

Newsletter of the Weatherly Heights Church of Christ

Weatherly Weekly

December 20, 2020

2020 Edition, Number 51

Excellence in Marriage

Michael W. McLemore

The most intimate of human relationships is the one between husbands and wives in our marital covenants. With sociologists telling us that more than half of all first marriages are failing, something must be wrong with our thinking. Where is the “excellence” we are building into our roles as mates and parents?

Research tells us that “till death do us part” has been laid aside as an archaic convention in the wedding ceremonies of the modern era. In its place are things like “for as long as our love shall last” or “until our time together is over.” How’s that for being open-ended? For leaving a way out? For some people, what they call “love” doesn’t last into the third month. Their “time together” is hardly enough to unpack.

“Make it easy on yourself” seems to be the rule of thumb for too many today. So in our culture relationships begin with low expectations. Where is the excellence? Among the people of God it must not be so! We must not become shallow in our faith, careless about our charac-

ter, or weak in our commitments. May we never be! We must not betray our spiritual potential and abandon the Divinely appointed path.

Paul charged, “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” *Colossians 3:12-15*. The world may abandon the divine pattern for excellence in marriage, but God’s people must holdfast and not forsake our highest ideals. True enough, we may still fall short of our goals. But we will never achieve them on the path of minimal effort.

Excellence in marriage doesn’t come through shortcuts or along the path of least resistance. By its nature, quality requires exacting standards and attention to detail in every area of life. □

Be Strong and Courageous

OUR FAITH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

By Wilson Adams

It finally happened. It took a pandemic to force us out of our comfort zones, but we are most definitely out. Welcome to a new normal that is anything but normal. Each of us are making our way through the rapids of uncharted waters, as the fluidity of our world changes hourly.

All of which says, if the Gospel is relevant and the church is bigger than a building, now is the time to show it.

I am amazed by the amount of positive things that are happening. For example, gone are social media posts about politics and photos about lunch and, instead, more references to the power and comfort of the Word. By the way, if you need to listen to a lesson in your home, dozens are available. Apparently, Satan doesn’t own all of technology.

Back to the Future

In the fall and winter of 1918, the “Spanish Flu” killed 700,000 Americans. Schools, businesses, and theaters closed. Departments of health urged churches to stop meeting. Most did. As quoted in *The Christian Chronicle*, preacher M.C. Kurfees of Louisville, Kentucky, sent a letter to the members of the Campbell Street church in his city. Kurfees said,

It behooves us to cheerfully submit to this order and to exert all our energies in an earnest and sympathetic effort to cooperate with the benevolent purpose of our government to check the deplorable disease.

Sound familiar?

There were a few dissenting voices citing “we must obey God rather than men.” However, those voices (like a few today) fail to understand one essential truth: this is not a persecution issue. No one is telling us to stop sharing our faith. The powers that be are not trying to keep us from God, but trying to keep us alive. This is not an Acts 4 situation (“they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus”), but a Romans 13 situation (“be in subjection to the governing powers”).

When Jesus gave the great commands (Matt.22), He noted the second (“love your neighbor as yourself”) was like the first (“love the Lord with all your heart”). In fact, in some ways they are intertwined. One of the ways we show our love for our God is in the way we treat those around us. It is hard for a church to have a community reputation for loving people if they ignore health guidelines that place that very community at risk.

None of this is fear-driven, but love driven.

The Religious Right

Jesus had more trouble with the religious “right” than with

anyone. For example, on multiple occasions, they accused Him of disrespecting and violating Holy law by healing on the Sabbath. He was quick to remind His detractors: “God desires mercy, not sacrifice.”

He asked, “Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?” The answer was obvious. However, to do so would constitute work and work violated the seventh day rest-law. Doesn’t matter. Intertwined with loving the Lord is loving your neighbor.

Thus, with the two commandments, it is not either/or, but both. Thus, in times of neighbor crisis, we have tremendous opportunities to live like Jesus. To let lights shine and show - show our neighbors that we live for Him and that we live like Him.

The Present Distress

A similar situation occurs in 1 Corinthians 7 when the apostle suggested that sacred marriage be postponed due to “the present distress.” God is not against marriage — especially since He’s the One who gave it. God is not against saints assembling with others on the First Day—especially since He set that in motion. In both cases, the present distress takes precedent.

Sometimes there are events and challenges beyond our control that leave us with one reasonable choice: do the best you can. This is exactly what Paul instructs us to do: “For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have” (2 Cor.8:12). Translation: do the best you can.

If the Lord Wills

James nailed our predicament. “Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit” (4:13). The issue isn’t about planning or profit; the issue is forgetting the contingency clause: “if the Lord wills” (v.15). In other words, make plans, but leave room for His plans.

Think about your life only a few days ago. Anything different?

In all of this, we learn a major truth: We. Are. Not. In. Control. As the world turns and news breaks, believers rest in peace knowing that God is still on the Throne and that He holds all of us in His hands.

May our Lord take care of us and use this pandemic as a way to gain our attention. One thing for sure, our faith has left the building. □

Pressing On Magazine, April 2020

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LIVE!

www.weatherlychurch.com



Weatherly Weekly

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Mike & Peggy Coward are better! Mike was released from Crestwood yesterday. They are traveling to Clinton, Arkansas today where Mike will enter the rehab at a facility where his son, **Keith Coward**, is the director and attending physician. We are thankful that he will have excellent care there and will be able to regain his strength. Pray for their trip.

Ron Harmon fell Friday morning while trying to get out of bed for the day. He ended up at Crestwood's emergency room. Ron had two scans that ultimately showed no sign of concerning injury. We are thankful. **Phyllis & Ron** got home late Friday night.

Peggy Shelton continues to recover at home from COVID. Please continue to pray for her. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Bill & Nancy McCord are home. Bill retrieved her from her long visit to Florida.

Denny & Ellen Freeman, who labored with us at Weatherly some years back, have both been diagnosed with COVID. Denny is responding to medications and dealing with the exhausting effects of the virus. Ellen is a bit further behind Denny in the progress of the virus. Her symptoms are increasing. Please pray for them both.

Sue & Collis Terry's granddaughter, **Addie**, remains in our prayers.

Julie Singleton's grandmother, **Madelene Britnell**, was diagnosed with COVID at her long term care facility in Madison. The family is understandably very concerned. Pray for sister Britnell.

Lon Porch, longtime friend of many here at Weatherly, passed away on Friday after a long battle with COVID. Please pray for his wife, **Janet**, and their entire family. It is a great loss to our community.

We have no late negative reports on others connected to us at Weatherly that are getting over COVID. We are thankful that everyone seems to be recovering.

Jimmy Carter, Kim Barnett's brother, remains in ICU at Huntsville Hospital. Pray for him and those who love him.

Please pray for those who are confined to assisted living facilities and memory care — **Louis Garrett, Laura Phillips, Jim Risner, Lane Roberts, Dot Summers.** ☐

Daily Prayer List:

Betty Reavis **Laura Phillips**
Melvin Godette **Glenda Cavender**
Steven Guice **Dot Summers**

WEATHERLY UPDATES

This Week at Weatherly:

Sunday Morning Bible Study will begin at 9:00 — Join us for Mike's streamed Bible class on **Recognizing Daily Needs** from James.

Sunday morning worship will begin at 10. Mike is continuing his December series entitled **Jesus in Action**. His sermon is entitled **Set Free!** His text is **Mark 5**.

Sunday Evening "Virtual Devo" will begin on Zoom at 7 pm. We will email a link Sunday.

Wednesday Bible Study — Mike will continue his four week exposition of **The book of Jude**. We stream at 7. No public assembly Wednesday. ☐

Forgiving Others

Michael W. McLemore

If the Lord had the same attitude of intolerance toward us as sinners against Him as we manifest toward our fellowmen and brethren as sinners against us, He would long ago have destroyed us from off the face of the earth! That truth should be a frightening prospect indeed.

Sir Arthur W. Pinero once said, "It is only a step from toleration to forgiveness." Forgiveness is the only hope of mankind. But for the grace of God, we would all spend eternity in hell. All are sinners and the wages of sin is eternal death. Only through the forgiveness of God can we stand before Him in judgment justified.

But, our forgiveness by God is predicated upon our own willingness to graciously forgive the sins of others against us — "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors," *Matthew 6:2*. Commenting on this part of the model prayer, Jesus said, "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses," *Matthew 6:14-15*.

Sinning against God, we sin against one "in whom is no sin." Surely if a sinless God can forgive sins against Himself, I who claims to be His child can forgive my fellowman his transgressions against me. We must cultivate a spirit of "bearing with" one another and "forgiving one another" if we are to be forgiven. ☐

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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Weatherly Heights
CHURCH OF CHRIST

930 Weatherly Road SE
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

Mailing:

P.O. Box 4619
Huntsville, Alabama 35815

Phone: 256 881-9535

Email: contactus@weatherlychurch.com

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 am
Sunday AM Assembly 10:00 am
Sunday PM Assembly 5:00 pm
Wednesday Classes 7:00 pm

Stay informed and engaged online at
www.weatherlychurch.com

WATCH:

LIVE Sermon archive or
live stream during
all Weatherly services



Weatherly's Shepherds

Tommy Hill 256 883-0010
Will Starks 256 883-5273

Evangelist

Michael W. McLemore 256 698-5941
Email: mmclemore@weatherlychurch.com

Weatherly's Deacons

Phil Furlough **Steve Hagewood**
Ron Harmon **Kirk Hatcher**
David Jacks **Hill Roberts**
Collis Terry **Bobby Wright**



These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, December 20

Welcome: **Mike McLemore**
Song Leader: **Jared Jimison**
Opening Prayer:
Scripture Reading:

Sermon: **Mark 5**
Mike McLemore
Jesus in Action: Set Free

Closing Prayer:

Sunday, December 27

Mike McLemore
Jared Jimison

Mark 16
Mike McLemore
Jesus in Action: He's Alive!

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz **CANCELLED** **CANCELLED**

Songs Leader:
Opening Prayer: **Virtual Devotion on ZOOM** **Virtual Devotion on ZOOM**
Closing Prayer:

Wednesday, December 23

Songs Leader:
Invitation: **Streamed Bible Study** **Streamed Bible Study**
Closing Prayer:

None

2021 Planning Underway

Quarterly Adult Classes

October – December 2020

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

Recognizing Daily Needs
Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

Jude: Contend with Mercy
Mike McLemore

Serving in December

Serving on the Lord's
Table AM
**** Overseer**

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Lord's Supper PM

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Communion Prep
Building Lockup

DECEMBER & JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



DECEMBER 20, 2020

12-23	Charles Hill	12-25	Betty Reavis
12-26	Phil Furlough	12-27	Searcy Hall
12-29	Peggy Coward	12-29	Gene Preston
1-1	Sharon Dubose	1-3	Laura McKnight
1-4	Isabella Hatcher	1-6	Keria Godette
11-9	Wes Caudle	1-7	Bobby Wright
1-11	Elena Hagewood	1-11	Margaret Smith
		1-15	Xavier Cole

