

Welcome to the Family

Many people all around the world today are lonely and desire to be a part of a real family. They do not have families. For some reason or another, their families are gone. Jesus had a family in the physical sense, yet His family rejected Him at the beginning. Instead, He invites you and everyone else to be a part of a different family.

Who belongs to the family of Jesus? Who does Jesus consider to be the most special to Him? Who gets the priority of Jesus' attention?

In Mark 3:35, Jesus said, "For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and my mother." The relationship of Jesus' real family revolves around a person's obedience to His Father. Jesus made it clear that He will choose those who obey God above any physical bond on this earth. John 1:12-13 reads, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God"

Jesus elsewhere said that this birth comes by water and the Spirit – baptism. May I encourage you to be a part of the family – to obey God? If you have become obedient to God, may I welcome you to the family? ~Aaron Cozort

With All Your Mind Jesus said, "The great and first commandment" is "*you shall love the Lord your God with all your ... mind*" (Matthew 22:17-18). The current spiritual battle is not fought with carnal weapons (swords, guns, bomb) but with ideas from the Word of God. "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:4-5). The war against the lies of secular humanism will be won by truth. The battles fought with evil and wickedness will be won by righteousness and peace. The battles fought by stirring up hatred will be won by love. (Cecil's Comments, The Voice of Truth International, Volume 109)

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

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Minister:

Casey Rice: 479-438-2038; crice5523@gmail.com

November 7, 2021

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



A Faithful Christian

"Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ" (Colossians 3:22-24). It is difficult to fully appreciate the Christians of the first century. I assume for most of us, we see their world with eyes informed by our world. Life for us is about freedom of choice, to come or go, to pursue or sit still, to live here or there, to be involved in this program or that at church, or to be involved in none at all. Are we able to comprehend what it was like to be a slave and a Christian in the Roman world? Christians today are often judged to be faithful to God in Christ in very similar ways to being judged successful in business, sports or economically. Busy-ness in various church programs, not only loyal attendance but being out front in some form of service in worship or Bible class, and known conversions as the result of a Christian's efforts are all good things. I appreciate, applaud and encourage all who can be so ascribed. Yet, there is something about Paul's word to the Christian slaves of Colossae that further informs me about what it is to be a faithful Christian.

A slave's life was not his own. His life belonged to his master. Imagine how limited his life choices were. The apostle encouraged Colossian Christians to seek things above (3:1), to put to death all that was worldly and sinful in their hearts and lives (3:5-11), and to clothe their lives with the qualities of heart and life that comes from above, where Christ is (3:12-17). Paul urged them, "*And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him*" (3:17). The opportunities of Christian slaves were basically limited to doing what they were bound to do by their masters. The apostle Paul transformed those duties into service to Christ. Their faithfulness as Christians was in heartily doing the work their masters commanded them to do. Their faithfulness to Christ was giving their all to their work as slaves in loyalty to Christ and with the qualities of heart and life that come from Christ.

I certainly am not minimizing the importance of our fellowship with God's people and our work together. What Paul's words tell me is that being a faithful Christian is about the way we live our lives in every setting of life. Faithfulness, as we judge it in relation to church involvement, is truly faithfulness only if life is faithfully lived in service to Christ. A Christian whose life's circumstance limits his or her opportunities for church involvement is a faithful Christian as he or she lives life with that circumstance in service to Christ, with the qualities of heart and life that come from Christ. ~ David Q. Fisher

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I received from my Father. (John 10:19)

Keep These Dates in Mind

Nov 11/7 – Fellowship Meal after Sunday morning worship
 11/09 - Study of Denominations 7:00p
 11/18 - Study of Denominations 7:00p
 11/23 - Study of Denominations 7:00p
 12/02 - Study of Denominations 7:00p

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Pat Lindsay 11/1
 Beverly Downing 11/2
 Andre Downing 11/6
 Sallie Winstead 11/7
 Gary & Linda Bills 11/10
 Holly Preston 11/29
 Connie Stecker 11/30

Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding (Proverbs 14:29a)

Those with ongoing health Issues:

Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Sandi Gray, Linda Lafferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce, Jim Preston

Bible Studies

Adult Bible Classes Sunday a – 2 Samuel Wed p – Gospel of John	Young Adults class- Teen Room (led by Danny Mendoza)	Ladies Class (Contact Sandi Gray for information)
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IN OUR PRAYERS

Let us keep in mind all those of whom we know are struggling spiritually, who will be travelling in the next few weeks, who are struggling financially and those who have to make decisions on matters of conscience during this time of mandated compliance. May God keep them safe from harm and guide their decisions.



It's so much easier being a follower rather than a leader. That way I don't have to decide what to think, someone has already decided for me.

Komedy Korner

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 - If you are in need of food assistance, please contact one of the men of the congregation and they will be able to help you with this need.

“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.” (Proverbs 19:17)

Absolute Truth, Absolutely!

A recent Barna survey examined the question of truth in American culture and how people responded to the concept of absolute truth. 91% of all US adults polled believe the best way to find yourself is by looking within yourself. 84% said the highest goal of life is to enjoy it as much as possible. 86% said to be fulfilled in life, one should pursue the things he desires most. 79% stated people can believe whatever they want, as long as those beliefs don't affect society.

The results for those who consider themselves practicing Christians are not much different. 76% believe to find oneself is to look within oneself. 67% said one should enjoy life as much as possible. 72% said one should pursue the things he desires most. 61% think a person can believe whatever he wants as long as it doesn't affect society. Interestingly enough, these topics were entitled, “The Morality of Self-Fulfillment.”

In a summary statement of this, David Kinnaman, Present of Barna group, said, “Millions of Christians have grafted New Age dogma onto their spiritual person. When we peel back the layers, we find that many Christians are using the way of Jesus to pursue the way of self...While we wring our hands about secularism spreading through culture, a majority of churchgoing Christians have embraced corrupt, me-centered theology” (The End of Absolutes: America's New Moral Code).

Of course, not everyone falls into these categories, but the survey does offer some insights worth considering. Our culture is willing to allow anyone to believe whatever he wants, as long as he doesn't disturb society by what he believes. Seeking self-gratification is the highest good one can pursue. This creates quite a challenge when it comes to evangelism since people believe one shouldn't affect society. Someone can hold private beliefs, but he shouldn't express them publicly because that might create an adverse reaction. One is reminded of the charge brought against the preaching of the Gospel, “These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also” (Acts 17:6). Is it possible, in a climate where we are not to upset society, the proclamation of the Gospel has become taboo? We must have the conviction of the apostles when they asserted, “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

Another disturbing factor these statistics reveal is how close the philosophy of the world is mirrored in Christianity as a whole. One could say this reflects denominational religion, but is the Lord's church immune from the influence of the society in which it exists? Paul warned, “Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elemental forces of the world, and not based on Christ” (Colossians 2:8). He reminded Timothy not to preach the desires of those who abandon sound doctrine, but to preach the Word and fulfill his ministry (2 Timothy 4:1-5). Our pursuit must be to perfect holiness, which means we live counter-cultural lives and show Christ living in us. We will not change the world for Christ if all the world sees in us is a mirror of itself. “But as for me, I will never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. The world has been crucified to me through the cross, and I to the world” (Galatians 6:14).

God is truth, and no lie is in Him (Titus 1:2). If God is truth, then His Word is truth, unconditionally and unquestionably. In the end, it doesn't matter what the world thinks of how it lives, but what matters is how we respond to the truth of God. The Gospel is still God's power of salvation for everyone, and to good and honest hearts, it can bear fruit. For this to happen, we must be absolutely convicted in truth. We must be the light of the world, living it, teaching it and convicted of it. This is what makes a difference in us and in others. **Is God's Word absolute truth? Absolutely!** That's not the issue. The issue is whether or not we allow it to make a difference in us so that also it can make a difference in others. “For God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness’, has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6).

~ Robert Johnson