

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00 a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia
Don Iverson.....India
Marc Veary.....Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald..Scotland
J. Paguaga....Honduras, C.A.
Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

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www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

First Corinthians 7:32-38

Concerning Virgins (Part 2)

Brian R. Kenyon

In First Corinthians 7:25, Paul began a section with specific instructions concerning virgins. Paul's inspired judgment was that virgins remain unmarried (1 Cor. 7:25-28). The reason why Paul advised this was because of the "present distress" (1 Cor. 7:26, 28), which was most likely persecution related. However, if someone married, he or she was not in sin (1 Cor. 7:28). Paul added that the situation in Corinth especially necessitated that Christians be not so preoccupied with temporal affairs that they lose track of serving the Lord (1 Cor. 7:29-31). Paul finished this section on virgins by giving truths that are particularly relevant today.

Serving the Lord without Distraction

By writing, "I want you to be without care [without carefulness, KJV; free from anxieties, ESV]" (1 Cor. 7:32a), Paul was letting the Corinthians know that he did not advise remaining single out of meanness, but he wanted them to be free from added distress (cf. 1 Cor. 7:27-28). Paul continued, "He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord. ³³But he who is married cares about the things of the world—how he may please his wife. ³⁴There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world—how she may please her husband" (1 Cor. 7:32b-34). In these verses, Paul revealed two important truths.

First, Paul pointed out that a person without the added responsibilities of a spouse and family would be less distracted from serving the Lord. "Cares [is careful, ASV; is concerned, NAS; is anxious, ESV] for the things of the Lord" (1 Cor. 7:32a, 34a) was a way of saying that this person was more focused on the Lord. Thus, he or she was better able to be acceptable to the Lord because the unmarried do not have the added concerns of family. "She may be holy both in body and in spirit" (1 Cor. 7:34a) is not saying that a virgin is more righteous than a wife. "Holy" here refers to consecration rather than moral purity (cf. 1 Cor. 7:14). Instead, Paul was saying that a virgin's consecration was unmodified by family responsibilities.

Second, a person with the responsibilities of a family must divide his or her concern between the Lord and his or her family. "Things of the world" (1 Cor. 7:33a) was not speaking of worldliness, but, in contrast to the "things of the Lord," was speaking of temporal matters, such as providing for and protecting *(continued on page 2)*

a person's family. "Please his wife ... please her husband" (1 Cor. 7:33b, 34b) is a "thing of the Lord" (cf. 1 Cor. 7:3-5; Eph. 5:22-28), but in times of persecution, a person's fulfilling marriage responsibilities could become an added burden.

Again, Paul reminded them, "And this I say for your own profit, not that I may put a leash on you, but for what is proper, and that you may serve the Lord without distraction" (1 Cor. 7:35). "Put a leash [cast a snare, KJV; put a restraint, NAS] upon" is from a hunting metaphor whereby one would throw a lasso over an animal to capture it (Morris [quotes Milligan and Moulton] 116). Although the unmarried could better focus on the Lord's work in this "present distress," Paul warned his readers not to turn his inspired counsel into a snare by construing it as a prohibition of marriage (McGarvey 84).

Virgin Daughters Are Best Left Unmarried, But . . .

Paul further instructed, "But if any man thinks he is behaving improperly toward his virgin, if she is past the flower of youth, and thus it must be, let him do what he wishes. He does not sin; let them marry" (1 Cor. 7:36). Although some consider the "man" and the "virgin" to refer to a young man and his fiancée, this view reflects more of today's American custom rather than the first century setting of Paul. In Biblical times, and in some societies today, fathers controlled the marriage of their daughters. Betrothal among Jews and Romans was much more involved than marriage "engagements" today. To the Jews, betrothal was more like the first stage in a marriage (cf. Deut. 22:23-24; Mt. 1:18-20), which could only be broken by the divorce process.

If a father was convinced that not allowing his daughter to marry was doing her an injustice or subjecting her to dangerous sexual temptation (cf. 1 Cor. 7:2), then he should allow her to marry. "Behaving improperly [uncomely, KJV; acting unbecomingly, NAS]" means to behave disgracefully, dishonorably, or indecently. "Past the flower of her youth [past her youth, NAS; his passions are strong, ESV]" is from a Greek word that means "past one's prime, marriageable age; the bloom of youth" (Bauer 795), but can also mean, when referring to men, "having strong passions" (Newman 187). In this case, neither the virgin daughter nor the father who gives her in marriage has sinned!

However, if a father detected no such danger in not allowing his daughter to marry, he did right by keeping her a virgin. Paul said, "Nevertheless he who stands steadfast in his heart, having no necessity, but has power over his own will, and has so determined in his heart that he will keep his virgin, does well" (1 Cor. 7:37). "Steadfast [stands firm, NAS; firmly established, ESV] in his heart" means to be firmly convinced that his daughter was not subject to dangerous sexual desire (cf. 1 Cor. 7:1-2). Thus, the father had no compelling reason to give his daughter in marriage. He had "power over his own will" in that the decision was purely his own, without being forced by her dangerous sexual desires. Paul concluded by saying, "So then he who gives her in marriage does well, but he who does not give her in marriage does better" (1 Cor. 7:38). In other words, although the father did right by allowing his virgin daughter to marry, he did even better by not giving her in marriage!

Conclusion

There are two major lessons we can learn from this section in First Corinthians 7. First, our main priority must be the Lord. While it is true that marriage is honorable for all who Scripturally qualify (Heb. 13:4), there are times, especially when facing severe trials, that marriage can result in unfaithfulness to God. Second, parents can sometimes be so overbearing on their children that they drive them to severe temptation. There is a reason Paul advised the father whose daughter was "past the flower of her youth" to allow her to marry. His refusal could very easily put her in a situation where the temptation to sexual sin would be much stronger (cf. 1 Cor. 7:2, 9). Parents must not make unrealistic demands on their children once they reach a certain level of maturity. May God give us wisdom! May we always keep the Lord first and base all our judgments upon the truth of His word! *AE Brian*

Works Cited

- Bauer, Walter. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 2nd rev. ed. Eds. William F. Arndt, F. Wilbur Gingrich, and Frederick W. Danker. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979.
- McGarvey, J. W. *Thessalonians, Corinthians, Galatians, and Romans*. Cincinnati, OH: Standard, n. d.
- Morris, Leon. *The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1985.
- Newman, Barclay M., Jr. "A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament." Stuttgart, Germany: UBS, 1993.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Ginny Hamby, Brenda Murray, Wayne Shearer, Sharon Washington, Dorothy Trice, Faith West, Jim Turner, and Margaret Coone.

Shut In Members: Carol Eason, Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage and Cheryl Barker.

Others: Wayne Shearer's parents, Paulisky Irizarry, Sandra Hutchins, Lynn Stevens, Chrissi Fuesner, Bobby Cole, Kim, (Daniel Stump's cousin), Paula (Brenda Murray's daughter), Gloria Nelson (former member), Debbie Bush's son, Linda Sheffield (Ginny Hamby's sister in law), Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert, Peggy Nabors (member at Orange Street), Richard Coone (Margaret's brother), and Bob Shaw (fiance to Wayne Shearer's sister).

Upcoming Events

Saturday March 2nd: Ladies Day at the church of Christ of Venice at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday March 3rd: Fellowship In-Service after evening service.

Saturday March 9th: Youth group devo & service project

Saturday March 9th: Ladies Day at the Maricamp Road church of Christ in Ocala at 8:30 a.m.

March 10th-14th: Spring Gospel Meeting at the Sixth Street church of Christ. The speaker will be Bill Davis.

March 10th-13th: PTP Spark weekend, Orange Park, FL

Saturday, March 16th: Men's breakfast/Semi-annual picnic & singing Jackson Ave church of Christ

Saturday, March 30th: Door knocking for gospel meeting

March 31-April 3rd: SFA's Spring Gospel Meeting with Lee Jamieson.

Visitors

John Midulla, Cornelius Entwistle, Alex Szabo, Loretta Jackson, Jeff & Christi Krantz, Denise Wilson, Jack & Donna Martin, Jeff Childers

~ Communion to Shut-ins ~

March 3rd.....Shearer

We still need Volunteers!!

Watch . . .



In Search of the Lord's Way

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings



Tune into AM 1330 (station WWAB) with your friends and neighbors every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. for the "Way of Truth" program. This is a joint effort to evangelize involving Terrance Brownlow-Dindy (6th Street) and Hiram Kemp. Let's point our community to the Bible!

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

March

David Anderson **Table** Kyle Faneuf
Jeff Bingle **Assist** Frank Hamby

Sunday, March 3, 2019
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Tucker Sweeney
Prayer..... Josh Estridge
10:30 A.M.

Announcements Matt Willcut
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Jimmy Sweeney
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Wayne Shearer
Sound Booth..... Phil Fife

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Alex Parramore
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Casey Paulin
Sound Booth..... Phil Fife
Greeters McCarter/Bingle
Att. Cards..... Colby/Sawyer
Open & Close Building Wayne Shearer

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Song Leader..... Tucker Sweeney
Opening Prayer..... Kenny French
Closing Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Stacey Paulin so he can get a replacement - (863) 838-8911

Sunday, March 10 2019
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Paul Romine
Prayer..... David Williams
10:30 A.M.

Announcements Matt Willcut
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... John McShane
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Wadi Khoury
Sound Booth..... Casey Paulin

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Kenny French
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Alex Parramore
Sound Booth..... Casey Paulin
Greeters Dix/McShane
Att. Cards..... Willcut boys
Open & Close Building Wayne Shearer

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Song Leader..... Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer..... Kyle Bingle
Closing Prayer..... Charles Paulin

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Feb. 03.....\$6,846.75
Feb. 10.....\$12,749.03
Feb. 17.....\$4,789.25
Feb. 24\$7,291.13
Contribution Average..... \$6,878.93
Weekly Budget..... \$6,524.52



New Member Spotlight

Amanda Faneuf



Amanda was born in Winter Haven, and grew up on a 200 acre farm in Davenport, Florida. As a child she wanted to be a mommy and teacher. Her first job was at a Western wear store. She currently serves as a part-time parent at a children's home. In her free time, she likes to go shopping and spend time with family and other children. She also enjoys hunting, 4-wheeling, fishing, and being at he family farm. The best advice she's been given is "Never frown. You don't know who's falling in love with your smile." That person happened to be Kyle, her husband.



Member Spotlight

Jagie Kenyon



Jagie was born in Miami, and moved to Lakeland when she was in middle school. As a child she wanted to be a photographer. Her first job was in a day care/preschool. She currently works as an on-the-go homemaker, part-time FSOP secretary, and occasional photographer. She speaks Spanish. When she has free time, she likes to take pictures, watch movies, and be with family. The best advice she's been given is "See others like Jesus sees them," and, from her mother: "Don't be sorry; be careful." She and her husband, Brian, have 6 children and 4 grandchildren.



South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST
1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

We Had A Spiritually Up-Lifting Time @ YES Weekend! Thanks To All Who Helped!



Save the Date: Spring Gospel Meeting
March 31 - April 3 at South Florida Avenue



THINK SOULS! Let's invite our family, neighbors, and friends to Bible classes, church services and/or one-on-one personal Bible studies.

Another Great Opportunity To Grow Spiritually

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|---------------|---|
| SAVE THE DATE | |
| PTP SPARK | 3.10-3.13 2019 |
| | ORANGE PARK, FLORIDA Lakeside church of Christ |