

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

July 10, 2022

Unify Through Love

If having a lot in common creates unity, why do people who have a lot in common still argue and sometimes even divorce? The reason is that having a lot in common is not the same as establishing unity. Liking the same things does not mean that people will love each other over a long period of time because unity is not uniformity. Commonality makes for a great beginning and provides a foundation to deal with the tougher issues that marriage brings. The believers in Acts 2:44 had 'all things in common', but when it came to giving (Acts 5) and taking care of the widows they had difficulties that they needed to work through (Acts 6). Harmony is something that is established along the way in a relationship, but commonalities are established before two individuals begin their journey.

There is an old legend about a herd of mules that was attacked nightly by a pack of wolves from a nearby forest. When the wolves came, the mules began kicking viciously in all directions. Consequently, the mules maimed and injured each other while the agile wolves escaped unharmed. Finally, a wise old mule called the rest together for a conference and made known his plans. That night the wolves came yelping from the forest as usual, but instead of the mules kicking, they all ran and put their heads together in a circle and began kicking outward. The wolves were put to flight, and the mules did no harm to each other. Christians need to get their heads together and kick outward against the forces of iniquity. (From Illustrations of Bible Truths Copyright © 1995, 1998 by AMG International, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.) At first, these mules had a lot in common, but they lacked unity.

When it comes to raising children, paying bills, working through disagreements, communicating in the heat of a disagreement, and voting for a candidate, people who may have much in common, but can become disagreeable. It is the development of one mind, the commitment to one purpose, and a Christ-like attitude that leads to harmony (Philippians 2:1-5). It is a commitment to love God with a sincere heart that leads us, through the Spirit of God and by the Word of God, to love others (Matthew 22:36-40; 5:43-48; 1 John 2:3-6; 4:7-12). *"Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."* (Col 3:14-15; NASU) *Unity is never guaranteed. It is something that two people must put on. Putting on love is a fruit of the Spirit. This takes place when everyone involved allows the Lord to define love (1 John 4:7-21) as they commit to grow spiritually. This process, which is bigger than both people, can keep them unified when there is difficulty and ultimately it leads to harmony.*

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!" (Ps 133:1; NASU) Please note that this passage says 'brothers.' (it is generic, implying sisters as well).



UPCOMING Events



KINGDOM BUILDERS MEN'S MINISTRY FELLOWSHIP EVENT—JULY 16TH 9:00 A.M.
Calling all Men! Join us for the Kingdom Builder's Men's Ministry Monthly Fellowship Event on Saturday, July 16th at 9:00 a.m. in the foyer for fun, fellowship and a discussion on "Servanthood" For more information contact **James Thompson at thompson929@gmail.com** and join our new Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/lwfcmenministry



LWFC KIDZ BIKE & TRIKE FUN DAY JULY 16TH 12:00-2:00 P.M.
LWFC Kidz bring your bikes, trikes, scooters, hover boards, skates, and skate boards for an outside fun day following LWFC Kidz rehearsal on **Sat. July 16, 2022 from 12:00—2:00 p.m.** For more information contact **Mrs. Sylvia Edwards at sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org**



LEGIT BE THE LIGHT CONFERENCE JULY 29TH 6:30 P.M. —July 30TH 9:00 A.M.
Ever wonder how you can make an impact for the kingdom as a young adult? Join the LEGIT Young Adults Ministry for empowering messages, dynamic worship, and engaging breakout sessions to discuss topics relevant to your maturity in the faith as a young adult. For more information, contact **Keron Brown at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org** or **Moniqua Glasper at 832.977.9674**.



LWFC SUMMER CAMP DISCOVERY 6:30 A.M.—6:00 P.M. SPECIAL LIMITED PRICE—\$85 PER WEEK
Unique weekly themes mind-expanding, hands-on activities designed to make our campers smile, think, explore, and grow spiritually in exciting new directions. Your child will discover fun, learning friendships, and a lifetime of memories. For more information, call **(713) 686-5538** or register at www.lwfcacademy.org



CFCL TEACHER TRAINING JULY 23RD—24TH
Calling all Center for Christian Living Teachers, it's time for growth, greater understanding and skills to feed God's people. Join us for a training on July 23 at 9 a.m. and July 24 at 1 p.m. Register on the events page of our website and contact **Nord Bullock for more information nordbullock@yahoo.com**



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Rift"

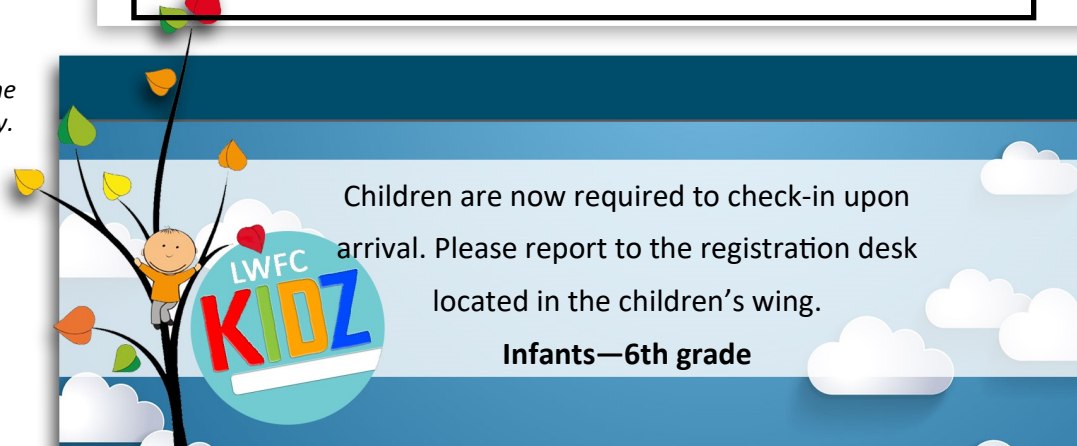
Acts 15:36-41; Colossians 4:10; 2 Timothy 4:11

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.
Infants—6th grade



SERMON OUTLINE

Rift

Acts 15:36-41; Colossians 4:10; 2 Timothy 4:11

A. Agree to Disagree (vs. 36-40):

- After teaching and preaching in Antioch, Paul bid Barnabas to circle back to all of the cities where he preached the Word.
 - Barnabas a true man of God (Acts 11:24).
 - Paul a man dedicated to the purposes of God (Philippians 3:7-16).
- Paul and Barnabas themselves would examine or inspect those who had accepted Christ in all the cities they shared the gospel – Means to look accurately or diligently - For taking care of or nursing the sick.
- Barnabas deliberately attempted with no plan to stop trying to express his inner intent and commitment to bring along John Mark.
 - Mark (identified with the John Mark in Acts 12:12,25; 13:5,13; 15:37-39; see also 2 Timothy 4:11; 1 Peter 5:13) is identified as Barnabas' cousin (KJV "nephew" is wrong), and reference is made to previous instructions that had been sent to the Colossians to the effect that they should welcome him if he visited them. There is no way of knowing in what form the instructions had been sent.
- Paul persistently regarded what he had said as having solid valuable evidence in reference to John Mark's inability to be effective on this mission trip.
 - Apparently, Paul is still upset about John Mark's sudden departure during their initial journey to Asia Minor (see 13:13). He does not see John Mark as a suitable coworker for the kind of rigorous mission work they will be engaging in.
- Paul did persist in not bringing along John Mark because John Mark withdrew and was disloyal to them in Pamphylia. It is as if Paul is indicating that John Mark revolted against what Paul and Barnabas planned to do.
 - John Mark - 15:38 - Mark had turned back at Perga and did not go to Antioch, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe. (NASU Bible Study notes)
- John Mark intentionally did not gather with Paul and Barnabas to even process whether he will go with them to Pamphylia. He willfully disagreed and left them. Therefore, Paul would say that he deserted them.
- John Mark did not dedicate his whole Christian life and work to being with Paul and Barnabas constantly sharing the burden of the ministry with them.
- Paul and Barnabas worked out how they would continue to serve God, but separately.
 - We cannot, however, suppose that Paul and Barnabas parted, like enemies, in anger and hatred. It is very likely that they made a deliberate and amicable arrangement to divide the region of their first mission between them, Paul taking the continental, and Barnabas the insular, part of the proposed visitation. Of this at least we are certain that the quarrel was overruled by Divine Providence to a good result.

B. Maturity (2 Timothy 4:11):

- They are commanded to move John Mark from where he was to where they were to welcome him into fellowship with them.
 - During Paul's first imprisonment, Mark was included in Paul's group (Col. 4:10; Phm 24). By the end of Paul's life he came to admire Mark so much that he requested him to come to be with him during his final days (2 Tim. 4:11).
- They are commanded to, without force, gently move John Mark from where he was and bring him to Paul.
- Paul commands them to bring John Mark because he had become very useful and productive for ministry development.
- John Mark is needed because he can make a positive impact in providing compassionate love towards those in need and preaches the gospel. Paul viewed John Mark as a productive force in communicating the gospel.

C. Back Together (Colossians 4:10):

- The believers need to get John Mark because he has proven to be faithful and trustworthy.
 - About 11 years elapse before we hear of him again (Col 4:10 f; Philem 24). He is in Rome with Paul. The breach is healed. He is now one of the faithful few among Jewish Christians who stand by Paul. He is Paul's honored "fellow worker" and a great "comfort" to him.
- These are commands that Paul expects them to follow. Paul has this kind of confidence in Timothy.
- If John Mark makes it to the church of Colossians, they are commanded to accept him as a trustworthy servant of God.
- They are commanded to be deliberate about making John Mark one of them.
- John Mark is now seen as an integral part of every aspect of church ministry.

"LET NO ONE LOOK DOWN ON YOUR YOUTHFULNESS, BUT RATHER IN SPEECH, CONDUCT, LOVE, FAITH AND PURITY, SHOW YOURSELF AN EXAMPLE OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE." 1 TIMOTHY 4:12

BE THE LIGHT

FEATURING EXALT THE KING FOR WORSHIP

YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE
GUEST SPEAK: LEON BROOKS
JULY 29TH 6:30 P.M.
& JULY 30TH 9:00 A.M.

REGISTER AT WWW.LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG/EVENTS OR EMAIL KERON.BROWN@LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG

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CONTACT ALONZO GOMEZ AT ACGOMEZ0317@YAHOO.COM

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Anthony Davis & family, Alexander and Ruth Cranford & family, Ken and Nesha Scott and family, Howard and Ora Lee Fields & family, Jesse and Beverly Austin & family, and Kandice Ryans & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptists, 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, Janice Collins, and Betty Goode.

RIFT

ACTS 15:36 - 41;
COLOSSIANS 4:10;
2 TIMOTHY 4:11