Pastoral REFLECTIONS

August 18, 2024

Listen & Obey

Many children struggle with obeying their parents because what a child believes to be the truth and what a parent believes is the truth is different. Anytime a child differs from their parents, they think that the parent is wrong.

The other reason children struggle with obeying their parents is that they do not believe that the parent understands what they are going through. Sometimes, they are correct that the parent is not listening to everything they say. Sometimes, the parent does listen, but if the parent's decision seems irrelevant to what the child is thinking, the child becomes convinced that the parent does not understand and, therefore, should not be obeyed.

How is this resolved? Children must always know that their parents love them. A parent should never take this

for granted. A parent should never assume that because they do things for a child, the child knows that they are loved. A parent should tell their children that they love them. They should hug them. They should play with them, laugh with them, attend their functions, and compliment them when they do well. This constant reassurance allows a child to trust the parent, which will give the child the faith to obey when they do not understand the parent's decision. This is why the most essential virtue is love (1 Corinthians 13:2).

Children must remember that there is nothing new under the sun. Even though their clothes differ, their desire to wear them and the need not to be too different are the same. Parents must listen, but children must obey and respect their parents' authority in the Lord. A writer once said, "Youth is such a wonderful thing; we should not allow our young people to waste it."

The story is told of a little boy riding his tricycle furiously around the block repeatedly. Finally, a policeman stopped and asked him why he was going around and around. The boy said that he was running away from home. Then the policeman asked why he kept going around the block. The boy responded, "Because my mom said I'm not allowed to cross the street." The point is clear. Obedience will keep you close to those you love.

"Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things. So, remove grief and anger from your heart and put away pain from your body because childhood and the prime of life are fleeting." (Ecclesiastes 11:9-10; NASU)





SUMMER TECH SERIES – CANVA WORSHOP AUGUST 24TH 10 AM—2 PM

Our FREE Summer Tech Series has been amazing. We have had HTML Certification, Google Suite Training and next up is our Canva Workshop. On Saturday, August 24, 2024 from 10 am—2 pm. Learn how to use Canva to create graphics, flyers, invitations, videos and more! Register at or on the events page of the website. For more information on our TECH SERIES contact Shani Smothers



YOUTH DRAMA PLAY—NOT BY OSMOSIS SAT., AUG. 31ST 10AM

Parents and Youth come out for this special Youth Drama Ministry presentation. Which will include a talk back/panel discussion. You won't want to miss this event, closing out youth month with a powerful message. Directed by our very own Nehemiah Johnson.



YOUTH MONTH—AUGUST 2024

Join us every Sunday in August for Youth Month. Come and encourage our LWFC Kidz and Legacy Youth as they minister each Sunday during both services. For more information on LWFC Kidz, contact Mrs. Sylvia Edwards or for information on Legacy Youth contact Jordan Washington.



CUFFING SEASON—AUG. 31ST 4:20 PM

Living Word Family! You have asked and you shall receive! We are coming back with Part 3 of Cuffing Season – He said, She said! Join us for food, fellowship, and interactive fun as we look to continue to identify God's purpose for our lives and as we tackle dating issues in 2024. So join us, August 31st at 4:30 pm. You don't want to miss this event. All are welcome, both single and married, men and women. Invite your friends and others outside of the church as well. For more information, please contact **Keron Brown or Rashaud Hudson.**



LWCA/ABC AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

LWCA/ABC has a dynamic after school program available for \$75 per week with a \$55 Registration fee. The program focuses on the four cornerstones of child development: Academic, Physical, Emotional and Spiritual. Activities include robotics, karate, arts and crafts, outside play, academic enrichment, cooking classes, sports & more, Register at https://bit.ly/LWCARegister or call (281) 445-9673.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"No Regrets"

Ecclesiastes 11:9-10; 12:1

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Visitor's Welcome

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





SERMON OUTLINE

No Regrets Ecclesiastes 11:9-10; 12:1

A. Enjoy Your Youth (v. 9):

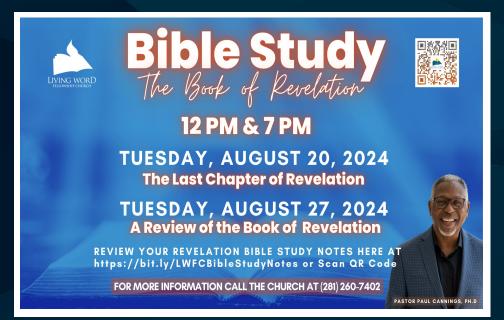
- 1. When a young person feels joyous and happy, they need to allow the Lord's wisdom to influence their innermost feelings to do good and live a life that is committed to pleasing the Lord in whatever they choose to do (Colossians 3:17).
- 2. Because the youth allow their heart to be pleasant, they should allow this behavioral pattern to become a lifestyle. This way, their way of life becomes a natural integration of God's Word, shaping their character and the moral course by which they live.
- 3. When a young person's character is shaped by the Holy Spirit it is okay for them to follow the impulses stirred by the various things they see.
- 4. Every young person must maintain a high level of consciousness of the omnipresence of God, constantly remembering that He is aware of everything they do.
- 5. Because God is supreme over everything, there is absolutely no escaping how He determines the outcome of our life decisions because He will constantly evaluate what we do against His righteous standards. "The one who despises the word will be in debt to it. The one who fears the commandments will be rewarded. The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, to turn aside from the snares of death." (Proverbs 13:13-14)

B. Remove Distractions (v. 10):

- A young person must willfully turn away from those things that create painful feelings and also those things that can cause them to be immoral or have a negative attitude towards the Word of God. This negative attitude can drive them to be unhappy or fretful and become an angry person.
- 2. Young people need to protect themselves against anything that stops them from rejoicing and having a pleasant heart. Nothing should hinder them, especially in the early stages of their lives, from being trained to submit their lives to the will of God. These decisions protect them against pain and a meaningless life.

C. Remember (Ecclesiastes 12:1):

- 1. Because a young person's life can be fleeting and full of easily influenced impulses, Solomon commands them to give God their full attention by meditating on who and what He has done.
- 2. Because "bad company can corrupt good character..." (1 Corinthians 15:33), it is important for young people to be conscientious about remembering what was said and then applying these principles to their lives. By applying the principles, they establish the lifestyle pattern described in chapter 11:9. This shapes their lives so that they are trained in the way they should go before evil becomes a present danger.
- 3. As young people grow up, the years added to their lives bring changes. The added years have such power on the young person's life that they will definitely bring positive or negative results because they will bring changes. The young person needs to be a head of it by allowing their lives to be shaped by God before these years are added.
- 4. The ultimate achievement is for a young person to have no attraction to anything that displeases the Lord. The hope for this process is that they would continually respond, when faced with those who seek to persuade them have no attraction for being outside the will of God.





PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: The family of Lee White, Gloria Franklin & family, Helene Wardlow & family, Karen Carter & family, and Marie Perry & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Birdie Williams, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Elvis Anderson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Carolyn Hadnot, Angelique Hudson, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Diana Doyle, Vivian Phillips, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, and Janie Buchanan.



7350 TC JESTER BOULEVARD HOUSTON, TEXAS 77088 281-260-7402