

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

August 22, 2021

The proverb “not every house is a home and not every home is a house” is profound in every sense of its meaning. A house made of brick, wood or stone may offer stability and security but left alone, slowly decays unless maintained. As beautiful as the structure may be, unless occupied, it’s just a house.

On the contrary, a house can be a home when it’s occupied by a loving and nurturing family. Regardless of its size or structure, it can become a place that creates identity, character development, provides security, and stability simply because it is committed to principles that when applied establishes a home and all of its’ occupants.

The same can be said of a “church”. Not every religious structure can be a church. However, when believers gather in a building and function as believers (1 Cor. 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:16), worshipping (Acts 2:42-47), exercising their spiritual gifts for the common good, supporting or building up each other as the need arises, then that can be called “church”. For example, when bereavement, sickness, loss of jobs etc., are dealt with, then the church functions as God’s family for God’s glory; the Spirit of God is not quenched, (1 Thessalonians 5:12-22) and God’s house becomes His home. His headship is honored and respected; true worship is achieved because everyone brings themselves under His Lordship. It is at this point.... ‘We got church!’ (1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:11-16).

Peter puts it this way; “But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR GOD’S OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have received mercy.” (1 Peter 2:9-10). When we respect His Lordship by submitting to it, we represent who God truly is in and through us. As a result, we mature and become like Him. Since Christ is “the church” when we become like Him ... “we got church!”

“So, the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.” (Acts 9:31; NASU)

“I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. (Mt 16:16-18; NASU)

Building church the Lord’s way not only allows the lampstand to remain and blesses all that come, but it also restrains Satan’s impact on our lives (Ephesians 3:10; 6:10-18). The church is a home not just for us but also for the most important person “the Lord”.



UPCOMING Events



Bible Study with Pastor Paul Cannings
4 Ways To Connect
Tuesdays | 12 noon & 7 p.m.
1. In-Person
2. LIVE on Facebook
3. LIVE on YouTube
4. Free Conference Call 1-978-990-5374
Access 1165799



School Supplies NEEDED
The Christian Outreach Center is collecting school supplies for children who are in need, specifically backpacks, school supplies and/or gift cards. If you would like to donate, please contact Pastor Allen Boutte at (713) 683-0847



Creative Jams
Every Saturday in August, the LWFC Drama Ministry will host a Drama Workshop in the choir room from 1pm-3pm. If you are interested in writing, acting, stage management, etc., please contact Melita Washington or Elisha Taylor.



Marriage Summit
Calling All Married Couples The Covenant Keepers Marriage Ministry will Host a Marriage Summit Workshop on **August 28th from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** in Legacy Sanctuary. For more information contact Terry and Sherri Randle at lwfcmarrriagein@gmail.com. The cost is only \$15 per couple for the conference (luncheon not included) **REGISTER ONLINE by visiting the church's event page.**



Haiti Earthquake Relief
Prayers and support for Haiti! Please consider donating to the relief effort by visiting:
www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/missions
Select: Haiti Earthquake Relief



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
The Children's Ministry is in need of workers who are committed to serving God's children. All interested persons, please contact Sylvia Edwards at 281.260.740 or sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org.



Family and Friends Day
Join us on **August 29th** for our Family & Friends Day after the second service. This is a time where we can come together as one church body for fellowship. (Every 5th Sunday). **Wear your favorite sports team jersey /shirt.**



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

Protected

Acts 20:27-31

Full 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

LEGACY EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP
MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL
2:30 3:45 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY 6:30 PM

SERMON OUTLINE

Protected

Acts 20:27-31

A. The Sword (vs. 27):

1. I did not shrink – Paul purposefully did not withhold, conceal, or withdraw himself from providing to the elders all they needed to know.
2. Declaring – To declare means to provide a considerable amount of detail so that the elders are well informed about the Word of God.
3. The whole purpose of God – The purpose of providing all the Biblical detail Paul shared was to make sure the elders understood the will of God and the intent of His Word.

B. Guarded (vs. 28):

1. Be on guard – Elders must make it a habit to pay attention to themselves so that they take heed to any character traits that can damage the ministry.
2. Holy Spirit – The source of the attention which the elders provide must come directly from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the only person who can make them overseers.
3. Overseer; Shepherd; Guardian – To be an overseer is to preserve the body from the attacks of Satan which can only be done when elders guard the church against false doctrine.
4. The church of God – The church belongs to Christ because it is a collection of faithful believers gathered as free citizens (Ephesians 2:19) in a public assembly, called by a preacher/pastor to worship Christ.
5. Savage wolves – These persons are viewed as wolves because they view church members as people they can terrorize (2 Corinthians 11:20). They are cruel, troublesome, divisive, and fierce. These wolves can be demon possessed (1 Timothy 4:1-2; James 3:13-15; 2 Peter 2:1-3).
6. Sparing – They go after everyone and don't care how much damage they inflict (2 Corinthians 11:20).
7. Speaking – These wolves will be very vocal because they are trying to divide the church.
8. Perverse things – The things these wolves are very vocal about is the twisting of the truth.
9. Draw away – These savage wolves will continually, aggressively seek to pervert believers' convictions so that they pull them away from the church.

C. Remain Alert (vs. 31; 1 Peter 5:6-11):

1. Be on the alert – Leaders are not allowed to be lax in their responsibilities or spiritual development. They must remain watchful, vigilant, and never indifferent about what they need to do to lead and care for the church (1 Peter 5:6-11).
2. Have not cease – Paul never stopped serving and instructing these leaders.
3. Admonish/Instruction – The purpose of the scriptures was fully served when Paul taught these leaders. The scriptures are "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).

4. Admonish/Instruction – They were not only instructed in the full knowledge of God, but they were also corrected when wrong, held accountable, and provided the proper advice on how to function when there is danger or how to operate as a leader.

5. Admonish/Instruction – What Paul challenged them to be, which is to care for God's flock, he modeled; "admonish each one with tears." He did the same again in Thessalonica (1 Thessalonians 2:7-8).



PRAYER REQUEST

Grieving: Catherine Asuquo & family, Shanna Edwards & family, Daphne Banks & family, Wendy Oliver & family, Margaret Baptiste & family, Valencia Rucker & family, Caesar and Mary Ngwazini & family, Joseph and Cici Sharp & family, and Pastor Duane Lawrence & family, Jackie Ward & family, Thurston Love & family, and Larry Black & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Brittany Bullock, Sara-Beth Mathis, Barbara Gordon, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Eric White, Lakessia Davis, Rutha Patrick, Linda Rainey, and Nikisha Doyle.

PROTECTED

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