

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

July 31, 2022

The Fruit They Bear

A four-year-old girl, hugging a doll in each of her little arms, looked at her mother and said, "Mama, I love them and love them and love them, but they never love me back." One of the most difficult things about love is that loving someone never guarantees being loved back. This is because a person cannot love without giving. Giving or sharing is the essence of love.

The joke is told about a young man who was determined to win the affection of a lady who refused to even talk to him anymore. He decided that the way to her heart was through the mail, so he began writing her love letters. He wrote a love letter every day to this lady. Six or seven times a week she got a love letter from him. When she didn't respond, he increased his output to three notes every twenty-four hours. In all, he wrote her more than seven hundred letters. Because of all the letters being sent, the lady ended up marrying the postman.

Loving someone is easier when the giving is shared. Even though this is true, it still does not demonstrate the true nature of love. The Bible teaches that God is love (notice not love is God; 1 John 4:7). This means that the nature of God determines the nature of love. The Bible teaches that "no man seeks God, not even one.." (Romans 3:11). So it is not until God loves (John 3:16) can mankind, after accepting this gift, desire to love. This is why it is important for a believer to obey God. Obeying God shapes our nature (Romans 12:2; Galatians 2:20) and determines the fruit we bear (Galatians 5:22). One of the fruit is love. This is how we know if a person is truly saved and is a true disciple of God, by the fruit they bear (John 13:34-35). "You will know them by their fruit." Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits." (Matthew 7:16-20; NASU)

Many people can demonstrate various characteristics of love, but not everyone by their very nature can consistently display love. A person can be kind, but not necessarily forgiving. So they are kind to people as long as they do not cross them. They must be loved back. As a result their love fails. The nature of love "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." (1 Cor. 13:7) The nature of love is determined by the nature of God (Matthew 22:36-40; 1 John 4:7-14).



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! Register for the Back to School Bash at <https://bit.ly/3uZ0fRs>



FAMILY & FRIENDS SUNDAY TODAY AFTER SECOND SERVICE IN LEGACY
FUN, FOOD, FELLOWSHIP —Join the Deacon Families Today After Second Service for Food, Fun, Fellowship, Live Music and More. Let's Regather together with our Deacon Families Living Word style.



YOUTH MONTH 2022—ALL GOOD
Join us every Sunday in August at 8 a.m. And 11 a.m. Services for special presentations by our LWFC KIDZ and Legacy Youth. Stay connected for more information.



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. Yes, 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



CHURCH BIZARRE— SUN. OCT. 2ND
Living Word Fellowship will be hosting a Church 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, scan the QR Code to the left or contact Jeffrey Allen for more information.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Harmony"

Philippians 2:1-5

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

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL
2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP
e 7:30 PM

Harmony
Philippians 2:1-5

A. From the Inside Out (vs. 1-2):

1. In the midst of the conflict the church was experiencing, which includes Euodia and Syntyche (Phil. 4:1-3), Paul says it is time to step aside and remember that our help comes from the Lord who provides us strength through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. (Phil. 1:12-18, 21-26).
2. If we choose, in the midst of conflict, to surrender to the Word of God the love we express towards others would be directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit (1 John 4:7-21). This is a love that is not based on how we feel. It is a willful decision to submit to obeying God as it relates to one another. (Luke 14:25-33).
3. When the Holy Spirit's movement in our lives is as a result of a friendship (our communion) with the Lord, our ability to walk by faith is empowered so that the nature of Christ reigns in our hearts. This is why loving others requires dying to oneself. This is what Christ modeled on the cross.
4. This attitude of mercy was displayed by Christ at the worst time in His life on the cross when He promised the thief will be in heaven who once mocked Him and those who crucified Him He asked for God's forgiveness.
5. Serving the needs of others should be the same for everyone because love is an obedience to the Word of God and God's love in and through us can only be empowered by the Spirit of God and both Christ and the Holy Spirit have the same nature (1 John 4:7-9).
6. When everyone's life is directed by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, the community of believers will be directed by one purpose because they will be in one accord with the nature of God (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:1-4).
 - a) Unity is essential for spiritual growth (Ephesians 4:13) this is why Christ would pray for this (John 17:20-23).

B. Be Intentional (vs. 3-4):

1. Selfish ambition is viewed as demonic (James 3:13-15) and a believer will eventually lose themselves (John 12:23-26).
2. They must not seek to function in a state of pride because it leads to vainglory, which is destructive to the church.
3. In contrast the attitude (mind) that a believer must demonstrate is where they maintain how God sees them in relation to Himself. These believers are not self-seeking. These believers live for God's glory, as explained in verse one through two, and therefore seek opportunities to serve others. "The word refers to the quality of esteeming ourselves as small, but at the same time recognizing the power and ability of God."
4. We must allow the attitude of humility to rule and continuously work against selfish ambition and empty conceit.
5. Paul then instructs us to what we should NOT DO and SHOULD DO:
 - a) Nothing from selfishness or empty conceit – not to do.
 - b) With HUMILITY OF MIND – should do
 - c) Let each of you regard one another as more important than himself – should do.
 - d) Do not look out for your own personal interest – not to do.
 - e) Look out for the interest of others – should do.
 - f) We must have the SAME MIND or attitude of Christ – should BE.

C. Aim High (v. 5):

1. We are commanded to be devoted to the mindset that Christ manifested while on earth to willfully submit to standards of God in how we relate to everyone. Even though He was fully God, He was also fully human so He felt what we feel through all the conflicts and the pain He experienced while on earth (vs. 5-9).
2. What Paul requested in verse 1-2 to be the mindset that controls us He now commands us to make this our lifestyle as modeled by Christ. Despite what it cost Him, He put God's will above His (vs. 5-9) rather than look out for His own purpose while being King of Kings.



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



NOW ENROLLING

Before & After School Program

LIMITED TIME OFFER \$35-\$55 per week

TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED FROM

- J. Ruth Smith Elementary
- Harris Elementary
- Vines EC/PK/K/ School
- Harmony School of Endeavor (5658 W. Little York Rd. Location)

LOOK NO MORE...We can meet all of your child's Educational needs

A+

- Christian-Based Program
- Texas School Ready Campus
- Homework Help, Academic Enrichment
- Art, Sports, Outside Play
- Ages 5-12 years-old
- Affordable Rates

LIVING WORD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Living Word Christian Academy
6601 Antoine Drive
Houston, TX 77091
(281) 260-7402
info@lwfcaacademy.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

