

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

June 29, 2025
1 Corinthians 13:13

A four-year-old girl, hugging a doll in each of her little arms, looked at her mother and said, “Mama, I love them and love them and love them, but they never love me back.” One of the most challenging aspects of love is that loving someone never guarantees being loved in return. This is because a person cannot love without giving. Giving or sharing is the essence of love.

The joke is told about a young man who was determined to win the affection of a lady who refused to even talk to him anymore. He decided that the way to her heart was through the mail, so he began writing her love letters. He wrote a love letter every day to this lady. When she didn’t respond, he increased his output to three notes every twenty-four hours. In all, he wrote her more than seven hundred letters. Due to the numerous letters that were delivered, the lady ended up marrying the postman.

Loving someone is easier when giving is shared. Although this is true, it still does not reveal the true nature of love. The Bible teaches that God is love (note that ‘love’ is not a synonym for ‘God’; 1 John 4:7). This means that the nature of God determines the nature of love. So, it is not until God loves (John 3:16) that mankind, after accepting this gift, desires to love. This is why it is important for a believer to obey God. Obeying God shapes our nature (Romans 12:2; Galatians 2:20) and determines the fruit we bear (Galatians 5:22). One of the fruits is love. We know if a person is truly saved and is a true disciple of God by the fruit they bear (John 13:34-35). “You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit So then, you will know them by their fruits.” (Matthew 7:16-20; NASU)

Many people can demonstrate various characteristics of love, but not everyone, by their very nature, can consistently display love. A person can be kind but not necessarily forgiving. So, they are kind to people as long as they do not cross them. They must be loved back. As a result, their love fails. The nature of love “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.” (1 Cor. 13:7) The nature of love is determined by the nature of God. It’s essential to understand that loving God leads us to love others, whether they reciprocate or not (Matthew 22:36-40). We should not love because of what others do; we must love because of who God is.



UPCOMING Events



LEADERSHIP RETREAT — JULY 23-26
LWFC Staff, Deacons, Elders (and your spouses) and Ministry Coordinators, please register for the Leadership Retreat by June 22nd. Please contact Pastor Lawrence at dlawrence@lwfellowshipchurch.org for more information.



BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE
We are now accepting school supplies and backpacks for back-to-school. This year we are partnering to give 50 backpacks to 3 schools in our community; Highland Heights Elementary, Garcia Middle School, and Eisenhower High School. For more information please contact Keron Brown at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



Families, join us September 19-20 for Restore Us, Living Word Fellowship Church’s inaugural family conference. The cost of the conference is \$30 per adult. There will be small group break-out for the entire family sessions, and general sessions presented by Rev. Jordan Washington, Ikki Soma, Pierre Cannings, Ph.D., and many more phenomenal speakers. **For more information contact Jeffrey Allen at Jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org.**



VOLUNTEER AT THE REACH WITH UMT— Volunteer with UMT at the Reach July 8th-July 10th, 8AM-11AM. Closed toe and closed heel shoes are required (no crocs, sandals, or clogs). Please dress properly for cleaning and organizing, gloves will be provided. **If you have any questions about volunteering or UMT, please contact Natvidad Smith at nds-smith@yahoo.com**



NOW HIRING SUMMER CAMP COUNSELORS!
Are you a college student, recent college graduate, or looking for a summer job? ABC Academy is looking to hire Summer Camp Counselors. **If you’re interested, please contact Mrs. White at (281) 445-9673 or request an interview online.**



ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Announcements
- Opening Song
- Communion
- Welcome Video
- Praise & Worship
- Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

- Visitor’s Welcome
- Special Music
- “Comparison Kills”
- Mark 16:9-14

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 4:15 & TUESDAY NIGHTS

SUNDAY e 7:30 PM

Comparison Kills

2 Corinthians 10:12-18

I. Class or Compare v.12

II. Not Boast vs.13-16

III. Boast vs.17-18

For Full Sermon Notes

Please Visit

lwfellowshipchurch.org/sermon-notes/



DEACON FAMILY
FELLOWSHIP

TODAY

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Michelle Stewart & family, Maryland Flax & family, and Reginald and Dean'na Mitchell & 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, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Diana Doyle, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Jessie Austin, Evelyn Harvey, Shinell Clark, Elsie Starks, Sandra Phillips, Ruth Cranford, Eugene Reese, Donna Ross, and Sylvia Edwards.

COMPARISON



KILLS

2 Corinthians 10:12-18