

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

March 30, 2025

Made In His Image

Family is the most vital blessing that God put together for our enjoyment and the advancement of His kingdom. When God said let us make man in "His image and His likeness," He said, "In the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:27). He then added, "Be fruitful and multiply." The immediate plan, when God created man in His image, was to establish marriage so that everything is developed from it, even the church (Ephesians 5:32). He did not finish establishing the Garden of Eden until man was created; "Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden to cultivate it and keep it." (Genesis 1:5, 15) God's plan to develop mankind was so directly attached to this process that before Eve could ever be named Adam's wife; she was called his helper.

The same thing that God structured man physiologically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually to achieve can be one of the most painful experiences of a person's life. This is because marriage, at its best, is the image and likeness of God at its best. Christ and the church are at its best in the New Testament. Because marriage tends to be focused on sex, having kids, buying a house, maintaining bills, and having family time, marriage can become so far removed from the original plan that it becomes no marriage at all (based on a Biblical definition).

The fruit of the Spirit provides all the characteristics necessary for marriage because marriage, at its core, is the image and likeness of God or Christ and the church. Marriage needs love, peace, longsuffering, joy, kindness, gentleness and self-control. These cost nothing, but their neglect can destroy everything. To not grow spiritually leads to the flesh not having a mechanism to contain it. The person's life becomes like a dried-up stream that once had life but now has weeds, and the ground is bare, parched, and cracked. The flesh comes back quickly and brings with it; "immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these.." (Gal 5:19-21; NASU) These things do not allow a believer to experience the work of the Holy Spirit ('inherit the kingdom of God' – Ephesians 1:13-14)

At its very core, gas is oil; at its very core, ice is water, and steam is water. The substance and the core of marriage is love, and the only person who makes that possible is God; ".....God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God and God abides in Him." (1 John 4:16) The person who made marriage and the earth to sustain it is the keeper of it. "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate (despise them when they try to steer a person away from God) his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple." (Luke 14:26-28; NASU) The very people Christ is telling us to hate, He commands us to love. This is because if the demands they may have cause us to neglect God, the very people we are thought to love, we soon hate.

A fish needs water, and a seed needs the dirt to blossom. In the same way, marriage needs God.



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. The cost is \$75 per person. Register now at <https://givebutter.com/NationalPastorsLeaders2025> and for more information contact Patsy Gatterson at [powerwalkministrieshouston@gmail.com](mailto:powerwalkministrieshouston@gmail.com)

**FREE SPRING TECH SERIES –WORSHOPS APRIL 12TH —MAY 24TH**  
**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.

**EASTER WEEKEND 2025—APRIL 18TH-20TH**  
**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE — APRIL 18TH**  
Join us at 6 p.m. to kick-off the weekend in worship with a theatre production presented by the LWFC Drama Ministry & Creative Jams, “Don’t Pass Me By.”  
**GOOD NEWS FEST — APRIL 19TH**  
Bring the entire family on Saturday from 11 a.m.—2 p.m. for our Good News Fest. Invite family and friends for an Easter Egg Hunt, free food, games, bouncers & more!  
**EASTER SUNDAY — APRIL 20TH**  
Join us for three services on Easter Sunday 6 a.m., 8:30 a.m., or 11 a.m.

**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/a8adA2G6V4fd0>  
For more information, contact **Angela Holmes** at [angholmes32@gmail.com](mailto:angholmes32@gmail.com)



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

“Common Ground”  
1 John 1: 5-7

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**

**LEGACY**  
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW  
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

**MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL**  
**2 3 4 &**  
**SUNDAY**  
**TUESDAY NIGHTS**  
**7:30 PM**



Common Ground

1 John 1:5-7

A. The Source (v. 5):

- 1. This is a message that John has “seen and heard proclaimed.” (1:3) When we apply this message to our lives, we have fellowship with God the Father and God the Son (1:3). When this message is integrated into our day to day lives, we live in truth (2:3-4; the ministry of the Holy Spirit; John 14:16-17). However, when we do not submit our lives to the Lord’s message, we live in darkness and become disconnected from our relationship with God and others (2:9-10).
- 2. This message allows us to have a very intimate relationship with Christ, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit (2:3-5). It perfects us (2:5) because this message keeps us from sinning (2:1-2).
- 3. John wants us to know that he heard this information firsthand emphatically, and when he listened to Christ speaking, his heart was utterly intent on learning what he heard and obeying with a willing heart. This is important because it means John clearly understood what was being said.
- 4. The message will always be the same, so he must freely tell us what it is.
- 5. There is absolutely no question about who the Creator of all things is and who sustains all things. He is an unquenchable illuminating power that allows us to understand the Gospel message, and the scriptures so that we are able to practice the truth. This is why we are called “sons of light” (Luke 16:8). David would say the Word is “a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105). This is why this becomes a common bond among believers.
- 6. The very nature of God has absolutely no possibility that anyone who walks in the light can sin or have their lives ruined.

B. Relationships Last (vs. 6-7):

- 1. Saying we have an intimate relationship with God is not a confession. It is an active, continuous obedience to His Word. This daily surrender means we have no personal interest. We are only interested in God’s agenda for our lives and those around us (Philippians 2:1-11).
- 2. To walk in darkness is to pattern one’s life after false teaching so that we live a sinful life that can become influenced by Satan (Ephesians 4:17-27).
- 3. When a person says they have a mutual interest in the will of God and are committed to continuously apply the message of God, but yet do not surrender their lives to the will of God, that person is willfully being false and deceitful. What they are doing or thinking conflicts with God’s Word. (Act 5:3-4; Roman 9:1; 2 Corinthians 11:31; Galatians 1:20; Colossians 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:7).
- 4. Anyone who secretly lives contrary to the will of God willfully and continuously is purposefully not living in conformity to the will of God. They cannot blame anyone else or circumstance because this is represented in the text as an independent act.
- 5. If we have the conviction that we are intentionally applying the message of God to our lives daily and therefore practice the truth, we will then walk in the unquenchable illumination of what the Word of God means as the Holy Spirit continuously brings it back to our remembrance (John 14:26; 16:13).
- 6. When we intentionally seek to live a life that is consistently pleasing to God the Spirit of God matures in us, as He does in anyone else’s life, which empowers us to have a close mutual participation in the things of God. This causes relationships to have common interests, which leads to long lasting friendships.
- 7. The purer our relationship with God, the more the fruit of the Spirit profoundly produces God’s love. The deeper the intimacy of our relationship with the Lord (Matthew 22:36-40), the more we can love anyone in any circumstance because our love is a result of our willful obedience to God, not our feelings (1 John 4:7-20). This results in a powerful, successful prayer life (1 John 3:16-24).

Scan For Full Notes



LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

BLOCK PARTY

LITTLE YORK VILLA APARTMENTS 3111 LITTLE YORK HOUSTON, TX 77088

APRIL 12TH 11:00 AM

SHARE THE GOSPEL & FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER

MUSIC - FUN - SNACKS

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT PASTOR DUANE LAWRENCE AT DLAWRENCE@LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG

www.lwfellowshipchurch.org

EASTER WEEKEND

April 18 - 20

FRI. APRIL 18TH GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 6 PM

SAT. APRIL 19TH GOOD NEWS EASTER FEST 11 AM - 2 PM

FRI. APRIL 18TH EASTER/RESURRECTION SERVICES

6 AM 8:30 AM 11 AM

LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

7350 W. TC JESTER BLVD. HOUSTON, TX 77088

www.lwfellowshipchurch.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Jeffrey and Charlotte Allen & family, Lula Hayes & family, Robert James & family, Michael Harris & family, the family of Susie Farley, Joselyn McCain & family, Melvin Bates & family, Pat Brandon & family, Joyce Newsome & family, Alton Smith & family, and Evelyn Harvey & 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, Evelyn Harvey, Shinell Clark, Elsie Starks, Sandra Phillips, Ruth Cranford, and Eugene Reese.

common ground

1 JOHN 1:5-7

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