

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

July 24, 2022

Put On Love

If having a lot in common creates unity, why do people who have a lot in common still argue and oftentimes get divorced? 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 it 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, 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 not harm 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.) 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 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, which is a fruit of the Spirit, takes place when everyone involved allows the Lord to define love within themselves (1 John 4:7-21) as they commit to growing spiritually. This process, which is more significant than both people, can keep them unified when there is difficulty and will ultimately lead to harmony.*



UPCOMING Events



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH—AUGUST 6TH 10 A.M.—1 P.M. DONATE TODAY!
Please Donate Backpacks, School Supplies, Hair products, Hair ties, Hair bows, headbands, and gift bags so we can make this years Back To School Bash the best year ever! We had an amazing turn out last year and we want all the children to have what they need headed back into the school year. Bins will be located in foyer, in the Children’s Wing and at the Christian Outreach Center. Thank you for your support!



URBAN MISSIONS TEAM COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT
Service Opportunity for 5th – 12th graders to serve our community. We will be loading food into vehicles & sorting food items. Come join us on July 26th -28th at 7 am – 11 am. We will be meeting at the Reach Center at 4333 W. Little York Rd. Houston, TX 77091. This is the perfect opportunity for families to serve together. Contact **Natividad Smith at 832-701-4281** for more information or to sign up.



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@lwffellowshipchurch.org or Monique Glasper at 832.977.9674.**



LWFC BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL SPECIAL
SPECIAL LIMITED PRICE—\$35-\$55 PER WEEK
The Living Word Christian Academy is having a Back to School Special for Before and After School Care of \$55 per week and only \$35 per week for either After or Before care, that’s right only \$35 per week! Transportation included from select schools. For more information, call **(713) 686-5538 or register at www.lwccademy.org**



MINISTRY BIZARRE MEETING TODAY AT 10 A.M.
Living Word Fellowship will be hosting a Ministry and church-wide Bizarre on Oct. 2nd to showcase church ministries, services, and all of our volunteer opportunities. Leaders, coordinators and all who want to serve during this incredible event, meet in the main sanctuary today at 10:00 a.m. to find out more information! Contact Jeffrey Allen or scan QR code to register your ministry or group.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor’s Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

“Detox”

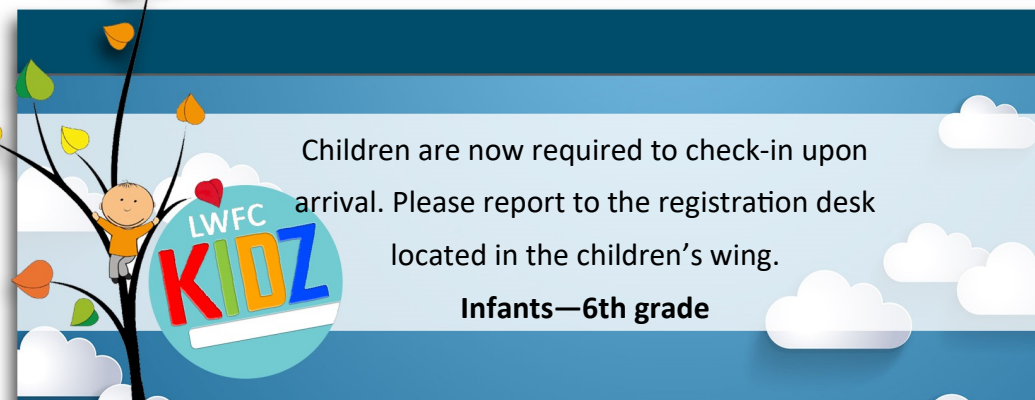
Matthew 16:21-23

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



Detox
Matthew 16:21-23

A. Sober-Minded (v. 21):

- 1. God had established Christ before His disciples, so this should have been a word no one challenged.
- 2. If relationships are going to be productive God’s Word must be the authority, no matter what our personal convictions may be.
- 3. It does not matter what great title we may have in the church or world, we must all submit to Christ or we are useless.
- 4. Saying “must” here demonstrates Jesus Christ’s habitual commitment to obey His Father’s will. It means that being in His Father’s will is urgent and compulsory. Jesus Christ was not going to adjust to anyone or any circumstance.
- 5. Suffering here means that Jesus would experience pain that would be inflicted by evil people. What a contrast to Jesus doing God’s will, but the elders and chief priest would by evil motives, inflict pain on Him.
- 6. Being dedicated to Christ can sometimes create and intensify conflicts (Matthew 10:34-39).
- 7. Christ’s suffering is going to be multifaceted. When we are committed to obey God, conflicts can come from many directions.
- 8. Peter does not seem to hear that Christ will arise again. Peter only hears that Christ would not just die, but be slaughtered. He is hearing this after it was revealed through God that Christ is the Messiah. Sometimes our worst times are after our best experiences of God.
- 9. No matter what evil men can inflict upon Christ, they cannot destroy who He is. Suffering should expose our character (Romans 5:1-5) because this is the purpose of the Lord’s testing (Deuteronomy 8:2-6).

B. Polluted (v. 22):

- 1. Peter upon hearing this, grabbed hold of Christ to move Him away from the other disciples. Apparently since God spoke to Peter he feels He needs to speak to Christ. Sometimes the worst times are when we believe that understanding a particular part or parts of the Word of God empowers us to know everything. We must remember we, as His disciples, are always learning.
- 2. Peter was repetitive with his comments as if to convince Christ that His mindset and behavior must change (Isaiah 55:8-9).
- 3. Many times we call on Christ demanding that He fulfills what we believe is right and need for Him to do.
- 4. When despite the will of God we still believe that we are correct, controversy is immediate. God does not back down.

C. Realign (v. 23):

- 1. Christ was decisive from the minute He decided to respond. We must not run from conflict. It is best to confront it when we know we are in the will of God. Christ had no plans to repeatedly correct Peter. He is going to say this once.
- 2. Christ used the name satan to describe an opposing nature to the work of God. It describes satan as one who creates obstacles that seek to resist every effort God’s people may be making to advance the gospel.
- 3. Our selfish ambitions can be demonic (James 3:13-16).
- 4. Peter’s behavior was an obstacle to Christ, like a trap of a trapper which can lead to the ruin of the animal. Peter wanted a kingdom on earth at a time when Christ was very popular (Judas wanted the money).
- 5. Peter had continuously devoted himself to a plan he had purposed in his heart to attain. He had inclined his mind to an earthly kingdom for Christ and was now convinced he was correct.
- 6. Peter was carnal in his thoughts as we can see exposed when the disciples asked Christ who would sit on the right or left (Mark 10:35-40).
- 7. Our interest can be temporal and motivated by the need for personal gratification. God’s will is selfless because the catalyst is His love.
- 8. Our selfish motives are what destroys relationships. When God’s word rules, so does the Spirit of God in us (John 16:13), so there is unity and strength (Ephesians 4:13, 16).

AUGUST 6TH - 10 A.M. - 1 P.M.

DONATE
BACKPACKS
SCHOOL
SUPPLIES
HAIR BEAUTY
PRODUCTS
HAIR TIES
HAIR BOWS
HEADBANDS
CLOTHES ON
HANGERS

BACK
TO
SCHOOL
BASH

BINS ARE
LOCATED IN
THE
FOYER
CHILDREN'S
WING &
AT THE
REACH
CENTER

ALL DONATIONS DUE BY MONDAY AUGUST 1ST

"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

LEST YOUNG ADULTS

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Howard and Ora Lee Fields & family, Jesse and Beverly Austin & family, Kandice Ryans & family, Jenny Dangerfield & family, and Joyce Newsome & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, 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.

DETOX

MATTHEW 16:21-23

WWW.LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG | [@lwfchouston](https://www.instagram.com/lwfchouston) |

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