

January 31, 2010

For Your Information ...

Guests! We are especially glad that you have chosen to worship with us this morning. It is our hope that worship is an encouragement to you and that you will have opportunity to return soon. Give us an opportunity to meet you today and introduce ourselves by staying around for coffee in the foyer after the service. Also, please assist us by **filling out the Guest Pad** when it is passed during worship.

Welcome Station: Located in the foyer, our Welcome Station is designed to assist you in understanding the ministry of Redeemer. Please help yourself to the Continuing Vision of Redeemer Presbyterian Church document, our newsletter, the Kerygma (pronounced ke-rig'me), and other materials.

Redeemer Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) and a member of South Texas Presbytery. For more information about Redeemer Church visit: www.redeemersa.org. For more information about the Presbyterian Church in America visit: www.pcanet.org.

Community Groups: Community Groups are fellowships of twelve to twenty people meeting every other week in homes throughout San Antonio. They are the first place where we hope our people turn for applying the gospel to their lives. To find a Community Group, please visit our website, www.redeemersa.org, under Ministries, then Community Groups, to find information on locations and leaders and fill out the online registration form.

Book Table: The books found here are designed to assist you in understanding the Christian life. If you want to purchase a book, please fill out the envelope with money enclosed. Sermon CDs are also available; simply sign up at the table. Make all checks payable to Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

Sunday Schedule

9:15-9:25 a.m. **Prayer**
9:30-10:55 a.m. **Worship**
11:15 a.m. **Christian Education**

Nurseries

Redeemer offers fully staffed nurseries for children ages 3 months to 3 years of age. Redeemer encourages parents to utilize our *Training in the Pews* children's worship time in the cafeteria during each service to better prepare your children, ages 3-5, for worship. All nurseries are at the East end of Edison High School. Room numbers are listed below.

1116—Nursing Mothers
1119—Itty Bitty Babies: 3-7 mos.
1119—Crawlers: 8-12 mos.
1113—Cruisers & Climbers: 13-18 mos.
1120—Younger Toddler: 19-27 mos.
1122—Older Toddler: 28– 36 mos.
Cafeteria—Training the Pews: 3-5 yrs.

Christian Education

1120—Toddler I (age 2)
1122—Toddler II (age 3)
1200—Pre K- K (age 4-5)
1202—Primary I (ages 6-7)
1213—Primary II (ages 8-9)
1215—Junior (ages 10-11)
1219—Jr. High Youth (6th-8th)
1217—Sr. High Youth (9th-12th)
Auditorium—Pastor's Forum (All ages)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Redeemer Presbyterian Church

January 31, 2010

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

In consideration of other worshippers, please program all communication devices to silent mode.
Parents, nurseries are available during the worship service for children ages 3 months to 3 years.
Babies and toddlers are also welcome in the auditorium.

Reflection & Preparation

“There is no use trying to be more spiritual than God. God never meant man to be a purely spiritual creature. That is why He uses material things like bread and wine to put the new life into us. We may think this rather crude and unspiritual. God does not: He invented eating. He likes matter. He invented it... I know some muddle-headed Christians have talked as if Christianity thought that sex, or the body, or pleasure, were bad in themselves. But they were wrong...” C. S. Lewis

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer. 1 Timothy 4:1-5

Welcome and Announcements

Mr. John Ames

Prelude

Call to Worship

The Rev. Thomas C. Gibbs

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is holy:

People: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Minister: If you shall seek the Lord your God, you shall find Him, if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

*Hymn of Adoration

Holy, Holy, Holy!

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff has four numbered lines of lyrics. The second staff has three lines of lyrics. The third staff has three lines of lyrics. The fourth staff has three lines of lyrics. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady rhythm.

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord— God Al - might - y!
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark-ness hide thee,
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord— God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pur - i - ty!
God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Words by Reginald Heber; Music by John B. Dykes

***Prayer of Invocation**

Mr. Gibbs

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Heidelberg Catechism[‡], Q. #60

Minister: How are you right with God?

All: **Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is to accept this gift of God with a believing heart.**

[‡] The Heidelberg Catechism originated in Germany in 1562 under the authority of Elector Frederick III, who ruled the most important German province, the Palatinate, from his castle in Heidelberg. He commissioned the preparation of a new catechism for guiding ministers and teachers in instructing people in the Christian faith.

***Song of Praise**

Doxology

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all crea - tures
here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Tune: Old Hundredth, Genevan Psalter

The Law of God

The Rev. Brandon S. Eggar

Minister: Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. And you are to love those who are aliens, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt. Deuteronomy 10:16-19

Public Confession

Minister: Let us confess our sins together.

All: Lord God, eternal and almighty Father, we acknowledge before your holiness that we are poor sinners, born into guilt and in corruption, prone to do evil and unable of our own power to do good. Because of our sin, we endlessly violate your holy commandments. But, O Lord, with heartfelt sorrow we repent and turn away from all our offenses. Have compassion on us, Father of all mercies, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. And in removing our guilt, also grow us daily in the grace of your Holy Spirit, and produce in us the fruits of a life that is pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from John Calvin's Form of Church Prayers, 1542

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

John 3:16-17

Minister: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

***Song of Renewal**

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, 'til life's storm is past;
Safe into the haven guide; receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none, I helpless, hang on Thee;
Leave, oh leave me not alone, support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed, all help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head in the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, are all I want, here more than all I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy Name, I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am; Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art, let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart; for all eternity.

Thou of life the fountain art, let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart; for all eternity.

Words by Charles Wesley; Music by Greg Thompson

Scripture Reading

Mr. and Mrs. Jason Smith

Genesis 1:31; 2:18, 21-25
Colossians 2:13-23

Reader: The Word of the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Extending the Kingdom

Ms. Laura Kaupp

Redeemer's Winter Grace

February 19-20

**Prayers for Redeemer Church,
San Antonio & the World**

Mr. Eggar

***The Greeting of Peace**

Children, ages **three through five**, are dismissed through the rear door and into the cafeteria for to *TRAINING IN THE PEWS*. After the sermon, parents will meet their children in the back of the auditorium so that the children can join their families for communion.

Minister: Let the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts. To this peace we are called as members of a single body. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Sermon

Mr. Gibbs

"Marriage Counseling"

Continuing the Series: The Church In the City
1 Corinthians 7:1-40

A Word About Communion at Redeemer:

This is a time for all people to seek the Lord. For Christians, Communion (also called The Lord's Supper or The Eucharist, which means 'thanksgiving') is a time to meet with their Savior by faith, to be strengthened and renewed by Him as they partake of the elements. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, are at peace with their fellow neighbor, and seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ, are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer and to consider more deeply your relationship to Jesus Christ. We also ask that children who have not yet publicly professed their faith in Christ refrain from partaking until doing so.

The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to our Lord God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Minister: It is indeed good, right, and our delight that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and singing:

All:

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Ho-ly is the Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly,
 Ho-ly is the Lord. Ho-ly is the Fa - ther, Ho-ly is the Son,
 Ho-ly is the Spir - it; Bless-ed Three in One. Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly,
 Ho-ly is the Lord. Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Ho-ly is the Lord.

Music by Franz Schubert; Arranged by Tom Fettke

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again! Hallelujah!

Minister: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Holy Communion

Upon usher's direction, starting front to back, please exit and form a line in front of your section. Return to your seat using the opposite aisle from which you exited. After partaking, place your cup in the baskets provided on the aisles. Please use our communion time to sing and/or meditate as communion is being served.

During the distribution of the elements, an elder or pastor of Redeemer is available to pray with you at the rear of the auditorium if you so desire.

Prayers for Those Not Communing

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life that you promise. Amen. **Prayer of Searching for Truth**

Lord, Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my savior. Amen. **Prayer of Believing on Jesus**

Lord, Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me, and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the pioneer and champion of my faith. Amen. **Prayer of Struggling Against Sin**

Songs of Communion

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!

1. Je - sus! what a Friend for sin - ners!
 2. Je - sus! what a strength in weak - ness!
 3. Je - sus! what a help in sor - row!
 4. Je - sus! what a guide and keep - er!
 5. Je - sus! I do now re - ceive him,

Je - sus! lov - er of my soul;
 Let me hide my - self in him;
 While the bil - lows o'er me roll,
 While the tem - pest still is high,
 more than all in him I find;

friends may fail me, foes as - sail me,
 tempt - ed, tried, and some - times fail - ing,
 e - ven when my heart is break - ing,
 storms he hath grant - ed me, night o'er - takes me,
 he for - give - ness,

he, my Sav - ior, makes me whole.
 he, my strength, my vic - t'ry wins.
 he, my com - fort, helps my soul.
 he, my pi - lot, hears my cry.
 I am his, and he is mine.

Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Sav - ior!
 Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Friend!
 Sav - ing, help - ing, keep - ing, lov - ing,
 he is with me to the end.

Words by J. Wilbur Chapman; Music by Rowland Hugh Pritchard

You Are My King

I'm forgiven, because You were forsaken;
I'm accepted, You were condemned;
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because you died and rose again. (Repeat)

Chorus:

Amazing love, how can it be
That You my king would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true,
And it's my joy to honor You.
In all I do I honor You.

You are my king. You are my king.
Jesus, You are my king. Jesus, You are my king. (Repeat Chorus)

Words and music by Billy James Foote

I'll Fly Away

Some glad morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away.
To a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away.

*I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away.
When I die, hallelujah by and by, I'll fly away.*

When the shadows of this life have grown, I'll fly away.
Like a bird from prison bars have flown, I'll fly away. (chorus)

O how glad and happy when we meet, I'll fly away.
No more cold iron shackles on my feet, I'll fly away. (chorus)

Just a few more weary days and then, I'll fly away.
To a land where joys will never end, I'll fly away. (chorus 2x)

Words and Music by Albert E. Brumley

The Offering

Hymn of Blessing

O Day of Rest and Gladness

O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright:
On Thee, the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
Sing holy, holy, holy, to the great God Triune.

On Thee, at the creation, the light first had its birth;
On Thee, for our salvation, Christ rose from depths of earth;
On Thee, our Lord, victorious, the Spirit sent from heav'n,
And thus on Thee, most glorious, a triple light was giv'n.

Thou art a port protected from storms that round us rise;
A garden intersected with streams of paradise;
Thou art a cooling fountain in life's dry dreary sand;
From Thee, like Pisgah's mountain, we view our promised land.

Today on weary nations the heav'nly manna falls;
To holy convocations the silver trumpet calls,
Where gospel light is glowing with pure and radiant beams,
And living water flowing, with soul-refreshing streams.

New graces ever gaining from this, our day of rest,
We reach the rest remaining to spirits of the blessed.
To Holy Ghost be praises, to Father, and to Son;
The church her voice upraises to Thee, blessed Three in One.

To Holy Ghost be praises, to Father, and to Son;
The church her voice upraises to Thee, blessed Three in One.

Words by Christopher Wadsworth; Music by Christopher Miner

***Benediction**

Mr. Gibbs

Minister: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord turn his face to you and give you his peace.

Postlude

**The Congregation Stands*

*Senior Pastor: Rev. Thomas C. Gibbs
Associate Pastor: Rev. Brandon S. Eggar
Assistant Pastor: Rev. Victor R. Martinez
Director of Music Ministries: Dr. Brent M. Watkins*

*Musicians: Brent Watkins, piano; Caleb Smith, guitar;
Michael Shay, trombone; Zach Ellis, bass; Jim Dante, flute;
Song Leaders: Stacy Van Klaveren, Caleb Smith*

(Music printed by permission: CCLI # 2357621)

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REDEEMER Highlights.....January 31, 2010

This Week

Today		Haiti Relief Offering: To provide our congregation the opportunity to aid the relief efforts in Haiti, there will be a special offering the next two Sundays. The offering will be dispersed among two agencies that are familiar to our congregation: "The Children's Hunger Fund" and "Mission to the World" (MTW, PCA). Make check out to Redeemer.
Today	12:00-1:30 p.m.	All Youth Field Day: Bring a change of clothes and sack lunch. Adults welcome also!
Tonight	6:00-7:15 p.m.	Intro to Christian Theology: At the church office. This is the last class.
Monday		\$100 Sr. High Deposit Due: For the retreat to Colorado, June 13-20. Make checks out to Redeemer.
Tuesday	6:30-7:30 a.m.	Men's Downtown Breakfast: At Mi Tierra in Market Square, 218 Produce Row, 78207. Victor Martinez will lead the group on "Faithfulness in Uncertain Times: Studies on 2 Timothy." Contact Bowman Williams, 860-5404, or John Ames, 725-3630 for more info.
Wednesday	10:00-11:30 a.m.	Women's Morning Bible Study: At Alamo Heights UMC, 825 E. Basse, Rm. S107.
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Young Professionals 1st Wednesday: At the Harrison home, 110 La Jara, 78209, for a night of worship, fellowship, and Bible study. For more info, call 930-4480.
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Play Group: Let's go Rodeo! Meet to carpool at the Eller home on Fort Sam Houston and head to see the animals. Call Kristen Eller at 834-8010. Cost is \$7/adult and \$3 for ages 2+.
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Men's Pub Night: At the Lion and the Rose at Blanco and 410, 842 NW 410, 78209. Contact Marc Hadler, 542-4392, for more info.

Upcoming Events

Ongoing		Elder/Deacon Nominations: During the month of February, the Session of RPC shall receive nominations from the congregation for the 2013 class of ruling elders and deacons, respectively. Nomination forms will be available in February. Please begin prayerful consideration regarding who should serve in these capacities.
February 7		Congregational Meeting: Immediately following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to present Redeemer's 2010 Budget for Ministry.
February 7		Redeemer's 7th Anniversary Celebration: Immediately after the congregational meeting.
February 7	5:00 p.m.	Youth Super Bowl Party: At the Whyte home, 1219 Sand Wedge, 78258. Call Matt Beham for more information, 508-7662. Bring \$1 and a friend.
February 13	5:00-10:00 p.m.	Valentine's Babysitting: The Youth and Children's Ministries will offer babysitting for children ages 2 to 11. Location TBD. Pickup and drop off anytime between 5-10pm. Pizza and crafts provided. Donations are welcome, and will go towards funding youth retreats for 2010.
February 14	6:00-7:15pm	The Doctrine of the Church: At the church office. 12-lesson leadership training class that is open to anyone, and required for those desiring to become deacons, elders, or leaders of Redeemer Women' Ministries. Sign up in the bulletin flyer.
February 19-20		Winter Grace Women's Retreat: "Which Voice Are You Listening To? The Call of Wisdom in Proverbs." Speaker: Kathleen Nielson. 6-9 pm Friday, and 9 am-noon on Saturday. Childcare provided. \$16/person or \$20 at the door. There will be a registration table in the foyer today.
February 19-21		Sr. High Youth Retreat: To TBarM, Lake Travis. Call Matt Beham for more info, 508-7662.

Making Contact

Administrative.....Harriet Peavy, Heather Rudd, 930-4480
Book Table/ Media Brandon Eggar 930-4480
Children's Ministries.....Jill Higey, 930-4480
Clerk of the Session.....Brandon Eggar, 930-4480
Community Life & MembershipBrandon Eggar, 930-4480
Financial (church)..... Bob George, 822- 2016
Local Missions..... Victor Martinez, 930-4480
Men's Ministries.....Jeff Judson, 822-1292; Henry Sauer, 310-6542
Mercy/ Financial Aid.....Wes Bright, 826-3100
Mission, Cultural Engagement & OutreachVictor Martinez, 930-4480
Music Ministry.....Brent Watkins, 785-0912
Pastoral Care.....Tom Gibbs, 930-4480
Reformed University Fellowship (RUF).....Justin Clement, 930-4480
Training in the Pews.....Ralph and Debbie Shay, 488-2561
Usher/ Greeter Coordination.....Wes Bright, 826-3100
Women's Ministries.....Ann Bingham, 930-4503; Tara Gibbs, 930-4974
World Missions.....Elizabeth Bright, 995-3600
Worship/ Event Assistance.....Ken Harrison, 828-8864
Young Professionals Community.....Brandon Eggar, 930-4480
YouthMatthew Beham, 930-4480
Redeemer Prayer Requests.....930-4480, ext. 330

Redeemer Presbyterian Church
3737 Broadway, Suite 300 ~ San Antonio, TX 78209
210-930-4480 ~ fax: 210-930-4481 ~ www.redeemersa.org

Serving Today

Worship Set-up/Take Down: Ken Hamison, David Dillon, Andrew Douglas, Chris Duvall, Gordon Zeigler
Greeters: Terry George, Matt & Haley Beham, Carter & Elizabeth King, Walt & Annie Mays
Communion Set-up/Take Down: Sara Ames, Patty Malott
Nursery Set-up/Take Down: Erick & Laura Marion Faul, Bebe Casey
Nursery Greeter: Tabitha Whyte
Itty Bitty Babies: Mary Williams; *Crawlers:* Chris & Erin Specia
Cruisers & Climbers: Aaron & Sarah Gill
Younger Toddlers: Liz & Craig Goedecke; *Older Toddlers:* Jeannie & Gabby Martinez
Training in the Pews: Tobin & Gina Walker, Joao & Paula Chaves
Cookies: Linda Zeigler, Debra Wagner

Serving Next Week

Worship Set-up/Take Down: Henry Sauer, Justin Talarico, Brian Fishero, Edward Franssen, Ben Bingham
Greeters: Jason Higey, Chris & Laura Sanders, Josh & Amanda Brack, Jeff & Nicky Sewell
Communion Set-up/Take Down: Joe & Carolyn Liller
Nursery Set-up/Take Down: Dan Whyte, The Laxton Family
Nursery Greeter: Meredith Moza
Itty Bitty Babies: Carter & Elizabeth King; *Crawlers:* Brandon & Elizabeth Woods
Cruisers & Climbers: Bernard & Georgianna Hildebrand
Younger Toddlers: Wes & Elizabeth Bright; *Older Toddlers:* Don & Connie Hendrix
Training in the Pews: Ralph & Debbie Shay, Larry & Brandi Rickels
Cookies: Redeemer Bakers

Redeemer Staff

Tom Gibbs, Senior Pastor
Brandon Eggar, Associate Pastor
Victor Martinez, Assistant Pastor
Justin Clement, RUF Pastor at Trinity
Brent Watkins, Music Ministries Director
Jill Higey, Children's Ministries Director
Matt Beham, Youth Director
Harriet Peavy, Office Administrator
Heather Rudd, Assistant Administrator

Session

Josh Alley, RE
Brandon Eggar, TE, Clerk
John Fitch, RE
Tom Gibbs, TE, Moderator
Jeff Judson, RE
Jason Register, RE
Bowman Williams, RE

Diaconate

Wes Bright, Chairman
Bob George, Treasurer
Jake Gray
Ken Harrison
Henry Sauer
Jeremy Whitley

“Marriage Counseling”

¹ Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman."
² But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. ³ The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴ For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. ⁵ Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. ⁶ Now as a concession, not a command, I say this. ⁷ I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. ⁸ To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am. ⁹ But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion. ¹⁰ To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband ¹¹(but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife. ¹² To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. ¹³ If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. ¹⁵ But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. ¹⁶ Wife, how do you know whether you will save your husband? Husband, how do you know whether you will save your wife? ¹⁷ Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. ¹⁸ Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. ¹⁹ For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. ²⁰ Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. ²¹ Were you a slave when called? Do not be concerned about it. But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity. ²² For he who was called in the Lord as a slave is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a slave of Christ. ²³ You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men. ²⁴ So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God. ²⁵ Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. ²⁶ I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. ²⁷ Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. ²⁸ But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. ²⁹ This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, ³⁰ and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, ³¹ and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. ³² I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. ³³ But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, ³⁴ and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. ³⁵ I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord. ³⁶ If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and it has to be, let him do as he wishes: let them marry- it is no sin. ³⁷ But whoever is firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his betrothed, he will do well. ³⁸ So then he who marries his betrothed does well, and he who refrains from marriage will do even better. ³⁹ A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. ⁴⁰ Yet in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 7:1-40