

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

October 30, 2022

Nothing More Precious



“A man sprained his ankle and couldn’t travel. The party he was with had to continue on, but they left him with lots of food. He was left in isolation in a desert. All he had to do was keep quiet for three or four days. He showed up in civilization just about half-crazy. His ankle was all inflamed. He said he’d rather have lost the whole leg than stay in that desert for another ten minutes. People can’t bear it because out there they are alone with their Maker.” —Albert Mygat (Tan, Paul Lee: Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: A Treasury of Illustrations, Anecdotes, Facts and Quotations for Pastors, Teachers and Christian Workers. Garland TX: Bible Communications, 1996, c1979)

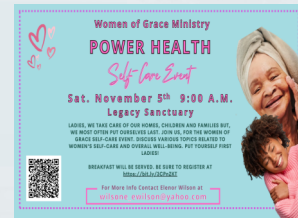
As much as people say they cannot stand being around people, they need people because this is how God designed them (Genesis 2:24-25; Ephesians 3:14-15). “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” (1 John 4:7-9; NASU)

“The story is told by the Persians of the great Shah Abbas, who reigned magnificently in Persia, but loved to mingle with the people in disguise. Once, dressed as a poor man, he descended the long flight of dark and damp stairs to the tiny cellar where the fireman, seated on ashes, was tending the furnace. The king sat down beside him and began to talk. The fireman produced some coarse, black bread and a jug of water at mealtime, and they ate and drank. The Shah went away, but returned again and again, for his heart was filled with sympathy for the lonely man. He gave his sweet counsel, and the poor man opened his whole heart and loved this friend, so kind, so wise, and yet poor like himself.

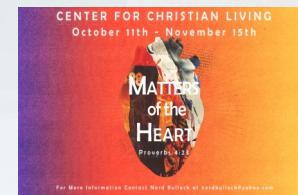
At last, the emperor thought, “I will tell him who I am and see what gift he will ask.” So he said, “You think of me as poor, but I am Shah Abbas, your emperor.” He expected a petition for some great thing, but the man sat silent. Gazing, he said, “Haven’t you understood? I can make you rich and noble, or give you a city, and appoint you as a great ruler. Have you nothing to ask?” The man replied gently, “Yes, my lord, I understood, but what have you done to leave your palace and glory, sit with me in this dark place, partake of my coarse fare, and care whether my heart is glad or sorry? Even you can give nothing more precious. On others, you may bestow rich presents, but to me, you have given yourself; it only remains to ask that you never withdraw this gift of your friendship.” —A. Naismith (Tan, Paul Lee: Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: A Treasury of Illustrations, Anecdotes, Facts and Quotations for Pastors, Teachers and Christian Workers. Garland TX: Bible Communications, 1996, c1979)

“Two are better than one because they have a good return.....” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

UPCOMING Events



WOMEN'S POWER HEALTH SELF-CARE EVENT
SAT. NOV. 5TH AT 9:00 A.M.
 Ladies join us for the Women of Grace Ministry Women's Power Health Self-Care Event Sat. Nov. 5th 9 a.m. in Legacy Sanctuary! Ladies, we take care of our homes, families, children, but we often put ourselves last. Join us for this Self-Care event and Put yourself first! Register on the events page of our website or for more information, please contact Eleanor Wilson at wilsone_ewilson@yahoo.com



Center for Christian Living
Matters of the Heart Oct. 11th – Nov. 15th
 CFCL is back for the fall with “Matters of the Heart” This is a collaboration of Christian education classes from the Men ministry, Women ministry, Marriage ministry and the Young Adult ministry. For more information visit the CFCL website at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/center-christian-living Or contact Nord Bullock at nordbullock@yahoo.com



HARVEST FEST—CHURCH PICNIC—OCT. 30TH
ONE SUNDAY SERVICE—9:30 A.M.
HARVEST FEST—12:00. P.M. – 2:30 P.M.
 Join us at Living Word Fellowship Church on Oct. 30th from 12:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M. for our Harvest Fest, Church Picnic and Deacon Family Fellowship! Enjoy food, fun, games, bouncers, rock climbing, candy, fellowship and more! For More information contact Sylvia Edwards or Rashaud Hudson.



LWCA IS NOW ENROLLING—\$85 PER WEEK
BEFORE/AFTER CARE—\$35-\$55 PER WEEK
 The Living Word Christian Academy is having a Fall Special of \$85 per week for the full day program ages 18 months—4 years old. Before and After School Care ages 5-12 years-old, \$55 per week and only \$35 per week for either Before or After care. Transportation is included from select schools. For more information, call (713) 686-5538 or register at www.lwcaacademy.org



TECH TRAINING—SAT., NOV. 12TH
9:30 A.M.—1:30 P.M.
 Join us for a FREE basic technology training that will cover the basics of how to use Apple iPads, laptops, mobile phones and social media including privacy settings and how to keep yourself safe online and on social media channels. Register on the events page of our website or contact Shani Smothers at shani.smothers@lwfellowshipchurch.org

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children’s wing.

Infants—6th grade



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor’s Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

“Least Of Us”

1 Corinthians 12:22-26

Click on the “Resources” tab and click “Sermon Notes”

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL

2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS

SUNDAY

6:30 PM

EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW
 youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

Least Of Us
1 Corinthians 12:22-26

I. The Weak v. 22-24a

- a. Members of the Body
 - i. Members - part, limb the parts of the body
 - ii. Weaker are Necessary
 - 1. Weaker - the weaker, less important members "impotence" in the sense of "inner poverty" or "incapacity."
 - a. Paul refers to people in the church whose role, or more probably temperament, or perhaps both, present them as less endowed with power or status than others. The "strong" or the "gifted" perceived them as not providing much effective weight or power in the church's mission, and not much confidence borne of status
 - 2. Necessary - meeting need
- b. Members of the Body
 - i. Deem - consider less worthy of special attention
 - ii. Less Honourable - to being considered relatively unimportant, insignificant of things that do not elicit special admiration or attention, comp. held in less esteem μέλη 1 Cor 12:23
 - 1. And the parts of the body which we deem to be less honourable, these we clothe with more abundant honour.' And so our uncomely parts have a comeliness more exceeding, whereas our comely parts have no need.' This is the result of giving more abundant honour to the less honourable; acting on that principle, we give most honour to the least honourable. The 'more exceeding comeliness' refers to the abundance of clothing, which, even when other parts are unclothed
 - 2. Bestow
 - a. in other cases to make explicit the two aspects by two separate but related words. (a) περιτίθεμεν we translate as invest, since περιτίθημι means to place around in two senses: it regularly means to bestow or to confer (Prov 12:9, LXX), but also means to garland or to place a piece of clothing or cloth band around (as in Matt 27:28; Mark 15:17). The English word invest admirably conveys (i) bestowing, or investing with, honor; and (ii) investing, in the sense of placing a vestment or cloth around something.
 - 3. More Abundant Honor
 - a. Honor - the respect that one enjoys, honor as a possession
- iii. Our Less Presentable
 - 1. Become More Presentable
 - a. those that elicit special modesty pertaining to being unattractive or unseemly—'unattractive, ugly, unpresentable.
 - b. They were insufficiently impressive to count for much, either socially or spiritually, within the church, or in terms of what "contacts" or ability they might show for mission or for speaking with wisdom and knowledge to outsiders. Probably they never did effective mighty works or healing, seldom or never prophesied, and perhaps never spoke in tongues. In v. 23 they are spoken of as less attractive and less "presentable"
 - c. between ugly and beautiful or adorned; and (ii) between private parts of the body and publicly "presentable" limbs and organs. The only way to preserve the wordplay in English seems to be to explicate both double aspects: our unpresentable private parts have greater adornment to make them presentable.
 - d. This seeming paradox admirably illustrates Paul's point about the church as Christ's limbs and members. Those whom the church likes to put on "on display" as our "best" people (whether because of their supposed wisdom and knowledge, or more visible gifts of the Spirit such as tongues or "mighty works") are far from being the essence of the church. There are those who are needy and know of their need
 - e. More importantly, one thought to possess a lesser gift should in fact be accorded greater attention by the other members of the body (cf. 14:1-5) just as in the natural body special deference in attention to dress is paid to those parts of the body deemed less presentable (12:22-24). Possibly Paul was reaching back in thought beyond the immediate discussion of gifts when he referred to weaker members (v. 22; cf. 8:7-13) and less honorable ones (12:23; cf. 11:22) who also required special care and consideration
 - 2. More Presentable Have no Need

II. The Lacking v. 24

- a. But God
 - i. Composed the Body
 - 1. Compose - to effect a harmonious unit, compose by unifying its members so as to form one organism
 - a. The nominative is emphatic. 'But the fact is, it was God who compounded (blended) the body together, by giving to that which feebleth lack more abundant honour.

II. The Lacking v. 24 continued

- b. Indeed, God has so blended the body, giving greater honor to a part that lacks it. As in v. 18, Paul again speaks of God's design in creating the human body, as he now alludes to the natural instinct that human beings have to cover certain parts of the male and female body. That instinct stems from the way God has designed the human body, balancing its parts so that human beings develop a sense of propriety and care for the proper order of all of them.
- ii. More abundant Honor
 - 1. The member who lacked
 - a. Lacked - honor to the parts that are inferior' or

III. All Of Us v. 25-26

- a. No Division in Body
 - i. Division - the condition of being divided because of conflicting aims or objectives, division, dissension, schism which includes mutual subjection and earnest care for the weak, 1 C. 12:12
 - 1. He purposed that there should be no split.... We fully discussed the meaning of σχίσμα as rent, tear, dissension, or split under 1:10 (see above). In 1:10 the correlative verb was καταρτίζω, to mend, repair, or knit back together. The obsession with groups and with status tears and splits the body of Christ, limb from limb and organ from organ. To have reserved the choice of gifts to God alone without further ado would have prevented the disruption of the purposed unity.
 - ii. Members Same Care
 - 1. Care - be concerned about
 - a. the members should have the same care one for another': τὸ αὐτό is emphatic, and μεριμνῶσιν is plural because the argument requires that the members be thought of as many and separate: 1 Tim. 5:25; Rev. 5:14; Luke 24:11. The verb implies anxious care, thoughtful trouble.
- b. One Member Suffers
 - i. All of Suffer
 - 1. to suffer with, occurs within the NT only here and in Rom 8:17 (where it denotes suffering with Christ), the two terms regularly mean to suffer in a medical context in Hippocrates and in Galen. The effects of disability on the part of a specific limb or organ (μέλος) on the body as a whole appears widely in ancient writers. Chrysostom, e.g., compares the pain caused to the system merely by a sharp thorn in the foot.
 - ii. As it is, the care or concern (μεριμνῶσιν, subjunctive of μεριμνάω) of a given individual or group should have been directed not at their own standing or role, but equally at the standing or role of the whole body
 - c. One Member Honored
 - i. All Rejoice

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: The family of Andre Waldrup, the family of Joseph Brown, Paul Gates & family, The family of Leola Moore, The family of Angelica Joyce Roberts, The family of Clara Bell, and Nathan and Evelyn Harvey & 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, Betty Goode, Latifah Brown, Tanisha Collins, Eric Prichett, Rufus Hadnot, Pat James, Donald Edwards, Kevin Carey Lori Lee, Nikisha Doyle - Jessie Austin - Elizabeth Clark - Bobbie Samuel - Deborah Smith - Patricia Jackson - Sherrie Love -

LEAST OF US

1 CORINTHIANS 12:22-26