

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

April 6, 2025



God's Work

The hardest thing to establish, even for me many times, is to keep God’s intent for marriage in its rightful place when emotions denominate the atmosphere. What I mean by rightful place is remaining focused on God’s agenda for marriage, no matter how vulnerable that may make me feel. Many times, it’s hard to keep the brain working when our emotions are high. Our emotions tend to dethrone God many times in a New York minute.

Interestingly, God never focused on Adam being in love with Eve. He did not even give Adam a choice as to whether he wanted Eve to be his wife. God controlled everything. What is interesting is this marriage lasted for 930 years. Interestingly, nowhere in Genesis, after they sinned, is there any record that they ever desired a divorce or separation or did not get along. They had Cain and Abel and more kids, so they had to be together. Despite having a sinful nature, they accepted God’s agenda and lived in it faithfully.

Marriage is first about what God desires us to do as we live in His institution rather than what we can get out of it or what we want the other person to do for us. When marriage is built on what the other spouse can do to make us feel loved, happy, or fulfilled, marriage often fails to reach our expectations. When each person commits to grow spiritually, what we want becomes a reality; “love, joy, peace, kindness, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23; NASB). These are all attributes that we desire to experience in marriage. This is why marriage is first a commitment to Christ (Deuteronomy 23:21-23) before it can indeed be a fulfilling experience that each person enjoys.

The next couple of the Bible, however, had challenges. Abraham and Sarah, like Adam and Eve, were provided an agenda that God called them to. Abraham struggled to accept God’s agenda when God took a long time to fulfill it (Genesis 15:1-6), and so did Sarah. When God’s agenda was replaced for a time by Hagar, Abraham and Sarah’s marriage struggled (Genesis 21:9-21). The home was full of tension and challenges that continue to the present (Jews and Arabs).

Marriage works well when we allow the Lord to be greater than our impatience, selfish desires, and passion to prove how right we are; basically, we are less committed to the flesh and more to our spiritual development. It seems easier to think of what we want than ‘Lord, what can I do to bring you glory.’ This requires more work, but it provides the most outstanding results; the fruit of the Spirit produces enjoyable lasting relationships (Matthew 11:28-30; John 15:1-17).

We need to focus less on making our marriages work and more on how God can complete His work in us (Ephesians 5:15-21, 25-27).

UPCOMING Events

LEGACY YOUTH
YOUTH PARENT MEETING
YOUTH STAFF & VOLUNTEER FELLOWSHIP
SUNDAY APRIL 13TH

LEGACY YOUTH PARENT MEETING
SUNDAY APRIL 13, 2025 10 A.M.
Calling all parents of youth 7th-12 Grade, join us for a Parents Meeting on Sunday, April 13th at 10 a.m. and for fellowship at 1 p.m. Let’s talk upcoming events, activities, how you can stay connected and be involved with our youth ministry. For more information contact Youth Minister Brandon Crenshaw or Angela Holmes at legacyyouth@lwfellowshipchurch.org

SPRING TECH WORKSHOPS
APRIL 12TH
APRIL 26TH
MAY 10TH
MAY 24TH

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
April 18 - 20
FRI APRIL 18TH GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES 6 PM
SAT APRIL 19TH GOOD NEWS EASTER FEST 11 AM - 1 PM
FRI APRIL 18TH EASTER RESURRECTION SERVICES
6 AM 8:30 AM 11 AM

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, 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 PROGRAM 2025
\$50 OFF
REGISTRATION • HOT SNACKS • SWIMMING FOR BOYS (AGE 8-12) • ROBOBOOTS & ROBOBOOTS AGES 7-12
7350 W. TC JESTER HOUSTON, TX 77048
REGISTER AT <http://tinyurl.com/LWFCSummerCamp>
SUMMER ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN FOR AGES 4-12
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT MRS. WHITE AT (281) 445-9673

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>.

LEGACY YOUTH Stay Connected
LWFC PARENTS & YOUTH STAY CONNECTED WITH THE BAND APP
1 SCAN THE QR CODE
2 REQUEST TO JOIN
3 CREATE AN ACCOUNT
4 ADD YOUR FULL NAME & BELL IN YOUR BIO
5 DOWNLOAD THE APP FROM THE APP OR PLAY STORE
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ANGELA HOLMES AT angholmes32@gmail.com

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

“Love That Lasts”
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

LEGACY
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL
2:30 4:15 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY e 7:30 PM

Love That Lasts

Ephesians 5:22-27

A. It's Sacrificial (vs. 25-26)

B. It's Meaningful (vs. 28-30)

Scan For Full Notes



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SAT. APRIL 19TH GOOD NEWS EASTER FEST 11 AM - 2 PM
SUN. APRIL 20TH 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

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: The family of Susie Farley, Joselyn McCain & family, Melvin Bates & family, Pat Brandon & family, Joyce Newsome & family, Alton Smith & family, Evelyn Harvey & family, and Latricia White & 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.

LOVE THAT LASTS

EPHESIANS 5:22-27

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