

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

February 7, 2021

In the midst of all the hate and division in our culture, where is your heart as a believer? Is it rapped up in ideologies, cultural basis, political party affiliations or the scriptures? One of the many things I admire about Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech was not just to stop racial prejudice, but also that all people be evaluated not by the color of their skin, but on the nature of their character. I love this statement because it is no different than what Christ advocated as is delineated in the scriptures. He did this because He came to die for the world (John 3:16; He charged the disciples to go into the world; Acts 1:8). When we all stand before Him it is not about the color of our skin or our earthly achievements. He will separate us as sheep from goats (Matthew 25:31-46) rewarding us for our actions whether "good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10).



God modeled this in the Old Testament when He accepted a non-Jew, named Rahab to not just become a part of those who enter the Promise Land, but to also be in the line of Christ. God became upset at Miriam when she responded negatively to Moses marrying a Cushite (Numbers 12:1) and Christ sent Stephen to share the gospel with the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40), which were the same people that Zephaniah called worshippers of God (Zephaniah 3:10). This is because throughout the Old Testament people of African descent are everywhere (will be putting out a booklet shortly on "Blacks in the Bible"). Paul traveled to Corinth and Rome (1st and 2nd Corinthians and Romans) and many other European countries. No need to spend a lot of time going to African nations because they were already engrossed in Judaism and Christianity. So, it is very obvious that the Godhead is not influenced by our culture or our politics. They came to save all of their children since every child is a gift from God (Psalm 127:3) and everyone is fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). "..... since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation." (Acts 17:26) Peter puts it another way; "....I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him." (Acts 10:34)

To hate is to display the true nature of our relationship with the Lord (Matthew 22:36-40). Beyond the great worship services and the nice hellos, it describes how well the Lord has shaped our hearts (Romans 12:9-21). "Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness;" (1 John 2:9-11; NIV)

UPCOMING Events

	Contribution Statement 2020
	PLEASE ALLOW 48 HOURS TO PROCESS!
	Visit the church's website (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
	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 Classes will resume Sunday, February 7, 2021, 8am - 10am , Legacy Fellowship Hall (<i>in person</i>). Online classes will also start on Sunday, February 7 . A link will be provided for you.
	Contact Pastor Lawrence (281) 260-7402 or dlawrence@lwfellowshipchurch.org .
	One Love Valentine
	For all you married love birds out there, get ready to experience a time of love with your spouse with the Marriage's Ministry's "One Love" Valentines event.
	The event takes place Friday February 12th @7pm through Zoom. Contact Terry Randle for more information: lwfcmarriagemin@gmail.com
	Black History Month
	We would like to commemorate those who strive to achieve change and make differences across the world. In celebration, we would have several events throughout the month of February within different ministries.
	Join us for an exciting outdoor movie night as we view a historical film on Friday, Feb. 19th @ 7pm.



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

Time Out

Isaiah 58:13-14

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.

LEGACY EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL

2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS

SUNDAY 6:30 PM

Time Out

Isaiah 58:13-14

A. The Manner (vs. 13):

1. This is a day that the Lord rested from His labors (Gen. 2:2,3) and He command Israel to rest from their labor in remembrance of their hard work as slaves.
2. Everyone must continually make every effort to return to His place of worship because of the holy day of the Lord.
3. Turning one's foot to the house of the Lord indicates making a decisive decision to make this a day that is completely surrendered to God and to no one or nothing else.
4. Making a willful decision to turn is to feel an obligation to put in a lot of energy, because of a strong attraction to do our own pleasures, the person must labor at it.
5. To say 'My holy day' emphasizes that the Sabbath Day belongs to the Lord.
6. The Sabbath is a day that is consecrated to the Lord with His sanctuary being His sacred place. It represents the Lord's central place of worship.
7. The Lord wants us to be completely surrendered to loudly and intentionally verbalize so that everyone understands that His day is a day of rest.
8. The loud verbalizing of the Lord's day is done because we find pleasure, enjoyment to know we can celebrate the Lord on His day (Deut. 28:47-48).
9. This day is the Lord's day and that is why it is set aside as sacred unto Him in respect of His presence among us.
10. The consecrated day that is set aside in respect of the Lord's presence among us is noteworthy and impressive.
11. In obedience to the Lord, we must be completely obligated to respect the Sabbath.
12. Each believer is obligated with a deep commitment, which may create the need for a lot of effort, to turn way from immoral behavior and respect the Lord's day.
13. We must intentionally turn from what give us pleasure to finding pleasure in Him.
14. The Lord is addressing that inner attitude is what makes worship a blessing to Him and to us.
15. We must come before the Lord to listen, rather than to speak many words (Eccl. 5:1-3).

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

1. We make the Lord's day a joyous and delightful time before Him when we make every effort (with a deep commitment), to turn from behavior that does not provide the Lord respect.
2. When our complete focus is directed to who He is in all of His power and might, our time will be joyous and delightful.
3. Heights signifies a strategic advantage of easier protection from enemies and the ability to observe those approaching from afar— thus, controlling the land (33:16; Hab. 3:19)
4. All that the Lord has set aside for us, He faithfully provides.
5. The One who has all authority and power and sincerely desires to have a relationship with His people has verbally communicated what sincere worship means to Him.

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.

Time Out

ISAIAH 58:13-14