

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

August 8, 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”.



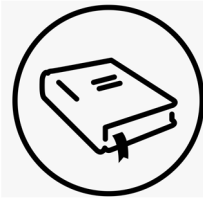
## UPCOMING Events



### Back to School Bash

Our annual Back to School Bash will happen on Saturday, **August 14th at 10am-2pm**. Join us for a time full of fun packed activities and games for the kids.

**Donations for school supplies are now being accepted.** Please contact Pastor Allen Boutte at the Christian Outreach Center (713) 683-0847.



### Bible Study with Pastor Paul Cannings 4 Ways To Connect Tuesdays | 12noon & 7pm

1. In-Person
2. LIVE on Facebook
3. LIVE on YouTube
4. Free Conference Call 1-978-990-5374 Access 1165799



### Family Ties Conference— POSTPONED UNTIL OCTOBER 5th—8th

Join us for a 3-day event nightly at 7 p.m. for the **Family Ties Conference** with special guest speaker Dr. Paul Chipman, author of the book, “**Conflict in the Mind**”. We will deal with how conflict affects family relationships and how they can be mended to be healthy relationships as God intended. All ages are welcomed. For more information on our Family Ministry contact [jeffrey.lynn85@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey.lynn85@gmail.com)



### Creative Jams

Every Saturday in August, the LWFC Drama Ministry will host a Drama Workshop in the Choir Room from 1-3 p.m. If you are interested in writing, acting, stage management, production, etc., please contact Elisha Taylor and Melita Washington.



### Marriage Summit

Calling All Married Couples The Covenant Keeper 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 [lwfcmarriagemin@gmail.com](mailto:lwfcmarriagemin@gmail.com)



### Baptism Class

This will be held on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, 6:00pm in Classroom #2 (Legacy). Due to Covid restrictions we are planning a revised baptism - please be present for the class to receive the instructions. For additional information please contact Pastor Lawrence by calling (281) 260-7402. **Baptism Sundays- Aug 22nd & 29th.**



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor’s Welcome

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

*Why Church?*

Matthew 16:18-19; Ephesians 3:10

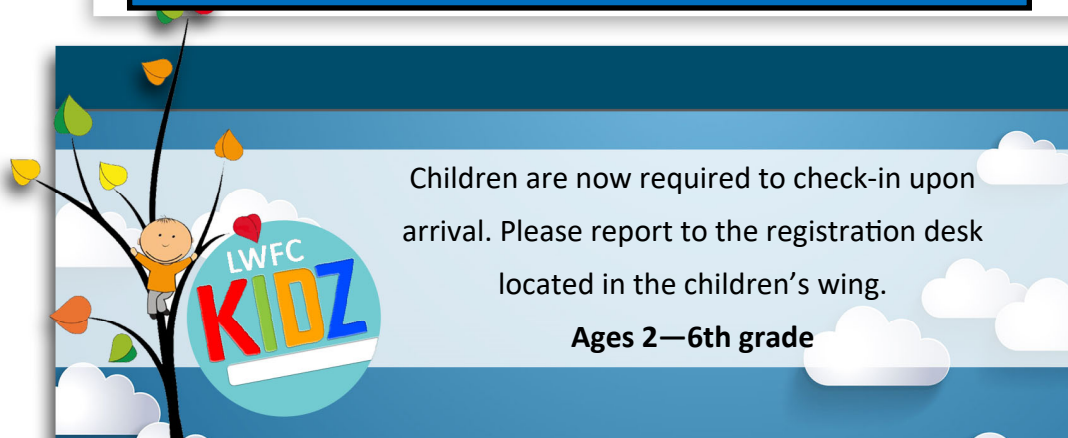
Full sermon notes available online at [www.lwfellowshipchurch.org](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org)

Click on the “Media” tab and click “Sermon Outline”

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction





# SERMON OUTLINE

## Why Church?

*Matthew 16:18-19; Ephesians 3:10*

### A. It is Christ's Headquarters (vs. 18; Ephesians 1:22-23):

1. This are only two times Christ mention church, and this is one of them. He defines from this passage everything the disciples will build on to formulate the body of Christ. So what Christ is saying here reminds, no matter what traditional or contemporary times we maybe in.
2. Once God decides who will be the preacher at Pentecost and lead the disciples Christ builds on that revelation as the Rock (1 Corinthians 10:4) and the foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11-13).
3. This is the massive bolder that is the foundation upon which the church would become immovable (1 Corinthians 10:4; 3:10-11; 1 Peter 2:8; Christ is also the cornerstone, Ephesians 2:20-22).
4. Notice the personal pronoun "I". Anything else is a waste of time because it is defined as 'gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw that will be burn up (1 Corinthians 3:11-15). He will eventually remove his lampstand (Revelation 2-3).
5. The church belongs to Christ because it is a collection of faithful believers gathered together as free citizens (Ephesians 2:19) in a public assembly, called by a herald to worship Christ.

### B. It is How He Protects Us (vs. 19):

1. It is Christ church so He will provide the church a permanent possession of His keys so that the church is equipped to deal onslaught of Satan's attacks.
2. The Word of God (not 'a' key, 'the key') is the only defense against Satan (Hebrews 4:12). It keeps the armor on us (Ephesians 6:14) and it is the 'sword of the Spirit.' (Ephesians 6:17) It is how the Spirit of God fights forward in our lives.
3. It is 'the keys' for 'the gates'. It is specific keys for specific gates. We have to learn what specific scriptural text to use to the specific attacks that Satan advances against us. The Spirit is our Helper (John 14:16-17; 16:13).
4. Christ did not say open and lock. He said bind and loose; WHY? Christ seems to not be talking about Satan anymore because He is saying 'whatever'.
5. Whatever is decided to once and for all be freed or delivered from any restrictions provided by the authority of Christ as determined by the keys is considered to be under no restrictions in heaven.
6. The Kingdom of God is the sphere of God's rule. When He gives us the keys and when we only use the keys as specified He chooses to rule through us to the world which is in Satan's power (1 John 5:19). It is we who are the salt and the light (Matthew 5:13-16).
7. We are protected no matter what Satan does because we got the power (Hebrews 1:14; Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 John 4:4).

### C. It is How He Empowers our Lives (Ephesians 3:10; 6:10-12):

1. This verse provides the intent, the purpose of the 'administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God' revealed through the preaching of the Gospel.
2. "The wisdom of God has shown itself in Christ to be varied beyond measure and in a way which surpasses all previous knowledge thereof." (3:18-19). In other words, the skillful application of God's Word in its highest and fullest sense when being applied to real life situations has several different ways of being applied. (James 1:5-9; 3:15-18).
3. When the mysteries of the Lord are exposed the revelation of God's saving purposes is proclaimed through Christ.
4. The numerous ways of God's wisdom being exposed takes through the collection of faithful believers gathered as free citizens (Ephesians 2:19) in a public assembly, called by a herald to worship Christ proclaiming the salvific work of God.
5. This is a reference to the evil forces of Satan who function with power and authority and have the ability and strength to execute their wicked agenda (Ephesians 6:11-12).
6. All the schemes (2 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 6:11) of Satan (the gates) meet with the wisdom of God (the Keys – different keys need multifaceted wisdom) that is multifaceted (gates) for all the schemes of the Devil.



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## 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.

**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.

# WHY CHURCH?

MATTHEW 16:18-19; EPHESIANS 3:10

WWW.LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG | @lwfchouston



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