

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

July 16, 2023

Love Exposed

Being loved or loving someone is the most powerful experience that exists. However, because it changes the person who loves, and the person being loved, it becomes the most challenging experience for mankind.

“A mother, who was 36-years-old, was discovered to be in the advanced stages of terminal cancer. One doctor advised her to spend her remaining days enjoying herself on a beach in Acapulco. A second physician offered her the hope of living two to four years with the grueling side effects of chemotherapy and radiation treatment. She penned these words to her three small children: “I’ve chosen to try to survive for you. This has some horrible costs, including pain, loss of my good humor, and moods I won’t be able to control. But I must try this, if only on the outside chance that I might live one minute longer.

And that minute could be the one you might need me when no one else will do. For this, I intend to struggle. Tooth and nail, so help me, God.” (Focus on the Family, May 1985). Love costs because it is expensive both for the giver and the receiver. But the price paid, even though it is so costly and cannot be repaid, is worth the cost of loving.

Love finds source, direction, and power from God, so Christ says, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” “This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Matthew 22:37-39) This is also why John says, “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love” (1 John 4:8). This is also the reason why a man can love God by obeying His commands (John 14:15; 1 John 2:3-5) For this reason it is easy for Paul to tell a husband; “love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself..” (Eph 5:28-29) This is why a woman can be taught to love her husband just like her husband. “.....teach what is good, encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children” (Titus 2:4). Loving someone based on God’s Word exposes our love for God before it is ever a demonstration of how we are loving our neighbor.

Love is powerful and can be the most remarkable healing agent for all relationships because if you look at the definition of love (1 Corinthians 13:4-8), love even shapes the character of the person who chooses to love (patient, kind, not arrogant, does not act unbecoming...). This is why to love is to love God first (discipleship John 13:34-35).

Dr. Howard Hendricks said, “Marriage is not finding the person with whom you can live with, but finding that person with whom you cannot live without.”



UPCOMING Events



VOLUNTEER AT THE REACH
All are welcomed to come out and serve at The Reach. We will help distribute food to those in the community. Please arrive at 7:30 a.m. Tues. July 10th, Thurs. July 12th. Closed-toed shoes are required and please dress accordingly for outside weather. Families with children younger than 10-years-old can serve with their younger children. For more information, contact Natividad Smith at nds_smith@yahoo.com



CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
Don't miss Center For Christian Living every Tuesday at 12 p.m. & 7 p.m. up until July 25th. This reformatted CFCL will focus on topics related to the theme for the year, which is “BE INTENTIONAL” There will be classes for women, men, 55+ adults, adults, young adults, youth, and kids. For more information visit www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/center-christian-living



WOMEN OF GRACE MINISTRY EVENT
Desperate for Jesus In-Person Live Stream
Ladies join us for a two-day watch party to experience The Desperate for Jesus Women's Conference featuring Chrystal Evans-Hurst, Priscilla Shirer, and many more speakers. Fri. July 21st at 7PM, light refreshments will be served. Sat. July 22nd, lunch will be provided. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, contact Eleanor Wilson at wog770882@gmail.com



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH
Join us Aug. 5th 10 a.m.—1 p.m. as we serve and evangelize our community! Please help us by donating clothes, backpacks, girls hair accessories, and any other school supply items. You don't want to miss this opportunity to serve our community. For more information, contact Keron Brown or Rashaud Hudson.



DEACON FAMILY FELLOWSHIP
Church Family! Its that time again! Join us for ONE SERVICE at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 30th followed by our Summer Deacon Family Fellowship. Immediately after service, we ask that you head to your deacon rooms to get your food and come join us in the Legacy Sanctuary to fellowship! You don't want to miss this event. Remember to bring your schools supplies and Backpack donations. For more information contact Keron Brown or Rashaud Hudson. We hope to see you there!



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

“Frailty”
Genesis 3:1-7

Click “Sermon Notes” on the Website

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
LEGACY
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROWS
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

3:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
N D A Y
e 2:30 PM

Frailty Genesis 3:1-7

A. Misaligned (v. 1):

1. Satan is forever trickier for evil purposes and would do anything to achieve it.
2. Satan did not need to be invited to the tree, just like he did not need to be invited to come to Cain when Cain contemplated killing his brother (Genesis 4:7). Satan is always alert to the opportunity to influence us (Ephesians 4:26-27; 1 Peter 5:8-11).
3. Satan knew about the conversation and knew explicitly about every word said to Adam and Eve. He did not need Eve to tell him or interpret the conversation to him.
4. Notice that Satan did not talk with the person God communicated with; he spoke to Eve. Eve is someone Adam was totally impressed and excited about (2:23-25). Sometimes how we become about our marriage can cause us to place the marriage above the Word of God, leading us to be deceived (Ananias and Sapphira; Acts 5:1-6).

B. Human Wisdom? (vs. 2-3):

1. Eve never said to Satan, so she may not have known who Satan was, but she sure knew what God said.
2. Eve continuously repeats the correct message that God said as if to refute what Satan is saying, which only reinforces that she clearly understood what God said to Adam. This also highlights that Adam had done his job to communicate what God said to him.
3. Notice God did not put the tree in some obscure place. The tree was constantly something they needed to confront so that they make a willful decision to obey Christ. Hundreds of churches, radio programs, and thousands of books are readily available.
4. God did not say don't touch it. Eve was very conscious of the importance of God's message.
5. Eve understood that God emphatically said she would open herself up to be executed. The first death is murder (Genesis 4:6-8) because the perpetrator is a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44). Man was not just going to die physically Adam introduced a murderer to the world.
6. Once we clearly understand what the Word of God says, we must hold to it and never move to common sense (Proverbs 3:5-6; Ephesians 4:27-20).
7. Satan speaks while recognizing God is supreme and is overall. He cannot deny who God is; he just denies what God says.
8. Satan sought to convince Eve that her knowledge would be so comprehensive she would have a sense of what is pleasant, excellent, and practically beneficial as well as what is unpleasant, unethical, and immoral. Her knowledge would be comprehensive.
9. From everything Eve had already eaten in the garden, the fruit seemed just as pleasant and beneficial as food. Common sense erases faith.
10. Eve could clearly see that the fruit was desirable and would provide the pleasure as anything else she had eaten.
11. Eve lusted (sought something that was so delightful it did not matter if God did not allow it) for the fruit that would provide a comprehensive knowledge of good and evil. She believes this would create out of nothing the ability for her to have a practical understanding that can make her prosperous.
12. Notice that Satan never talked to Adam or called Eve Adam's wife. He was not about to remind her of God's order.
13. Notice when Eve gives Adam the fruit, there is no conversation where she seeks to convince Adam like it was with Satan and her. Adam heard everything and was just as convinced as Eve was that this was the way to go.

C. Restructured (v. 7):

1. They both continuously experienced a complete understanding of what is good and evil. Notice Satan is gone once Eve is convinced this is the way to go.
2. When sin is present, the nature of a relationship changes. When Adam first saw Eve, their nakedness created intimacy and no shame (2:22-25). However, their intimacy changed after sin, affecting how they saw each other.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Vincent Robertson & family, Tonya Hudson & Rashaud Hudson & family, Sylvester Jackson & family, Myrtle Nichols & family, Robert Horn & family, Ruth Crandon & family, and the family of Lakesia Davis.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Betty Goode, Latifah Brown, Tanisha Collins, Eric Prichett, Rufus Hadnot, Pat James, Kevin Carey, Lori Lee, Nikisha Doyle, Jessie Austin, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clark, Clara Williams, Betty Cunningham, Wanda Turk, Deborah Smith, Dorothy Price, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Yvette Ford, Calvin Wilson, Elizabeth Bean, Diane Ford, Patrice Terrell, Patsy Gatterson, and Rita Hughes.

FRAILTY

GENESIS 3:1-7