

What Do Pink Elephants Look Like?

How can we deal with the topics of division that surround us in our country and in our community? We all have dealt with times of disagreement, tiredness, aggravation, and simply being “worn” of how we view our treatment from others or from a situation. We may not want to talk or find it difficult to express our feelings to others when division arises. Or we may be “so ready” to convey our points of grievance that we explode emotionally. In either case, disgruntlement and divisiveness become dilemmas because discussions did not take place. Many times, we carry an issue(s) around with us because we do not want to discuss the proverbial “pink elephant in the room.” Meaning, we all know there is tension surrounding a topic that no one wants to address but we know is present. Hence, problems begin to grow. James 1:14-15 says But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin when it is full-grown, brings forth death. When we are reluctant to deal with conflict, negative feelings towards others grow and if we aren’t careful, mishandle a delicate situation.

James goes on to say in verses nineteen and twenty, So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. This reminds us to be active listeners and communicate by withholding our words until we “hear” someone. Additionally, our response to other’s frustration should begin with empathy. May we show others we are concerned, genuinely interested, acknowledging their emotions, building trust, and moving towards a positive mindset when dealing with conflict. Paul even found a way to further the conversation in Acts 17: 22! Unchecked emotions fuel frustration when situations are fragile. Let us focus on solutions instead of assumptions ~Allen Jones

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Kennewick Church of Christ

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509-783-4013

Website: www.Kennewickcofc.com

Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ

Church Email: kenncoc@gmail.com

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 08/31 : 31

Budget \$2484.00

Contribution 08/31 \$2915.00

September 6, 2020

Kennewick Church of Christ



One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant. He grew up in another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was 30. Then, for three years, he was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a home. He didn’t go to college. He never lived in a big city. He never traveled 200 miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

He was only 33 when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves.

While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his garments, the only property he had on earth.

When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave, through the pity of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race.

All the armies that ever marched,

All the navies that ever sailed,

All the parliaments that ever sat,

All the kings that ever reigned

– put together –

have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as this one solitary life.

~James Allen Francis

Keep These Dates in Mind	September Birthdays and Anniversaries	
There will be a congregational meeting at 5:00p next Sunday Aug. 13, 2020 at the church building. Please plan to attend as church business is discussed.	Craig & Debra Bolt 9/1 Janette Petty 9/13 Jack Danley 9/18 Lonna Rau 9/29	

Please come and join us in our worship to God. Sunday mornings we are studying in Joshua.

Please be respectful of those who need to wear masks and practice social distancing because of health issues in their family.



Those with on-going health issues:

Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Marilyn Davis, Sandy Gray, Bill & Fran Henniger, Linda Laferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Shannon Mendoza,, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce

Bill Henniger has been moved to Avalon Rehab where he will be able to continue dialysis and Physical Therapy for a few weeks as he continues to recover.

Wanda and Jack Danley's son-in-law and wife as he recovers from multiple bone fractures, a punctured lung and a shattered hip.

Pat Lindsay pray that the wounds on her legs would heal,

Sandy Gray as she prepares for parathyroid surgery

Linda Laferty as she prepares for surgery

Bill and Linda Laferty's daughter-in-law. She had surgery on her leg and will not be able to put any weight on it for 12 weeks.

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)

Discouragement: Satan's Greatest Weapon

I read a story once that says Satan once held a sale and offered all the tools of his trade to anyone who would pay the price. They were spread out on the table and each one was labeled – hatred, malice, envy, gossip, lust – all the weapons that everyone knows so well. However, off to one side lay a harmless looking instrument labeled DISCOURAGEMENT. It was old and worn looking but was priced far above the rest. When Satan was asked why this was, he replied, "Because I can use this one so much more easily than the others. No one knows that it belongs to me, so with it I can open doors that are bolted tightly against the others. Once I get inside, I can use any tool that suits me best."

I wonder what heroic and inspiring accounts were never written because Satan effectively used his tool of discouragement? The Bible records many sad stories of people who lost heart and gave up. When Moses sent the spies into the Promised Land, all but Caleb and Joshua came back with discouraging news. The fearful saw the size and strength of their opponents rather than remembering the signs and strength of their God (Num. 13-14). Elijah did great things for God which resulted in the conversion of thousands of Israelites (1 Kings 18:1-40; 19:18); yet, he had become so discouraged when Jezebel threatened his life that he deceived himself into thinking that he was the only servant of God left (1 Kings 19:1-18). After Peter promised that he'd never leave Jesus' side, he ran with the rest when the Lord was arrested, and a few minutes later become so afraid that he denied even knowing Christ (Matt. 26:31-75). He did so because he was discouraged after seeing the apparent lost cause his Lord's ways had become upon his arrest.

We become discouraged when we make the same mistake that these guys made and start paying more attention to the obstacles than the opportunities. We become discouraged when we start believing Satan, "the father of lies" (John 8:44), instead of the Father "who cannot lie" (Tit. 1:2). And what has the God who cannot lie promised us? He has promised us that our work is not meaningless, so be steadfast and immovable (1 Cor. 15:58). He has promised us that our trials and hardships make us stronger if we allow them (James 1:2-4; Rom. 5:3-5). He has promised us that the hardships we endure seem painful right now, but they cause us to become more righteous later if we allow ourselves to be trained by them (Heb. 12:1-11). Do we believe his promises? Do we? Our actions always prove how strong our faith really is (James 2:14-26).

God can do great things with a heart that is his and a mind that believes it. Joshua and Caleb, the two spies who refused to be discouraged, went on to do great things for God and his people for years afterward. Elijah recovered from his discouragement and went on serving God, and as a result God brought him directly into heaven rather than allowing him to die. Fifty days after a discouraged Peter denied Christ, he converted thousands of people through courageous, strong preaching. All of these men faced what they thought were impossible situations. They had seen no light at the end of the tunnel, no hope whatsoever...but it turns out that they were wrong. Why? Because they forgot that God was with them (Phil. 4:13). Once they remembered that, look at the heights to which they climbed!

What heights can you reach with the help of God? What can God do with you? Does he have your heart and mind? Or is the devil having his way with you? ~Jon Mitchell