

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

September 19, 2021

Today the church is splintered. There are lots of denominations, political differences, and believers who'd rather have a certain style of music and structure of worship before they even consider being engaged in church. This is rather interesting because Paul writes, there is "one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:6). How is it that the church was so unified in the New Testament but so divided today?

There were many instances where the disciples disagreed. Paul and Peter in Galatians 2:11-21, and Paul and Barnabas disagreed about John Mark and the need for a meeting to discuss the inclusion of Gentiles in Acts 15. Paul had to defend his apostleship on several occasions. Timothy needed Paul's encouragement because of the people who raised up against him in 2 Timothy and the Book of Corinthians corrects a lot of issues. What was the difference?

All these leaders had a clear understanding of God's Word and were well trained, which included Paul spending fourteen years in preparation (Gamaliel) and the disciples spending three years and forty days with Christ. The Word of the Lord ruled, and they viewed it as sufficient for everything; "All Scripture is inspired by God....., that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:17) They viewed as enduring (1 Peter 1:22-25), and more powerful than a double-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). They had no tolerance for false doctrine. They treated it as demonic (1 Timothy 4:1-4). Also, human reasoning as demonic (James 3:13-15), and prophecy as having nothing to do with human knowledge or wisdom (2 Peter 1:16-21). When people claim to be prophetic it must be tested (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21; 1 John 4:1-2). They totally depended on the Word of God and were devoted to it and defended it.

Satan has to divide to conquer. False doctrine is critical to divide the church. He used this to divide the church of Corinth (2 Corinthians 11:12-21), by using human wisdom as we would see in James 3:13-16. This became vividly clear in Philippians 4:1-3 and our desire for earthly things (James 4:1-4). The apostles addressed these issues, and as a result, were able to keep the church from being splintered and ineffective. The accurate interpretation of God's Word must rule.

The Word is everything. It describes and establishes us in the nature of Christ, it endures forever (1 Peter 1:22-25), it is the power of God that rules the earth (Hebrews 1:1-4; 4:12), it establishes faith (Romans 10:17) and it transforms our lives (Romans 12:2) so that we can walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh. Like the New Testament Church, we must devote ourselves to learn it (Acts 2:42) and to practice it (Hebrews 5:14) because this is our strength, our hope, it establishes unity (something Christ prayed for; John 17:20-23) and it is our source our joy.



UPCOMING Events



RWANDA UNIVERSITY PROJECT

Living Word is partnering with TL Africa Inc. for the Rwanda University Project. The University will train pastors and leaders in 5 countries across Africa and focus on pastoral leadership, women's empowerment, sustainability and the completion of the Thousand Hills University building. Give to this dynamic project under the **GIVE** tab and choose **Rwanda University Project**.



Living Word Fellowship Church welcomes **Lead Pastor Ikki Soma** of **Bayou City Fellowship, Spring Branch** campus to the Contemporary Service at 11:00 a.m. Service. He is a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary and served as the pastoral assistant to Dr. Tony Evans. Assistant Pastor Pierre Cannings will be featured at Bayou City Fellowship today for the 9 & 11 a.m. Services at 1400 Brittmoore Rd. Houston, TX 77043. Services will be livestreamed on www.youtube.com/c/BayouCityFellowship



MEN'S BIBLE STUDYING METHODS

Men...do you have a desire to understand the Bible at a deeper level? Do you desire to have the tools necessary to study the Word of God in a way where the words jump off the page and your life is transformed? Join us as we learn fundamental ways to study the word of God on **Sept. 25th** and **Oct. 16th**. For more information contact James Thompson at (281) 851-6958.



TITUS 2 MEET & GREET

Calling all the Ladies! Join us for our first annual Titus 2 Meet and Greet! Break bread, fellowship and connect with your sisters in Christ. For more information please contact **Keron Brown** or **Elisha Taylor** (281) 507-0102 or keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



LWFC KIDZ PUPPET MINISTRY

The Puppet Ministry will begin rehearsals today, Sunday, September 12th from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. in the Children's Wing. **Saturday rehearsals will begin September 25th | 10am—12pm** For more information, contact Mrs. Sylvia Edwards at sedward@lwfellowshipchurch.org



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

LWFC is seeking a **part-time receptionist**. Submit resume to: goneal@lwfellowshipchurch.org



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

Under God

1 Peter 2:9-10

Full sermon notes available online at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org

Click on the "Resources" tab and click "Sermon Notes"

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



SERMON OUTLINE

Under God

1 Peter 2:9-10

A. Chosen

1. This message is directed only to the people of God.
2. God selected Israel from among all other nations executing His agenda favorably through them. He has now selected from among all mankind a new tribe of people, as promised in Genesis 12:3, through whom He will execute His agenda.
3. We have a special purpose, and it is instituted by our spiritual gifts (1 Peter 4:7-11).
4. When Gentiles are included this meant that the church is now very diverse with people from different nations, therefore, different colors of skin and language (Matthew 25:31-46), but one family (Eph. 3:14-15) unto God with one nature that is of Christ (Eph. 2:16-19; 2 Peter 1:3-4).
5. Each day we are to "present our bodies as living sacrifices," (Romans 12:1) as we offer up sacrifices of praise (Hebrews 12:28) as children of the King of Kings.
6. By selecting us from among all the people of the earth growing us to be His royal priesthood, Christ desire is to remove us from the stains of the world so that we are consecrated, no longer controlled by evil desires (1:13-16; 2:1, 12, 16; 3:6; 4:2-6).
7. We As a result of all that Christ has shaped us to be, as described above, we now have a common bond that makes us not just one race, a royal priesthood we are also a distinct group of people sealed by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13).
8. All the above can take place because we have been bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:20; 7:23) and are totally owned by the Lord God.

B. Be the Light (vs. 9b-10):

1. This select, consecrated priesthood that is now a nation unto God, once and for all, makes every effort to declare His superiority and all that His perfect nature represents to the world.
2. The declaration is done because God makes a divine call to save us to serve His purposes.
3. By darkness it means that Christ saved from ignorance, evil and works of the devil.
4. Christ divine call brought us from being dead spiritually to being alive spiritually so that we walk in the newness of the Spirit.
5. This The Holy Spirit allows the Word of God to make sense so we can move from a sinful lifestyle (darkness) to a spiritual understanding for a lifestyle of obedience to Him.

C. People of God (vs. 10):

1. Before being called out of darkness we were "strangers and aliens," (Ephesians 2:19), "separated from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world." (Ephesians 2:12)
2. We were not "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation," nor were we "God's own Possession." This is because we once lived in darkness so there was no Holy Spirit in us unifying us as one people unto God.
3. For a long time God worked with only the Jews so we were doomed for hell (Ephesians 2:11-13) but because of His kindness and benevolent love He aggressively removed us from being doomed for hell and lovingly brought us into His family.
4. We experience His mercy so that we can walk holy, a people of His possession, chosen to be His royal priesthood as lights to a dark world. Peter understands this first because he was Christ disciple, now as His apostle in the midst of a world of temple goers that nailed Christ to the cross.



The Helper
A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY
OCT. 12TH - NOV. 16TH
12 P.M. & 7 P.M.
INSTITUTE BY NORD BULLOCK LIVE ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE
ALL CLASSES LIVE ON FREE CONFERENCE CALL



Titus 2 Meet and Greet
LADIES COME BREAK BREAD & FELLOWSHIP
SAT. OCT. 2ND 9-11 A.M. LEGACY SANCTUARY
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
KERON BROWN OR ELISHA TAYLOR
(281) 507-0102 OR AT
KERON.BROWN@LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG

PRAYER REQUEST

Grieving: Jackie Ward & family, Ethel Lewis & family, Thurston Love & family, Larry Black & family, Marie Perkins & family, Mignette Dorsey & family, and Joseph Sharpe & family.

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

Under God

1 PETER 2:9-10

