

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

August 13, 2023

First Love



One of the qualities I love about the story of Zaccheus is that Christ was not the only person seeking to have a meeting. Zaccheus was willing to do whatever it took to see Jesus. This is why I believe that even though there were crowds of people along the road, Jesus only spoke to Zaccheus and then went to his house; NO.....!! In their day, that would be like a Jew inviting Hitler to dinner. In the Jewish people's minds, Zaccheus was the worst human being that could ever live on the earth, with whom Jesus should have nothing to do with.

Please understand that Christ addressed the sin, but did not eliminate the sinner. We must address the sin. The scripture puts it this way; *"When I say to the wicked, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn him or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet if you have warned the wicked and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your-self."* (Ezekiel 3:18-19; NASU) *The word wicked may have caused some of you to turn this off. The Word of God is holy; living outside of it willfully is to live wicked. He is not condemning the person; He is trying to deliver them from sin while calling a spade a spade.*

The issue is that Zaccheus and the person described in Ezekiel must desire change before the work of the Holy Spirit makes a difference in their lives. This is sometimes where the rubber hits the road. What I mean is we must love our brothers and sisters, but also remember it is the Holy Spirit that convicts and brings about change (John 16:7-11). Our responsibility is to live and teach the message and patiently grow together (John 15:1-13). This process begins with an acceptance of God's Word, like in the case of Zaccheus, so that the truth, which is empowered by the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17), releases our brothers and sisters from the clutches of Satan (John 8:31-33; Galatians 6:1-5). When we suppress truth, the work of the Holy Spirit is resisted. When a person consistently suppresses truth, the Lord releases them to their desires; *"For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened."* (Romans 1:21; Ephesians 4:17-19; NASU) *"Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them."* (Romans 1:24; NASU)

Let us love, service, and seek to equip those who struggle in the LGBTQIA community so that we at least win some.

UPCOMING Events



GARAGE SALE —SAT. AUG. 19 8AM-12PM
Join us Living Word Family to donate, volunteer and attend a Garage Sale at The Reach. All ministries are encouraged to be a part. All proceeds will benefit Joshua Williams and his recovery. 4333 W. Little York Rd. Houston, TX 77091. **For more information contact Jeffrey Allen at Jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org.**



FAITH & FITNESS EXPO
Join us Living Word Family as we get fit on Aug. 26th starting at 9AM. There will be 3 instructional classes throughout the day; a beginner, intermediate, and advanced level, all led by Deana Mitchell. Please be sure to register and select your appropriate class.
For more information contact Keron Brown at Keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF FAITHFULNESS
Join us January 12, 2024 for our 30th Anniversary Gala. This is a formal event including entertainment, mocktails, fellowship, and more! Tickets are on sale now for \$85. Payment plans are available. **Visit bit.ly/LWFCAnniversaryGala to purchase your ticket(s) today . For more information, contact the church administrative offices at 281-260-7428.**



IDENTITY LIVE PANEL DISCUSSION—AUG 29TH
Throughout youth & children's month our pastoral staff will be tackling difficult conversations on gender and sexuality. To be sure to address all of your questions our pastor's will lead a live discussion panel on Tues. August 29th at 7pm. **Please submit your questions to Keron Brown through Aug. 25th via text or email, (281) 507-0102 or keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org.**



LWCA BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL
Back to School is almost here! Sign up for our LWCA S.T.E.A.M. (science - technology - engineering - arts & math) before and after care for ages 5-12. Students will learn chess, robotics, arts and crafts, cooking classes, outdoor sports including tennis, and godly principles. Special lock-in price of \$85 if you register by August 15, 2023! \$120 per week after that date. Register at www.lwacademy.org or by calling (713) 686-5538



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"The Effects"

Romans 1:25-27

Minister Jeffrey Allen

Director of Family Ministry & Ministry Development

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

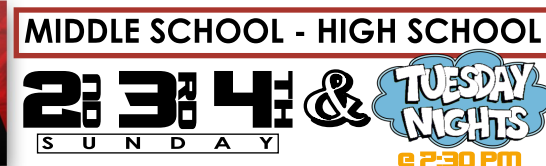
Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time



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

Infants—6th grade



The Effects
Romans 1:25-27

Effect: A change that is a result or consequence of an action or other cause.

A. Effects of Exchange Truth (v. 25):

- 1. Exchanged Truth for falsehood- The word exchanged translated here means “to change- one thing for another” They have suppressed the truth and, in return, accepted deception. Here Paul is continuing the message of unbelief and its consequences that those who walk in ungodliness and unrighteousness has substituted God’s Truth and accepted lies or falsehood. John 8:44 – says satan is the father of lies. Falsehood is a weapon of satan. In Gen 3:4, the serpent directly contradicts God’s Word by telling Eve, “You will not certainly die.” In Gen. 3:6 you see Eve actively exchanged the truth for a lie as she eats from the tree and gives it to Adam.
- 2. Truth comes from God. Psalms 25:5 says, “Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for You, I wait all the day long.”
- 3. Their worship- They served created things (trees, reptiles, images man-made, creation) that they served as idols or false gods rather than the true God who is blessed forever.
- 4. An idol is a lie, and a false representation of God used to prohibit lies and fleshly worship. Rome's culture was filled with idols and false deities. Even though the evidence of God was clearly seen in creation (Romans 1:19), they failed to acknowledge Him and instead made creation the idol of their worship.
- 5. God is blessed forever- the creator and master behind the artwork. An audience may admire the art but bows down to the artist for the masterpiece His hands have created.

B. Effects of Degrading Passions (vs. 26):

- 1. Gave them over This Greek word is translated as “to hand over, betray, surrender or transmitted.” This is actually a legal term of the court to speak of a person who had been found guilty and was handed over judgment.
- 2. In this context, it refers to the act of God completely abandoning the unrighteous. As the wicked deserted God, God, in turn, deserted them, no longer giving them divine direction or restraint but allowing them to corrupt themselves as they wished. Because they would not honor Him; He let them do what they pleased to dishonor themselves. Being given over or yielded up to one’s sinful desires is a judgment from God. With their persistence to pursue lies over truth, God delivered them over to what they were passionate about. In this passage, we see God gave them over to these things. As the godless run farther and farther from God, God intervenes less and less. The Spirit’s restraint of sin is a blessing; if that restraint is removed, all wickedness follows.
- 3. Paul wrote this from the city of Corinth, where every sort of sexual immorality and ritualistic prostitution was practiced freely. The terminology of Romans 1:24 refers to this combination of sexual immorality and idolatrous worship.
- 4. Paul, here, begins to speak about the corruption and sin of this pagan world. Paul was straightforward, leaving no stone unturned. Reading this should spoil a person’s stomach and turn their appetite away.
- 5. Paul’s “unnatural” echoes the critique of homosexual behavior. Paul lived in a culture that openly approved homosexuality. Paul didn’t write this to a culture that agreed with him. Paul wrote to a culture where homosexuality was accepted as a part of life for both men and women. For some 200 years, the men who ruled the Roman Empire openly practiced homosexuality, often with young boys.
- 6. Women went against God’s natural order of sexual relations and began to desire other women. When sex or anything other than God reigns in our lives, things become out of order, unnatural worship begins to happen, and the truth of the Word of God is suppressed.

C. Effects of Abandoning (v. 27):

- 1. The Greek for “Abandoned” is to cancel, leave, or allow.
- 2. Men canceled the natural order for how they related sex with women and chose to desire men.
- 3. The text describes their desire for men as inflamed. This unnatural desire is strong from within.
- 4. The Greek word for error is planē, n.]. delusion, deception
- 5. In committing these unnatural and shameful acts, there was the penalty of the choices. They experienced judgment for following their own deceptions.
- 6. Many may think these lifestyles bring satisfaction and are natural, but that is a delusion. There are consequences from these acts that leave a trail of tragedy.

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Garage Sale

Saturday, August 19, 2023 8 AM - 12 PM

DONATE YOUR ITEMS IN FOYER OR AT THE REACH

4333 W. Little York Road Houston, TX 77091

All Proceeds Benefit the Recovery of Joshua Williams



A TIME OF PRAISE & ENCOURAGEMENT

Comfort & Care Ministry

Featuring the LWFC Worship Ministries & Tina Nelms

SUNDAY
AUGUST 20TH



3:00PM
LEGACY

Special Guest Artist & Worship Leader Tina Nelms

Pastor & Worship Leaders Eric Levels

The Comfort and Care Ministry is here for our church body. Encouraging those who have lost loved ones or who are enduring illness through praise and testimonies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MELITA WASHINGTON AT MELITA290@GMAIL.COM OR PASTOR LAWRENCE AT DLAWRENCE@LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: James Thompson & family, Ruth Cranford & family, the family of Lakeesha Davis, Leatrice Sam & family, Jackie Jordan & family, Vivian Phillips& family, Melinda Myres & family, Lula Hayes & family, Beverly Pilson & family, Christopher Chapman & family, Katrina Humphrey & family, Lloyd Lewis, Jr. & family, Barbara Taylor & family, Bryan grant/Joyce Hayes family, Brenda Bonhame & family, and Aray Williams & family.

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

The Effects

Romans 1:25-27

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