

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

August 20, 2023

## Grow Up In Christ



God instructs us to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Love does not mean that we tell each other what we want to hear. Love is a word for charity which means to care for someone based on their need. We are told to seek God to provide for our needs (He was not just speaking about financial needs). So how we seek what we need is defined first by seeking God (Luke 12:31). When we love, that is defined by God also (1 John 4:7-11), so how we provide charity is determined by the person who is giving love and not by our feelings.

God's kingdom plan was to make mankind in His image, and when He did, He strategically designed them to be male and female. This is because marriage's first intent is to represent God's image on earth. This is why Paul states that marriage represents Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:32). God's second intent was that male and female must fill the earth (Genesis 1:26-28). The characteristics of these groups are distinct and purposeful. God's intention has obviously worked; the earth has eight billion people. This is why when a person has a burning desire for sexuality, God talks about getting married to the opposite sex, not the same sex (1 Corinthians 7). God views this as natural because He knew He made mankind male and female. Homosexuality does not fill the earth, so it does not fulfill God's kingdom plan; this is why God views it as strange flesh, not one flesh (1 Corinthians 6:16). *"... just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire." (Jude 7). Therefore, God's first and second intent is not fulfilled by the practice of homosexuality. As a result, God's kingdom plan is ignored, which leaves mankind open to his own understanding and whatever satan directs them to do or become.*

When we forsake God's plan, the results are apparent (the work we put into sinning does have wages - consequences; Romans 6:23). Sexuality outside of marriage brings many sexual diseases. Some of them, like AIDS, can take lives (something we do not want to discuss). When Christians speak like this, people say (even other Christians) we are being hateful, condemning, homophobic, and judgmental. This is true for those who do speak hatefully, but for us at Living Word Fellowship Church, our focus is to speak the truth in love so we all seek to grow up to be like Christ, who created us (Colossians 1:15-18) designed us to bring Him glory (Revelation 4:11), and provides life and life abundantly (John 10:10).

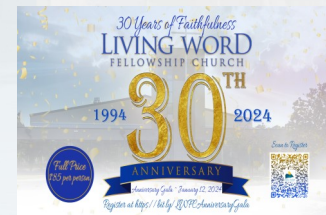
We must commit to grow up in Christ, not the world, which is temporal (Romans 12:2).

## UPCOMING Events



### 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](mailto: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](https://bit.ly/LWFCAnniversaryGala) to purchase your tickets today. For more information, contact the church at (281) 260-7428.



### YOUTH MONTH IDENTITY PLAY

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26TH 3:00 P.M.**  
The LWFC Drama Ministry and Playwright Nehemiah Johnson present, "Left Behind" This play will address gender identity and issues faced by youth in today's society. Food and Fellowship will follow. For more information, contact Melita Washington at [melita290@gmail.com](mailto:melita290@gmail.com)



### 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](mailto: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 \$55 if you register by August 31st Register at [www.lwacademy.org](http://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

"Hold It High"

Hebrews 13:4


Minister Jordan Washington , ThM  
Youth Minister/Discipleship Director

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**

**2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS**

**SUNDAY**

**7:30 PM**

youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP



## Hold It High Hebrews 13:4 Min. Jordan Washington

### I. Divine Design

1. Marriage is God's institution
  - a. Let the word of God set the values and expectations of marriage
2. Marriage is a righteous replica

### II. High Value Marriage

1. Respect, love, and all of the above
  - a. Remain within the structure that God has designed
  - b. Tell the truth to each other and love well
  - c. Seek unity over uniformity
  - d. Set realistic boundaries that build on a godly foundation
2. Don't give the enemy access through the absence of intimacy

### III. Keep It Clean

1. Purpose in passion
2. Purity is still a priority
3. Perversion of God's purposes leads to judgement

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

LEFT BEHIND

SATURDAY  
AUGUST 26TH @ 3:00 P.M.

A LWFC Drama Presentation  
Written and Directed by Nehemiah Johnson

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** 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 & 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 Smith, Dorothy Price, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Calvin Wilson, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, and Rita Hughes.

# HOLD IT High

## HEBREWS 13:4