

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

February 21, 2021

The rise in the aggressive display of racism is becoming more and more prevalent across the country. Anglos feel threatened, and Afro-Americans feel that they are under attack, and must develop a power base to fight back. Therefore, resentment, anger, hatred, and frustration lead to a polarized society that functions on ignorance rather than productive mechanisms to resolve conflict. So, more people are emotionally scared, and more resentment and anger erupt. When will our Christian leaders, Afro-American, Anglo, Hispanic etc., stand up and say enough?



The only people who can make a difference are those who are salt and light to darkness (Matthew 5:13-17). We must remember that "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness...." (Eph. 6:12). This is the reason the world can never prevent racism because it is influenced by the wicked forces (Ezekiel 28:12-19; the King of Tyre is a representation of Satan). Our struggle is not about who is white and who is black, but it is about evil forces, hate (Satan), and love (Christ), (1 John 4:7-12). Believers are the only individuals who can powerfully take a stand (John 13:34-35). The problem is many believers are functioning just like the world and are as racist as unbelievers. Therefore, racism rises, burns hot, and destroys many lives. "Where there is no vision (revelation), the people are unrestrained..." (Prov. 29:11), meaning they sin more. "He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor (Proverbs 21:21).

We keep saying Christ is the answer, yet the world demands, "show me that revelation in practice". We say that Christ loves everyone the same, yet the world challenges, "show me that revelation in practice". It is time to stop talking and start applying the Word of God comprehensively (John 15); it is the key to removing resentment, anger, hatred, frustration, and racism (Matthew 22:36-40). Racism is biblically wrong, and it should not be tolerated in the Christian community. John says the person who hates his brother lives in darkness and does not have a meaningful experience of Christ (1 John 2:9-10); he is a murderer already (1 John 3:13-15). God is love (1 John 4:7-10) and the person who makes the choice to love is perfected in love (1 John 2:3-5).

Injustice persists because the heart of the world and the church need to focus on what it needs most -- "Love" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8). Without it, Christ leaves the church (Revelation 2:1-7) and if He is not there, the outcome of the world is dismal (1 Peter 4:17). So, let's rise-up and become the antibody system that removes this cancer called "hate."

UPCOMING Events

LIFE APP

Life Application Class

[Bit.ly/lwflifeapp](http://bit.ly/lwflifeapp)

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.

Please follow these steps:

- Step 1: Go to church's website www.lwfellowshipchurch.org
- Step 2: Click menu bar (top-right corner)
- Step 3: Click on Resource Center
- Step 4: Scroll to the bottom, click membership interest
- Step 5: Download "New Members Manual"



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.

Annual Black Heritage Sunday

TODAY, we celebrate the African Heritage by wearing Afro-centric attire. Take pics and email marketing@lwfellowshipchurch.org



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**.



Family Outdoor Movie (Rescheduled) | February 26, 2021

Let's end Black History Month with a relaxing family event. We got you covered with snacks and hot chocolate. Arrive at 6:30pm and win a chance for a car prize. The movie will begin at 7:00pm in the church parking lot.



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

Search for Justice

Amos 5:14-15

Dr. Paul Cannings, Senior Pastor

Sermon notes available online at 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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL
2:30 3:45 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
 SUNDAY 6:30 PM

Search for Justice

Amos 5:14-15

A. Seek Good (Vs. 14):

1. We are commanded to inquire of God like a person seeking vengeance.
2. We must seek what is practically beneficial, whether it is making things pleasant or economically advantageous, for the common good of those around us (1 Cor. 4:6-7).
3. Seeking good is an effort that a person has to decisively apply themselves to; but "NOT EVIL" unfortunately, is a preventive effort which is something to restrain oneself from.
4. We are instructed not to seek anything that violates the standards of God and is therefore unethical or immoral.
5. Being evil is to have a negative attitude for the standards of the Lord.
6. The purpose of seeking good and forsaking evil is for us to experience God's preservation, security and blessings so that we enjoy our lives. This means that we are fully surrendered to obey the Word of God for a genuine relationship with the Lord.
7. The Lord God of host means that He is the One who has all authority and power, and is creator, supreme over all, a mighty warrior, and all-powerful King, ready to intervene for His people as He reigns over the universe.
8. When there is so much that can go wrong, with so many people that can come against us, it is imperative that the mighty warrior who is powerful over all is engaged to endlessly fight for us.
9. The hope is that whatever they were communicating was completely what was going to take place without any changes.

B. Hate Evil (vs. 15):

1. This emphasizes the danger of presuming God's grace. Even a widespread change of attitude would need the test of time to prove its genuineness. (NASU Bible Notes).
2. To not seek evil is to have an attitude that intensely opposes any person or thing that is evil. The intensity of this hatred is no different than how Joseph's brothers treated him.
3. Evil is behavior that demonstrates a negative attitude for God's standards being lived out in an individual's life. It leads to individuals living an unethical and immoral life.
4. We are told to passionately hate evil while we are being commanded to actively be vehemently inclined, with strong emotions to obey God's Word; seek after whatever the Word allows us to do that provides practical and economic benefit to those around us.
5. We must passionately desire the church community, the city we live in, the state we live in or the country we reside in, to do what is prescribed by God's Word that benefits the common good for all of those who are involved.

6. We are commanded to place someone or principles in place (these principles are directed by God's Word as we seek good while hating evil) so that everyone can clearly see a representation of justice for all.
7. We must put laws in place that can create legal processes which cause everyone to be treated fairly as the Word of God directs.
8. We must firmly put laws in place that ensure everyone is treated equal with being bias or impartial.
9. The Lord God of host is the One who has all authority and power and is creator, supreme over all, a mighty warrior, all-powerful King, who willingly intervenes for His people as He reigns over the universe.
10. Because we need the Lord God of host's power and protection to survive, we must continuously seek kindness and generosity as we navigate all the unjust evil acts that we experience daily.
11. On the issue of Justice, God turns to graciousness; He will re-establish His presence with them and He protects the nation.
12. Everyone who forsakes evil, seeks good by submitting to the Word of God; the Lord God of host will not forsake them while He executes justice to those who choose to do evil. The Lord God of host protects them and provides them the ability to enjoy their lives.

PRAYER REQUEST

Grieving: Mary Wheatley & family, Donnie Emmerson & family, Clarence Crowe & family, Gwendolyn Baldwin & family, Marcello Ramos & family, Thurston Love & family, Pam Collier & family, Betty Biggom & family, Curtis Wiley & family, Shuntel Moore & family, and Steven Sweet & 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.

SEARCH FOR JUSTICE

AMOS 5:14-15