

Keeping Promises

Aeschylus, an ancient Greek playwright, said, "It is not the oath that makes us believe the man, but the man the oath." Our credibility is tied to our character. Jesus condemned the Pharisees for thinking in terms of binding and non-binding oaths. They categorized promises into "big" and "little" ones. But a promise is a promise, and God expects us to keep our word. When we promise to do something, we need to do it. When we make an appointment, we need to keep it. When we tell someone we'll help them, we need to follow through.

But we don't follow through. We don't do what we've promised. We break appointments. And we justify our dishonesty with lame excuses: "I'm just so disorganized." "I had a thousand other things to do." "I really meant to do that." "I'm so forgetful."

There may be truth to all of those statements, yet these attempts at rationalization are a reflection of our character. A willingness to excuse ourselves like this is a dangerous sign. Thinking in this way is a sure sign that we've conditioned ourselves to dishonesty.

What we should say is, "I'm sorry. Will you forgive me? How do I make it up to you?" Then we must resolve to work on being more careful to do what we say we're going to do, letting our "yes" be "yes" and our "no" be "no."

[We want to love God] and to love others with more than word or talk. We want to love in deed and in truth. ~David Maxson

Kennewick Church of Christ

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Meeting Times:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

Elders:

Clarence Botts: 509-521-3344; ccbotts@hotmail.com
LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; Vern.engelke@gmail.com

Minister:

Bill Gregory (360)710-0449
billgreg67@gmail.com

Bill Gregory's office hours are from 10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. (Please call to make sure he is in before stopping by)

Open Congregational meeting – 2nd Sunday at 5:00 pm. All are welcome

Attendance 10/04: 45

Budget \$2484.00

Contribution: 10/04: \$3040..35

October 11, 2020

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



How Well Do I Know God?

Something that has been repeating over and over in my mind lately is this, "Rule without relationship equals rebellion." My mind map goes from there to God, and I begin to question my relationship with God. "If I knew God more, would I rebel less?" My next thought is, "How well do I know God?"

Theologically I can know about God, but do I know Him? I can know all about a movie star, famous athlete or historical person and still not know them. There is a distinction between knowing Him and knowing about Him. You can be at services every time and five o'clock on Sundays. You can be at every activity and still only know about God (Matt. 7:21-23). How do we make the jump from knowledge to relationship?

We need to start by listening to Him—"By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments" (1 John 2:3). We must listen to His Son—"God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son" (Heb. 1:1-2a). We must also listen to those men that were given charge to teach the early church—"We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us" (1 John 4:6a). This is more than just knowledge. This is hearing and obedience. There were many of the different religious elite in the time of Christ who heard and knew Jesus' message but they did not listen. Those who went out to be baptized by John, listened. Those who followed Christ during His ministry, listened. Those who were in the upper room on the day of Pentecost, listened.

We must listen and we must love. "Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love... and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." (1 John 4:7b-8, 16b). We have to learn to love like God. His Son can show us the way (John 14:6-10).

Let's finish with this thought. I recently asked someone at a youth event if she trusted the coordinator of the event, someone she didn't even know (it wasn't me). Her reply surprised me, "I trust him because other people trust him." I didn't see that coming. Then I thought, "How did Noah, Abraham, Moses and David get to know God?" They laid everything on the line for their relationship with God, they held nothing back. Were they perfect? No, but they knew God and trusted Him. They were all in. So I would like you challenge you to get to know God on a deeper level. Trust the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. How well you know God depends entirely on you (Phil. 2:12) ~Josh Blackmer

3Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6He who says he abides in Him ought to walk just as he walked. (1 John 2:3-6)

Keep These Dates in Mind	October Birthdays and Anniversaries		
<p>Since we have entered into this time of uncertainty with those in the government asking us to keep our assemblies to a minimum and to use caution and discretion as we meet, any activities that may be planned will be announced in a timely fashion a week before they are planned to happen and will be put out on the call multiplier.</p> <p>Sandy Gray has volunteered to put out an informational email during the week to update the church of immediate prayer needs or information that needs to be disseminated before/in-between our scheduled meeting times. If you wish to be on this list, please email her and give her your email information.</p>	<p>LeRoy & Sue Pierce 10/4 Michael Manning 10/5 Kenneth Winstead 10/6 LaVern Engelke 10/8 Mark & Sue Minor 10/9 Tom & Lupe Mendoza 10/13</p>		<p>Clarence Botts 10/22 Melinda Botts 10/25 Harvey Jones 10/25 Tom Mendoza 10/25 Norm & Phyllis Hubbard 10/29</p>
<p>Ongoing Health issues: Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Marilyn Davis, Sandy Gray, Fran Henniger, Linda Laferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Shannon Mendoza,, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce, Bill & Linda Lafferty's daughter-in-law, Michael Stimson, Fred Fleming, Hubbard Family</p>	Bible Studies		
	<p>Adult Bible Classes Sunday a - O.T. Sunday p -Colossians Wed p -Thessalonians</p>	<p>Youth Classes Classroom Wing Teen Class - Teen Room</p>	<p>Ladies Class Thursday 10:00 a</p>

Is God Listening?

Do you really think God is listening when you pray? If so, you will keep asking and asking until you get a definitive answer. Maybe you can recall your childhood, or that of your children. You recall that tug on your arm and a little voice saying, "Please mommy, buy this for me." Your initial response was something like, "You don't need that" or "we can't afford it." Yet, enough tugs and enough "pleases," and sure enough, you caved in. You bought the "needed" toy just to quiet your child down. I still witness these scenes when I go to the store. There is something about loving a person and, finally, giving in to their repeated request.

This is how Jesus says we should pray. I realize there were times my parents said, "no" to me, and I recall many times saying "no" to my own children. But, often as not, my wife and I would give in and say "yes." Jesus even calls us evil. That is, we are not perfect as God is. Yet, if we can treat our children with love and affection, in spite of our weaknesses and shortcomings, why would we doubt a perfect, heavenly, Father? He knows and understands all things and He will hear our repeated request and do what is best for us. Sometimes that will be a resounding "Yes!" And sometimes it will be a stern "No."

Jesus tells us that we are not only to ask God, often and repeatedly, to come to our aid, He tells us our requests will receive a response. Again, we use the example of our children. If our child is hungry, we usually find a way to satisfy that hunger. If they are hurting from their latest mishap, we give them a hug and kiss it to make it better. Again, we are not perfect (as God is), yet we respond to the needs of our children. Our children came to depend on that, even if there were times we said "no" to a particular request for candy or a McDonald's happy meal. They could still count on dinner and birthday presents and all the other joyful things that come with childhood.

We need to be as "grown up" with our heavenly Father as our children are with us. We are to ask and expect (be looking for) to receive. We can seek His help and expect to receive His help. We can knock on His door and expect to have Him open the way for us. This doesn't mean that God is some sort of slot machine that will always pay out a huge jackpot. But, we will get our needs met, but as we shall see, in ways that we do not expect. God is a good listener. He hears our prayers. But, He is an even better responder, giving to us what we need, not just what we want.

As He does throughout the sermon on the mount, Jesus includes others in this process of asking, seeking, and knocking. Recall, that the previous verses in Matthew 7 dealt with judging others. Now Jesus takes us deeper into this principle. We are to treat others as we want to be treated. We want a Father in heaven who hears, responds, and opens the right doors? This is how we should behave toward others. If we want God to listen and respond, then we should learn to be good listeners who are eager to look for his response.

As human beings, we have a tendency to be judgmental of others. We can see flaws in others that we never notice in ourselves. We can get irritated with another person, believer and fellow Christian, and never notice the log in our eye. The solution to this is found in Matt. 7:7. Treat people the way you want to be treated. If you want mercy from others, then offer mercy to others. If you want patience from others, then learn to be patient. We cannot claim blessings from God and then withhold those same blessings in others. Jesus's main points are simple: Trust God enough to keep asking for his help; Trust God enough to look for the answers to your prayers, even if they are not what you hoped for or expected. And, finally, trust God enough to treat others the way we want to be treated by God and others. ~David Thurman

But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting; on those who fear Him, and his righteousness to children's children. To such as keep His covenant, and to those who remember His commandments to do them. (Psalm 103:17,18)

There was no new news on any of our congregation at this time other than Jack Danley's surgery. Let's give thanks to God for answered prayers and ask that we continue to stay healthy as a congregation, so we can focus on God's work.



Jack Danley had his surgery and is already home. Everything appears to have gone well. Pray for him as he continues to recover

The collection for the Mountain States Children's Home is quickly approaching. Please bring your donations and let this work, which we have chosen to support, prosper.

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*God doesn't give us what we can handle.
God helps us handle what we are given.*

Our Ministries
Mountain States Children's Home
Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (James 1:27)
Peru Ministry - Oscar and Anna Maria in Peru
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and of the Holy Spirit
Food Pantry - Our food pantry is located in the small room next to the library.
"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed." (Proverbs 19:17)