word of God

Powerful Love

John 14:21-24

Dr. Paul Cannings, Senior Pastor

Sermon notes available online at [www.lwfellowshipchurch.org](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org)

Click on the "Media" tab and click "Sermon Outline"

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction & Closing Song



Soft launch for the return of Children's Church is in progress. Children must be picked up **immediately** at the conclusion of each service.





## Powerful Love

John 14:21-24

### A. Connect (vs. 21):

1. Believers who view God's Word as authoritative continue to cling to it.
2. These are believers who continuously maintain a deep commitment to trust God's Word through difficult circumstances (Daniel 1:8).
3. The believer who refuses to let go of God's Word demonstrates a deep affection and willingness to sacrifice themselves to the direction of the Holy Spirit. This process drives faithful obedience to God (14:15; 15:10).
4. The believer who consistently obeys God, absolutely loves God. They deny themselves; they set themselves apart from anything that distracts them from obeying God, and they discipline their lives to do what God's Word instructs them to do.
5. The one who is the instrument of our spiritual birth will do everything He promises to do for us (15:7-9; Deuteronomy 8:1-10).
6. Christ will reveal Himself in ways that are not generally known.
7. Christ will expose how extraordinary He is to a believer that loves Him.

### B. The Rewards It Provides (vs. 14):

1. To actually speak to communicate a message.
2. Judas recognized Christ as the One who has all authority and power and who is committed to establish a relationship with us.
3. What could not be seen will be exposed, whether it exist before the exposure or not.
4. Judas did not understand why Christ would continue to only manifest Himself intimately to the disciples (those who He knew would serve Him), but not to the world.
5. Christ chose not to reveal Himself to those who were rebellious, who follow the world system and way of life.
6. Once and for all, Jesus made a point to respond to Judas with an answer that remains the same forever.
7. To love Christ is to be willing to sacrificially do whatever He instructs you to do. This also demonstrates a compassionate heart toward others.
8. The person who is continually committed to sacrificially obey the Lord demonstrates that they genuinely have no intention of letting go of fulfilling what Christ instructed them to do.
9. God's Word is His personal address to those whom He loves. When a person accepts what Christ says as truly His Word, it is a direct object of their commitment to watchfully persevere in it. (vs. 24).
10. All the words of Christ are just one Word.

11. "My Father" is the direct object from which the love of Christ is extended.
12. Love extends from God because, as John 3:16 explains, it is God who is the beginning of everything.
13. Because of the above we will set our minds to understand all the Lord has in store for us.
14. Christ's Word leads us to experience God's love and will draw us to understand the nature of the Lord more intimately (John 15:8-10, 12-17; 2 Peter 1:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:10).
15. What God has prepared for us when we arrive in heaven (John 14:1-4) will come forth as our permanent dwelling place. His loving preparation of a permanent dwelling place is a true reality of God's everlasting love.

### C. It is a Message from God (vs. 24):

1. The person who does not continuously demonstrate a sacrificial commitment to willingly obey the Lord, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, does not have an affectionate, compassionate desire to obey the Lord.
2. The person who continually does not sacrificially obey the Lord, demonstrates that they habitually have no intention of fulfilling what Christ instructed them to do.
3. The fact that Christ in verse 23 said "word" but in verse 24 said "words," possibly highlights the difference between a commitment to holding to God's Word and having no heart for any of the Words Christ said.
4. The inner thoughts and feelings intelligently communicated by Christ and that come directly from God, help us to clearly understand the mind of the Lord, on a continual basis.
5. Christ' mission and purpose on earth is to once and for all carry out whatever His Father instructed Him to do (14:11-14). So, His Words are His purpose designed by God.

## PRAYER REQUEST

**Grieving:** Donnie Emmerson & family, Clarence Crowe & family, Gwendolyn Baldwin & family, Marcello Ramos & family, Thurston Love & family, Pam Collier & family, Betty Biggom & family, Curtis & Tomitra Wiley & family, Shontell Moore & family, Steven Sweet & family, the family of Lillian Edwards and Wilbert Emerson & family.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Hattie Williams, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Brittany Bullock, Sara-Beth Mathis, Barbara Gordon, Ella James, Debra Gaines, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, and Jon Heard.

Powerful  
LOVE

JOHN 14:21-24