

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

March 16, 2025



Keep Flowing

There is no question that marriage has its ups and downs. There are times that the complexity of some issues can make things very difficult. Some of the difficulty arises because it is not just the problem of the marriage, but all the surrounding issues, such as difficulties on the job, extended family, aging parents, health issues, financial issues, etc. This combination can make life seem like one struggle after another.

When my wife and I bought her engagement ring it was a gold ring with a gold rose on it. The gold rose had jagged edges protruding out on all sides. Over the years the edges smoothed out so that only the middle of the rose has some curvature in it. Marriage has a way of working on the jagged edges of each person's personality, mannerisms, habits, and character, because the very nature of love demands it. "Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Cor. 13:4-7) The longer a couple remains married, the more change is required. If the rose remains jagged it can tear at clothes or stockings. When the edges get rounded, it creates fewer tears, and after over thirty-five years of marriage, it has more meaning.

Most people want their spouse to think and be the same as them. The constant adjustments of marriage can seem like a never ending visit to the dentist. There is more pain in trying to have things done our way, winning the argument, or controlling the situation, than there is in remaining focused on doing whatever love demands.

A stream forms without anyone cutting a path for it. A path is created because the stream keeps flowing, keeps being flexible, remains one flow of water, and is focused in one direction. The stream remains fresh because it is always flowing. Because it is always flowing it allows all kinds of organisms to live productively in it. Allow the nature of love (1 John 4:7-12), which only comes from obeying God's Word (1 John 2:3-6), to be the force that drives your marriage. This love creates happy homes because, like those organisms in a fresh stream, children can live in it. Because of a consistent obedience to God, the Spirit of God brings fruit to it and creates joy, peace, longsuffering, self-control, gentleness, goodness, and faithfulness. All these ingredients make a great marriage.

Allow the nature of love to control the temperature of your life, and it will then bless the nature of all your relationships, especially your marriage.

UPCOMING Events



POWER WALK MINISTRIES—NATIONAL PASTORS & LEADERS CONFERENCE—4/3-4/5
Calling all pastors, ministers, and ministry leaders, join us for a dynamic conference by Power Walk Ministries April 3rd—5th here at Living Word. Register now at <https://givebutter.com/NationalPastorsLeaders2025> and for more information contact Patsy Gatterson at powerwalkministrieshouston@gmail.com



FREE SPRING TECH SERIES –WORKSHOPS MARCH 29TH—MAY 24TH
MARCH 29TH MOBILE PHONE HELP
APRIL 12TH MICROSOFT EXCEL
APRIL 26TH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
MAY 10TH KIDS ROBOTICS FUN
MAY 24TH CANVA & GOOGLE SUITE
Register on the events page of the website or contact Shani Smothers for more information.



THIS IS US SERIES—MARCH 2025 RELATIONSHIPS, FAMILY & MARRIAGE
Join us during the month of March for the "This Is Us" series as we focus on relationships, family, and marriage. Attend Services and Life Application classes every Sunday and Bible Studies and Center for Christian Living classes on Tuesdays. As John would say "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory (God in His full excellence exposed in day-to-day life), as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) This series takes the Word to your home, so that you grow through the application of God's Word as it relates to relationship challenges.



SUMMER ADVENTURE 2025
Calling all young explorers, artists, and scientists! ABC Word Academy and LWCA are bringing learning and unforgettable experiences to life with our action-packed Summer Adventure Program including NASA & STEM Explorations, art classes, performing arts, and outdoor fun. Register your children, ages 4-12 today! Call (281) 445-9673 or register online at <http://tinyurl.com/LWFCSummerCamp>.



JOIN THE LEGACY YOUTH BAND APP
Legacy Youth parents and youth, join the **BAND APP** to stay connected. WE have an exciting year planned for our youth and we don't want you to miss a single event or activity. Use the link below to join:
<https://band.us/n/a8adA2G6V4fdO>
For more information, contact **Angela Holmes** at angholmes32@gmail.com



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Refresh"
Ephesians 5:22-27

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

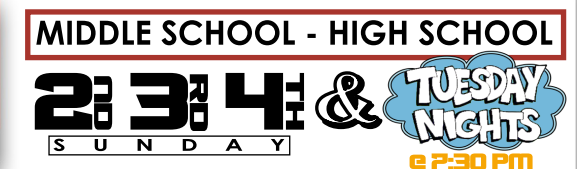
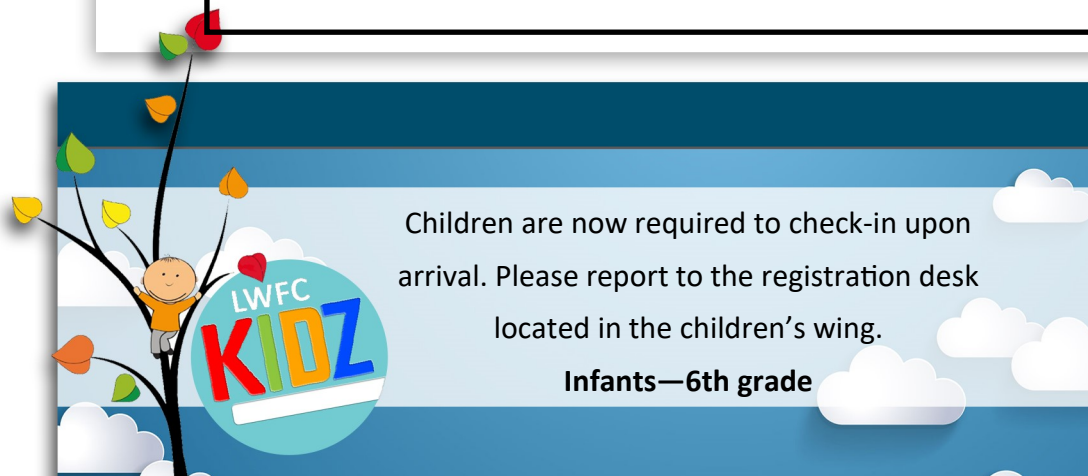
Call to Discipleship
Please remain seated at this time

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



Refresh

Ephesians 5:22-27

A. Blind Faith (vs. 22-24)

B. Sacrificial Love (vs. 25-27)

Scan For Full Notes



SPRING TECH WORKSHOPS
MARCH 29TH
MOBILE PHONE HELP

Register at <https://bit.ly/LWFTechMobile>

ANDROIDS IPHONES WINDOWS GOOGLE

The poster features a blue background with a red vertical stripe on the left. It includes an illustration of a smartphone and headphones, a QR code, and images of four different mobile phones at the bottom.

MEN'S PURITY DISCUSSIONS
STARTING APRIL 10, 2025

SIGN UP FOR MORE DETAILS ON CLASS DATES & TIMES

REGISTER HERE AT <https://bit.ly/MensPurity>

For more information contact Jeffrey Allen at jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org

The poster has a white background with blue and yellow geometric shapes. It features an image of the book 'Every Man's Battle' by Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoeker, a QR code, and the 'Men's Builders' logo.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Sylvia Edwards & family, Jeffrey and Charlotte Allen & family, Lula Hayes & family, Robert James & family, Michael Harris & family, the family of Susie Farley, Jose-lyn McCain & family, Melvin Bates & family, and Pat Brandon & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, 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, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Diana Doyle, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Janie Buchanan, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Jessie Austin, and Evelyn Harvey.



Ephesians 5:22-27