

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

May 29, 2022

Destructive Discontent

Complaining and murmuring have become a normal course of life for some believers even though it is prohibited in the Bible (Philippians 2:14-15; Colossians 3:13). Entering a department store, a lady was startled when a band began to play, and a dignified executive pinned an orchid on her dress and handed her a crisp hundred-dollar bill. She was the store's millionth customer. Television cameras were focused on her and reporters began interviewing her. "Tell me", one asked, "just what did you come here for today?" The lady hesitated for a minute, and then answered, "I'm on my way to the Complaint Department".

The more negatives we can find in a person's life, the less peace we have in our relationship with God and others (Philippians 4:8-9; 1 John 4:7). There is an old Persian fable of a hen, a mouse, and a rabbit that lived together in a little house. They were happy and content because they shared all the work. The rabbit cooked the meals. The hen carried in the firewood. The mouse brought the water from the nearby brook. Each did their work faithfully and contently. One day while the hen was going to the forest for wood a busybody crow asked her what she was doing. When she told of the work she did, he complained that the hen was doing the hardest part of the work and that the rabbit and mouse were making an easy mark of her. Try as she would, the thought kept rankling in the hen's mind, and when she returned home with her load of wood, she had an even heavier load of discontent. She cackled: "I do the hardest work ever. We ought to change our jobs."

Discontent spreads, as you know, and immediately the rabbit and mouse also thought they had been doing the hardest work. They agreed to change jobs: the mouse would cook, the rabbit would gather the firewood, and the hen would bring the water. As the rabbit hopped into the woods, a big fox trailed him, caught him, and ate him. The hen put the pail into the creek, but the current pulled the pail down under, and the hen along with it. The mouse wondered why they did not come back, but not for long. While he was sitting on the edge of the big pot of soup, he lost his balance and fell in. Through discontent all three not only lost their happiness, but their very lives.

Focus on sincerely and biblically loving someone and you will complain less. "Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails...." (1 Corinthians 12:4-8; NASU)



UPCOMING Events



Deacon Family Fellowship Today After Contemporary Service

Join us Today for Deacon Family Fellowship Sunday May 29th After Second Service in the Legacy Sanctuary. Food, Fun, Music and Fellowship. Let's Gather Together Living Word Family!



600 Club 3-Month Giving Campaign
Living Word Family, please give to the **600 Club Giving Campaign** over the next three months so we can replace everything lost in the recent fire, including the lawnmower tractor trailer which keeps our grounds in compliance with city codes. Also we will improve the parking lot at the Christian Outreach Center, which has been feeding over one hundred families 3-5 times a week throughout the pandemic. To give, use the envelopes and boxes around the church or give online by clicking on the give tab and choosing the **600 Club** dropdown in the menu. Thank you so much for your continued support!



SPARK - FAMILY BIBLE ENCOUNTER
JUNE 7th, 8th & 9th at 6:30 p.m. each
Night Dinner Served at 5:45 p.m.
Don't miss the 2022 Family Bible Encounter at Living Word! Bring the Entire Family for SPARK, a fun-filled week with activities, games, crafts, workshops, guest speakers, and more! Register on the **Event Page of our Website** or contact Mrs. Sylvia Edwards for more information at sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org
Reignite The Spark for Christ! See You There!



KINGDOM BUILDER'S MEN'S MINISTRY
MOVIE DAY—SHOW ME THE FATHER
Join us for a Watch Party Sat. June 18th from 12- 3 p.m. in the Legacy Sanctuary. Come and get a fresh perspective on the roles fathers play in today's society, get new perspectives on your earthly father, and learn how to better relate to God, your father in heaven and above all. For more information visit the **Events Page of our Website** or contact **James Thompson** at thompson929@gmail.com



Acts 2 Houston—June 4th—5th 2022
Bayou City Fellowship Church
Spring Branch Campus
1400 Brittmoore Rd. Houston, TX 77043
Stand Against Human Trafficking with our own Pierre Cannings. **Sign Up to Serve** in various service projects on Sat. June 4th at 8 a.m. and to **Worship as One Church** on Sunday, June 5th at 5 p.m. Register here at www.acts2houston.org/register



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

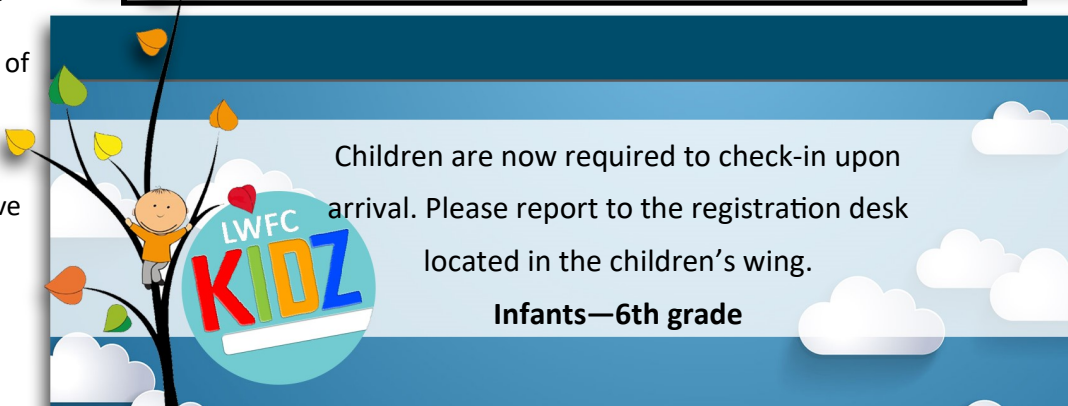
"Through The Fire"
Proverbs 14:29, 16:32; 19:11; James 1:20

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

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



S E R M O N O U T L I N E

Through the Fire

Proverbs 14:29, 16:32; 19:11; James 1:20

A. Be Willful (Proverbs 14:29; 16:32):

1. A person who is slow to anger is a person who does not respond with intense emotion, so intense that their breathing increases and their nostrils dilate, immediately when something or someone disturbs them. This is a person who is long-suffering.
2. This person who is long-suffering demonstrates that they have superior knowledge.
3. The person who is quick to become emotional ends up purposeless in resolving problems. They are intellectually weak because they are quick to become highly emotional. They end up relying on their emotions, making their emotions dictate how they think and act.
4. The quick-tempered person forgets about the need to obey God, be faithful to His Word (functioning from emotions, not intellect) because they are very absolved in how the situation makes them feel and is intensely loyal to their feelings.
5. When the quick-tempered person functions from their emotions and is loyal to how they feel they can make very foolish decisions. They can even develop a lifestyle where finding God's wisdom becomes frustrating to deal with (Romans 8:5-9). This is because their emotions are their god.
6. A person who is slow to anger is one that is long-suffering before they become angry. This does not mean that a long-suffering person is not as angry as a person who is quick-tempered. This person can become highly emotional, where they are breathing, and facial expressions are intense. However, because they have engaged their intellect and are committed to not turning it off, they are angry, but they do not sin (James 1:19-21). In the case of God, it is called righteous indignation.
7. A mighty man is powerful in battle and because of his strength, this person is powerful in battle, most of the time achieving their objective. A person who is slow to anger is better because they function from a mindset that is guided by wisdom from God so their decision making turns out more productive than a Putin (Russian dictator) who just uses his might. Jesus' anger changed the corruption in the temple when He turned the tables upside down. (Matthew 21:12) His anger helped people like the widow with the mite.
8. The person who seeks to exercise authority so that they master their fears, anxieties, and hurts using the Word of God, ignites the work of the Holy Spirit in them who eventually provide their self-control. This person, in the long run, ends up being better than the bully.
9. The person who uses their might to bully their way over someone else, like Putin, the Russian dictator, is less effective in the long run than the person who has control, guided by the wisdom of God, over their emotions. Hitler looked powerful and mighty for a while, but the end was disastrous for him and everyone else.
10. The young man this week in Uvalde, Texas took over the classroom and killed 21 people because he did not master the powerful influences of his emotions. His emotions made him feel mighty, but the end result is devastating to families forever and to himself.

B. Keep God First (Proverbs 19:11; James 1:20):

1. A person who demonstrates discretion is a person who works through the process of thinking through complex issues focused on finding 'practical common sense' solutions.
2. Slow to anger is the act of thinking through complex issues for effective solutions. This process makes a person prolong the issue for long length of time, as they think about it, they don't become intensely emotional right away. They are led by their process of thinking for a practical solution so they end up "quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger". (James 1:19)
3. The person that is slow to anger is at their best when they forgive those who willfully violate God's Word in the manner by which these individuals relate to them.
4. Because a person, who is slow to anger is one who thinks through issues for practical solutions and are prepared to forgive those who offend them, they end up developing excellent character traits.
5. The natural impulses of a person, not controlled by the Word of God to the point that all that matter is who is talking the loudest and who can overpower the other does not please God (Ephesians 4:31-32).
6. Because there is so much energy given to a person's feelings and impulses, for them to then live in conformity to the standards of God, can become overwhelming. It is difficult, if not impossible, to muster the energy for both.
7. Obeying the righteous standards of God requires energy, mental, and sometimes physical ability. When a person is intensely emotional that it dominates how they think and act, they end up lacking the fortitude, the inner ability, to think, process and obey the standards of God.
8. A believer controlled by intensely high emotions ends up allowing one of the many human emotions, anger, to cause them to sin in violation of Ephesians 4:26-27; "Be angry, and yet not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity." Notice the verse says, "Be angry....".

REGISTER TO

1. SERVE WITH US

2. WORSHIP WITH US

3. THE ONE CHURCH CHOIR

Acts

2

HOUSTON

ONE CHURCH ~ ONE CAUSE

STAND IN UNITY AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

REGISTER AT WWW.ACTS2HOUSTON.ORG/REGISTER

PENTECOST WEEKEND

JUNE 4TH - 5TH 2022

BAYOU CITY FELLOWSHIP
1400 Brittmoore Rd.
Houston, TX 77043

FAMILY ENCOUNTER

JUNE 7TH-9TH 6:30 P.M.

CREATED IN CHRIST • DESIGNED FOR GOD'S PURPOSE

SPARK

STUDIOS

EPHESIANS 2:10

DINNER SERVED AT 5:45 P.M.

GUEST SPEAKERS: DR. NICOLAS ELLEN & DR. VENESSA ELLEN

REGISTER AT WWW.LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG/EVENTS

WORKSHOPS FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: The family of Lyndia Tarkington, Dana & Nikisha Doyle & family, Greg & Georeba Odums & family, Phillip Baillou & family, Curtis Wiley, Tomitra Wiley & family, and Christopher Chapman & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Barbara Gordon, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Lakessia Davis, Rutha Patrick, the Tillis family, Betty Goode, Willie Phillips, and Charlie Williams.

THROUGH THE

FIRE

PROVERBS 14:29
16:32; 19:11
JAMES 1:20

WWW.LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG | @lwfchouston |   

7350 TC JESTER BOULEVARD HOUSTON, TEXAS 77088 281-260-7402