

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

May 16, 2021

Relationships are like knitting a blanket. It is an integrated process that takes time and forms one picture called family or friends. It's core is love, and true love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:4-8). This is because the person who knits the very core of genuine relationships together is God. God states that He is love and that love comes from Him (1 John 4:7-8). For anyone to have a long-lasting relationship, God must be the center of what they do. When God is at the center of what they do, His love is perfected in them (1 John 2:3-6). To have a relationship without God is like two people trying to get along based on their understanding and their strength alone. This is impossible because our nature is of the flesh, which is weak, and all that comes out of it leads to dissension and strife (Galatians 5:16-21).

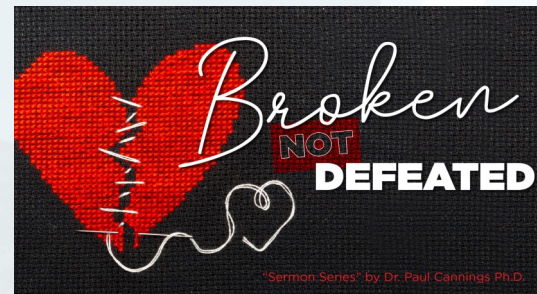
Another tendon in relationships is trust. That is why the scriptures teach us to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Lying is of the devil (Luke 8:44). To lie, like it was for Ananias and Sapphira, is to allow Satan to influence and control the situation. This at it's very core violates trust. Even in our relationship with God, He requires us to trust Him (Proverbs 3:5-6); He cannot lie (Hebrew 6:18) because He is THE TRUTH (John 14:6).

Relationships require people to provide each other mutual respect. Paul puts it this way; "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3-5).

Relationships experience unity when each person is committed to submitting to the will of God (Ephesians 5:15-21), seeks to experience the Spirit's work in their lives (Galatians 5:22-25), develops good respectful communication (Ephesians 4:25-32), and respects the differences that may exist (Romans 14). These relationships would endure good times and hard times.

The Spaniards were besieging the little town of St. Quentin, on the frontiers of France. Its ramparts were in ruins; fever and famine were discriminating its defenders; treason existed among its' terrified population. One day the Spaniards shot over the walls a shower of arrows, to which were attached little slips of parchment, promising the inhabitants that if they would surrender, their lives and property would be spared. The governor of the town was the great leader of the Huguenots, Gaspard de Coligni. As his sole answer, he took a piece of parchment, tied it to a javelin, wrote on it the two words Regem habemus— "We have a king!"

"We have a king" we must allow Him to rule no matter what we face in relationships because of who He is (love); will never fail. "...By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35; NASU).



UPCOMING Events



"From Tragedy to Triumph"

Join us as we continue our weekly **Center for Christian Living** series on Tuesdays entitled "From Tragedy to Triumph" starting **April 20th—June 1st** online through Free Conference Call.

Let's come out and learn how to get to the other side of tragedy. Restoration and Triumph is on the way.

For more information, contact nordbullock@yahoo.com



Acts 2 Houston

On Pentecost weekend every year, Acts 2 Houston will seek to unify the churches of Houston as one church with one worship service to give and go serve **one cause**.

We are excited to bring Acts 2 Houston to the most diverse city in America on **May 22nd—23rd** with *special guest speaker Dr. Tony Evans*.

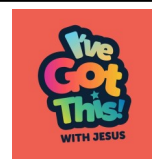
This *free* event offers an opportunity for churches to serve the Houston community and worship together collectively.

Register TODAY: www.acts2houston.org/register



Leadership Training

The first leadership training for 2021 is planned for Saturday, **June 12th at 8:30 a.m.**, in LEGACY. Every leader is expected to be present. Dr. Mark Bailey, former President of Dallas Theological Seminary is our guest speaker/trainer. Please carve the date into your calendar and plan to attend.



Family Bible Encounter

We are excited to announce our upcoming Family Bible Encounter starting **June 8th—10th**. Our theme is "I've Got This with Jesus": "I Can Do All things Through Christ ..." *Philippians 4-13*. We have awesome classes for Adults, Young Adults, Youth, and Children! Hope to see you there at 6:30pm nightly. Register online by visiting www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/events



← SCAN QR CODES TO REGISTER



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Push"

Job 16:17-22

Dr. Paul Cannings

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



Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.

Ages 2—6th grade



Push
Job 16:17-22

A. Haters (vs. 17-18):

1. Even though people violently attacked Job in vs. 10, he states that he has absolutely no intention of working extremely hard with his hands to disrupt what God has allowed by violently addressing anyone or retaliating against those who have harmed him.
2. Job uses a word for prayer which means, a prayer that is set to music; a worshipful prayer. The same type of prayer the musician Habakkuk used.
3. Job's prayer is going to be free of guilt, representing his innocence.
4. Maintain your integrity and what you believe God has called you to be; never walk away from that. It does not matter if it is a Lion's Den.
5. Stay pure because vengeance does not belong to you (Romans 12:14-21).
6. Job's cry is loud, directed to God, full of sorrowful pain and distress.
7. You cry loud, and you never stop because you never lose hope in the Lord who is a just God.

B. God Sees (vs. 19-21)

1. Job says his prayers are pure (James 4:1-4; 1 John 3:13-24).
2. Job, after crying out about how difficult his circumstances are, decides to make a specific point about how all of this creates a need to talk with God while evaluating the difficulty of gaining God's attention.
3. His suffering compared to the righteous life of Job (theodicy) created a legal issue requiring decisive testimony (compared to what his friends have been saying) of the truth before God.
4. Job believes he has a witness in heaven, someone who verifies facts before God.
5. He believes that this well-informed person, in heaven, has a full knowledge of his situation and can defend him through all the legal proceedings.
6. One person verifies the facts, and the other person becomes Job's defense attorney.
7. Job viewed the men he considered to be like his own brothers as if they were family to him, scoffers.
8. He viewed his friends as men who did not apply wisdom to understand what had happened to him. Their approach was done with a sense of pride and haughtiness.
9. His friend's approach caused Job to constantly cry with no end in sight, to the point that his tears were like a constant flow of water.

C. A True Friend Loves at All Times (vs. 21-22; Proverbs 17:17):

1. Job requested that a man endlessly make a legal dispute that would vindicate him; so he is found not guilty of the charges brought against him.
2. Job wished that his cry for justice would be no different than if someone were pleading his case to a person who was a friend who is considered a family member.
3. A true friend fights on (Prov. 17:17), never gives up fighting for justice even when all the noise and attention die down.
4. Job's plans to endlessly experience a new life in a few years.
5. When a true friend fights for you, your soul rest knowing that whether you live or die; your good name will stand because justice will take place.
6. Job expects his integrity to take him on a path that moves him to a point of no return. He never said if that point is heaven.
7. A person whose integrity eventually is established does not need to return because their name stands forever.

PRAYER REQUEST

Grieving: Dale and Jackie Ward & family, Larry Black & family, Eric White & family, La Toi Gillyard & family, Flossie Jones & family, Betty Biggom & family, Dorothy Price & family, Melinda Parsee & family, and Nikisha Doyle & family.

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



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