

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

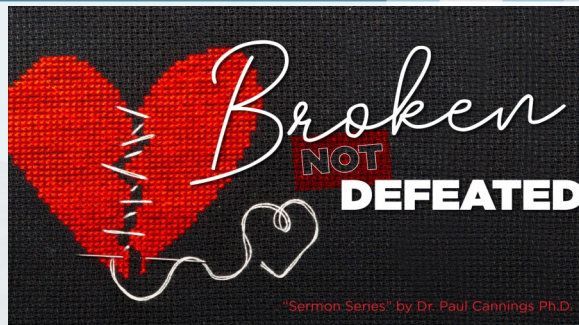
March 7, 2021

Relationships can be difficult to the point that we do everything we can to avoid them. We do our best to find people that we “click” with rather than interacting with anyone God puts in our path. I believe this is what Christ had in mind when He said to “love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39; neighbor means anyone in close proximity). Loving our neighbor seems to mean, in our culture those we click with, because other relationships can cause too much pain, but Christ says He blesses these circumstances more (Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:9-21).



Two porcupines in Northern Canada huddled together to get warm, according to a forest folktale. But their quills pricked each other, so they moved apart. Before long they were shivering, so they slid close again. Soon both were getting jabbed again. Same story; same ending. They needed each other, but they kept needling each other. Relationships can be painful, but a person survives better, and grows more when pain directs them to a deeper commitment to obey God (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12). “By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandment...; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.....: (1 John 2:3-6)

Two little teardrops were floating down the river. One teardrop asked the other, “Who are you?” The second teardrop replied, “I’m from a woman who lost her lover. And you?” The first teardrop said, “I’m from the woman who got him?” (Michael Green, Illustrations for Biblical Preaching) In a “Peanuts” cartoon, Lucy says to Snoopy: “There are times when you really bug me, but I must admit there are also times when I feel like giving you a big hug.” Snoopy replies: “That’s the way I am ... huggable and buggable” (Robert L. Short, Parables of Peanuts) Christ can be huggable when He blesses us, but when He seems quiet and unresponsive to our concerns He seems “buggable,” especially when He says; “love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you... Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.” (Luke 6:27-31) Christ says this is because He is seeking to reward us and strengthen us, all at the same time. “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? ..... But love your enemies, and do good, ..... ; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. (Luke 6:28-36; NASU) Pain can either grow us or harden us; growing is always better (James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:3-9).



## UPCOMING Events

### 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](http://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”



#### Silver Star Faith Fitness Conference

Faith Fitness and Silver Stars have partnered together to define physical and spiritual wellness in God for seniors! Join the conversation on **March 27th @ 10am** for tips on eating, exercise, and purpose with coach Deanna, because excellence looks good on you!

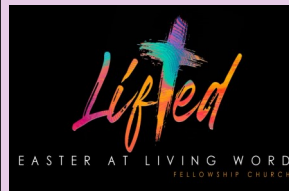


#### Men's Ministry Virtual Fellowship

Join us for our Zoom Men's Conference that will be held on Saturday, **March 20, 2021, from 9am-1pm** with special guest speakers, Dr. Paul Cannings and Dr. Nicolas Ellen of Community of Faith Bible Church.

Registration is \$45 per person | Deadline March 19, 2021. Once you are registered, you will receive an email confirmation with your receipt and a Zoom link to enter the conference.

To register, visit <https://cofbc.org/mensconference2021>



#### Easter at Living Word

JOIN US as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ! This **3-day event** will be full of many activities for the entire family!! From the DYNAMIC *Good Friday Service* and *Worship & Arts Live Production* on **Fri., April 2nd**, *The Good News Festival* on **Sat., April 3rd** all the way to the powerful worship and inspiring message on **Sun., April 4th**. This Easter will be one to remember!

Visit the church’s website or social media for more information at [www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/events](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/events)



## 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

Living with Conflict

Genesis 42:8-16

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.

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

## Living with Conflict

Genesis 42:8-16

### A. Confront It (vs. 8-9):

1. Joseph remembered his brothers and could identify them by name after twenty years.
2. His brothers had no physical awareness of who Joseph was, since he spoke Egyptian and that he was only around sixteen years old when they left him in the cistern.
3. Since the brothers believed Joseph was dead, they would not even think to expect him to appear anywhere, much less as a Pharaoh.
4. Upon seeing his brothers, Joseph continuously meditated on all the Lord revealed to him in the dream he had years ago.
5. Joseph, as if he did not plan on stopping, in a commanding manner initiated a conversation with them.
6. Joseph was on attack mode.
7. Joseph accused his brothers of coming to Egypt with the sole purpose of trying to discover the weak points in Egypt's defenses.
8. Joseph accused his brothers of seeking to develop a clear understanding of the undefended parts of Egypt.

### B. Reaffirm Trust (vs 10-13):

1. Joseph's brothers responded, with no intention of stopping, constantly defending themselves and their purpose for coming to Egypt.
2. They respectfully and emphatically denied having intention of spying, something Joseph already knew.
3. They seem to recognize Joseph's authority or rank and were committed to humble themselves before him by being as polite as possible.
4. Joseph's brothers stated that their sole purpose was to buy food; they had completely nothing else in mind.
5. Joseph's brothers described themselves as respectable, doing whatever is right and true.
6. Joseph was not going to give any credence to their claim to be men who do what is right. He endlessly continued to verbally accuse them of being spies.
7. Joseph was committed to accusing them of spying. He seems to be inferring that he did not trust them and was not going to trust them.
8. Joseph's brother verbally refused to back down and endlessly kept denying Joseph's accusation.

9. Without challenging his authority, the brothers remained humble, polite, contrite before Joseph. But they were committed to defending their purpose for coming to Egypt.
10. Joseph's brothers tried to identify themselves so that Joseph can see that they were not a part of an army or country trying to invade Egypt.
11. Time has a way of making people better or worst.
12. They assumed that Joseph was dead. They did not forget the incident and felt that they were paying for their sin – verses 21-23.

### C. Create a Plan for Peace (vs. 14-16, 18):

1. A tense moment with soldiers standing by Joseph verbally let his brothers know, that he was not going to stop accusing them of being spies.
2. Joseph's purpose for continually accusing them of being spies was to determine, by this examination, whether they were truly men of integrity.
3. Joseph repeatedly stated that the brothers were not leaving their present location, and that they will not receive any food until the task of finding out whether they were spies was resolved.
4. Joseph did not trust them. If they could try to kill him who came from a different mother, they can do the same to Benjamin.
5. Joseph commands them to go right away and get Benjamin. This is like telling someone to shoot an arrow to hit a specific target.
6. Going to get Benjamin was their main focus. Nothing else mattered nor was it going to prove they were men of integrity.
7. Their honesty must be confirmed; because what they conceptually relayed to Joseph must be continuously investigated so their integrity can be verified.
8. Going to get Benjamin would establish if they were honorable men. If their father trusts them enough to bring their brother, that would be a testament of their integrity.
9. Trust is fundamental to every relationship, even our relationship with God.

## PRAYER REQUEST

**Grieving:** The family of Lillian Edwards, Wilbert Emerson & family, Pat Crawford & family, Myrtle Nichols & family, Margaret Baptiste & family, Ogneta Polk & family, Howard Fields & family, Renessa Matthews & family, Debra Gaines & family, Diana Horn & family, Robert James & family, Lee White & family, and Linda Harrison & 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.



GENESIS 42:8-16