

How Did You Do This Week?

Did you assemble with your Brethren?

Lord's Day Morning _____

Lord's Day Evening _____

Thursday Prayer Meeting _____

Did you begin each day with Devotions?

Mon _____

Tue _____

Wed _____

Thu _____

Fri _____

Sat _____

Did you practice Daily Christianity?

Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Rejoicing _____

Confessing _____

Forgiving _____

Denying _____

Committing _____

Studying _____

Praying _____

Listening _____

Obeying _____

Exhorting _____

Did you serve the Lord your God?

In Giving _____

In Helping _____

In Witnessing _____

In Participating _____

In Fellowship _____

THE KOBC MISSION

The Knotty Oak Baptist Church is an Independent Baptist Church incorporated under the laws of the state of Rhode Island for the purpose of fulfilling the plan of God for the local church as it is revealed in the New Testament. We not only believe the Bible, but also seek to properly make a deep and thorough application of each of its precepts.

As such, the Knotty Oak Baptist Church seeks to glorify God in all that it does. This includes the governing By-Laws, the corporate worship, the various ministries, the social activities, the teaching program, the church ordinances, and the property maintenance. We believe that everything we do should be done to the glory of God, with a view toward evangelism and discipleship.

Because of this, the Knotty Oak Baptist Church seeks to be informal, yet reverent in its approach to worship; thorough, yet practical in its preaching and teaching; Biblical, yet patient in its expectations for the believers. We believe that inward submission leads to outward obedience, and thus, the greater emphasis should be placed on the development of the inner man, through the Word of God.

In view of the preceding principles, the Knotty Oak Baptist Church expects every member to be participating in the plan of God for the church, to do so with the proper motive, and to grow in Christian virtue, the knowledge of the Scriptures, the grace of God, the fruit of the Spirit, and in the likeness of our Lord Jesus Christ, of, by, and through Whom are all things.

May God Be Glorified!

Pastor Chris

Word Search

Matthew 1:18-25

E W V T T A D F K K A M A R Y L E
 S E U M D W E P I P C P M C M B L
 P U E N J Z T N T R A I Z Y W Z P
 O R E P Z D E D O Z S U L O G Z M
 U Q O L S B R H W U R T B B C U A
 S X D P P U P F P D N A B S U H X
 E I Q P H O R A I S E D Y O V P E
 D Q Q V L E E B B D B L C N R P G
 T H O U G H T P E E I R H E Q N V
 D L O H E B N V M V Z J R K B N J
 G G O B P I I M I B E Y I O I A W
 I S F E G E A R J S I Z S P R M C
 Q H E R C N P O U Z D D T S T T K
 O L I N U D S S T I H I D S H S D
 S V O E O E B I R T D G V E Q O U
 H C L H P L E G N A L E I A N H Y
 G R D H T G F U L F I L L E D G L

ANGEL	EXCEEDINGLY	MERCIFUL
BEHOLD	EXAMPLE	PRAYED
BIDDEN	FIRSTBORN	REPENTEST
BIRTH	FULFILLED	SAYING
CHRIST	GHOST	SLOW
CONCEIVED	HUSBAND	TARSHISH
DAVID	INTERPRETED	THEREFORE
EMMANUEL	JESUS	VERY
ESPOUSED	JOSEPH	VIRGIN

Personal Prayer List For The Week

Personal Requests

“Let your requests
be made known unto God”

Salvation Requests

“My prayer to God ...
is that they might be saved”

Leadership Requests

“I exhort therefore, that, prayers ...
be made for all that are in authority

Oswald Chambers

What To Renounce

*“But we have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty.”
II Corinthians 4:2*

Have you “renounced the hidden things of dishonesty”—the things that your sense of honour will not allow to come to the light? You can easily hide them. Is there a thought in your heart about anyone that you would not like to be dragged into the light? Renounce it as soon as it springs up; renounce the whole thing until there is no hidden thing of dishonesty or craftiness about you.

Envy, jealousy, strife—these things arise not necessarily from the disposition of sin, but from the make-up of your body which was used for this kind of thing in days gone by (see Romans 6:19 and 1 Peter 4:1-2): Maintain a continual watchfulness so that nothing of which you would be ashamed arises in your life.

“Not walking in craftiness,” that is, resorting to what will carry your point. This is a great snare. You know that God will only let you work in one way, then be careful never to catch people the other way; God’s blight will be upon you if you do. Others are doing things that to you would be walking in craftiness, but it may not be so with them; God has given you another standpoint.

Never blunt the sense of your Utmost for His Highest. For you to do a certain thing would mean the incoming of craftiness for an end other than the highest, and the blunting of the motive God has given you. Many have gone back because they are afraid of looking at things from God’s standpoint.

Oswald Chambers – My Utmost For His Highest

Prayer Requests For Revival

For the Filling of the Holy Spirit

For Preaching and Teaching
that Exalts the Lord Jesus Christ
and Edifies the Believers

For the Salvation of Souls

For Protection and Provision
for the Shepherds and their Families
Serving in Rhode Island

For the Sending of Labourers

For Love and Kindness
to be Demonstrated by the
Pastors of RI toward one another

For the Training of Faithful Men

For Courage and Strength
needed to Stand for our Saviour
and Obey Him in these Difficult Times

For the Planting of Churches

For Commitment and Contentment
that is Demonstrated by a Real Willingness
to Deny Our selves and Exalt the Saviour

WATCHMAN NEE

Listen For Is What Not Being Said

It frequently happens that a worker, having meditated for a time on a certain spiritual theme, is so full of his thoughts on the subject that when a brother in distress comes to seek his help he immediately brings forth the matter on which he has been meditating. Presently, when a hale and hearty brother comes along, he receives similar treatment; and the same is doled out to all who seek that worker, irrespective of their state.

In Christian work the matter of helping people is more difficult than that of a doctor seeking to relieve the ailments of those who attend his clinic, for he has a laboratory where he can make tests to aid him in his diagnosis of the various cases, whereas the Christian worker has to make his diagnosis without any such aid. When someone comes to you, you must rely on the data they supply you from your listening to them.

It is also important, that when anyone in need talks to us, while they are talking we must discern what they refrain from uttering. Naturally it is more difficult to get a clear registration of unspoken words than of spoken ones, but we must learn to listen so attentively that we discern the inaudible as well as the audible. We all know that people do not always say all they need to say, but the Christian worker must discern what has been unsaid.

When people consult with us about their affairs, it is not unusual for them to tell half the story and refrain from divulging the other half. It is here that the worker's competence is tested. If you are an incompetent worker you will only discern what is audibly expressed; or possibly you will try to read between the lines of the story, inserting your own thoughts, thoughts that were never in the heart of the speaker.

Watchman Nee – The Normal Christian Worker

Our Worship

Psalm 100:3

Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Psalm 96:9

O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.

John 4:23

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

I Peter 2:2

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

James 1:21

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Joshua 1:8

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Matthew 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Galatians 6:9

And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Charles Spurgeon

"My expectation is from him." – Psalm 62:5

It is the believer's privilege to use this language. If he is looking for aught from the world, it is a poor "expectation" indeed. But if he looks to God for the supply of his wants, whether in temporal or spiritual blessings, his "expectation" will not be a vain one. Constantly he may draw from the bank of faith, and get his need supplied out of God's riches.

This I know, I had rather have God for my banker than the shrewdest and wealthiest of men. My Lord never fails to honour his promises; and when we bring them properly to his throne, he never sends them back unanswered. Therefore I will wait only at his door, for he ever opens it with the hand of munificent grace. At this hour I will try him anew.

But we have "expectations" beyond this life. We shall die soon; and then our "expectation is from him." Do we not expect that when we lie upon the bed of sickness he will send angels to carry us to his bosom? We believe that when the pulse is faint, and the heart heaves heavily, an angelic messenger shall stand and look upon us, and whisper, "Sister spirit, come away!"

As we approach the heavenly gate, we expect to hear the welcome invitation, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." We are expecting harps of gold and crowns of glory; we are expecting soon to be amongst the multitude of shining ones standing in awe before the throne!

We are looking forward and longing for the time when we shall be like our glorious Lord—for "We shall see him as he is." *If these be thine "expectations,* O my soul, live for God; live with the desire and resolve to glorify him from whom cometh all thy supplies, and of whose grace in thy election, redemption, and calling, it is that thou hast any "expectation" of glory.

Charles Spurgeon – Morning And Evening Devotions

The Believer And Money

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

I Timothy 6:9

But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Luke 16:10

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

Acts 20:35

How that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Matthew 22:21

Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

I Corinthians 16:2

Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Matthew 10:7-8

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

II Corinthians 8:5

And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

Mark 8:36-37

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Ephesians 4:28

Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

Principles of Prayer

*“Lord, all my desire is before Thee;
and my groaning is not hid from Thee.”*

What a cheering thought! Our inward groanings, our secret desires, our heart-longings, are not hidden from the eyes of Him with whom we have to deal in prayer. The incentive to fervency of spirit before God, is precisely the same as it is for continued and earnest prayer. While fervency is not prayer, yet it derives from an earnest soul, and is precious in the sight of God.

Fervency in prayer is the precursor of what God will do by way of answer. God stands pledged to give us the desire of our hearts in proportion to the fervency of spirit we exhibit, when seeking His face in prayer. Fervency has its seat in the heart, not in the brain, nor in the intellectual faculties of the mind.

Fervency therefore, is not an expression of the intellect. Fervency of spirit is something far transcending poetical fancy or sentimental imagery. It is something else besides mere preference, the contrasting of like with dislike. Fervency is the throb and gesture of the emotional nature. It is not in our power, perhaps, to create fervency of spirit at will, but we can pray God to implant it.

It is ours, then, to nourish and cherish it, to guard it against extinction, to prevent its abatement or decline. The process of personal salvation is not only to pray, to express our desires to God, but to acquire a fervent spirit and seek, by all proper means, to cultivate it. It is never out of place to pray God to beget within us, and to keep alive the spirit of fervent prayer.

Edward McKendree Bounds - The Necessity Of Prayer

December 15 through December 21

Matthew 1:18-25

18. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. 19a. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man,

19b. and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

20a. But while he thought on these things,

20b. behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. 22. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23. Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

24. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: 25. And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*Then Joseph her husband, being a just man ...
Then Joseph ... did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him,
and took unto him his wife:*

Matthew 1:19, 24

This week's devotional focuses on the character of Joseph, the husband of Mary and the step-father of Jesus. Always remember that just as it was necessary that God select a woman that met certain spiritual qualifications to bear the God-man Jesus, so also *the man selected to be her husband must have met certain spiritual criteria* as well.

As you might know, the divorce rate in America is more than fifty percent. In other words, *more than one out of every two* marriages ends in divorce. There are many reasons for this – but I believe the primary reason is this: many individuals are either marrying the wrong person, or they are marrying a person who is not yet spiritually ready for marriage.

For this reason, the case studies of Mary and Joseph are very valuable. For not only do these two set an example of what kind of person God will use and bless, they also exemplify what kind of qualities we should seek in a spouse. But, do not think that Mary and Joseph were unusually rare individuals, for they weren't. They were simply spiritually minded, god-fearing people.

What woman wouldn't want her husband to be a just, kind, thoughtful, temperate, and God-fearing person? This is exactly the kind of man that Joseph was, and he demonstrated these spiritual characteristics under the most unforeseen, extreme, and emotionally painful circumstances. Yet, he did not become vengeful, bitter, or violent. He responded in a right manner.

When we are under great stress, our true spiritual character emerges. Indeed, this is one of the very reasons God allows stressful situations into our lives. And, how we respond to these situations often determines not only *whether* God will bless us – *but also in what way and in what measure* He will do so. Study this episode in Joseph's life – and be challenged!

Daily Application Monday

1. Summarize Matthew 1:18, 19a

2. **a.** When Joseph came to know that Mary was with child, was he facing an easy or difficult situation? **b.** What emotions do you think he was experiencing about what was happening? **c.** Faced with these circumstances, did he now have a decision to make? **d.** According to the Word of God, what kind of a man was Joseph? **e.** Look up the word “just.” What does it mean?

- a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____
e. _____

3. Look up and paraphrase the following verses:
Proverbs 4:18, 19

Proverbs 11:9

Proverbs 20:7

4. The past and future path of a just person reflects a testimony that truly pleases God and blesses others, because the just man will make Scripturally based decisions that are characterized by integrity and affect those around him in a positive way. **T or F?**

5. How may you apply this principle to your life?

Memory Verses From Philippians

1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

1:23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

1:29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

3:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Daily Application

Tuesday

1. Summarize Matthew 1:19b

2. **a.** What could Joseph have done, if he *wanted* to “make her a public example”? **b.** Could Joseph have greatly hurt Mary by doing this? **c.** What is it called when we choose to hurt another person because they hurt us? **d.** Would a man who wanted to do the right thing for God and others ever be seek vengeance? **e.** Do you try to humiliate others or seek vengeance against them?

- a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____
e. _____

3. Look up and paraphrase the following verses:
Deuteronomy 32:35

Romans 12:19

Ephesians 4:26, 27

4. When others hurt us, we are never to take matters into *our hands* and deliberately hurt them (we are not speaking about self-defense), but rather deal with the matter Biblically, seeking to do what is best and right for God and for others. **T or F?**

5. How may you apply this principle to your life?

Our Witness

The Expanded Romans Road To Salvation

Romans 3:19

Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 4:25

Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Romans 14:9

For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

Romans 10:9

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:13

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Romans 6:4

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Daily Application

Wednesday

1. Summarize Matthew 1:20

2. **a.** Should we think with our mind or with our emotions? **b.** What term describes the opposite of “thoughtful”? **c.** What does it mean to act “impetuously” (look it up)? **d.** What takes longer to make – an impetuous decision or a thoughtful decision? **e.** Why do we hurry to make our decisions impetuously, rather than take our time and be thoughtful and considerate?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

3. Look up and paraphrase the following verses:
Proverbs 12:15

Colossians 3:15

Hebrews 4:16

4. Rather than act impetuously when confronted with a decision, we should take the necessary time to seek out the counsel of God and of godly people, discern which path maintains the peace of God, and prayerfully bring the matter to God. **T or F?**

5. How may you apply this principle to your life?

Our Walk

Ten Things We Should Do Every Day

I. Rejoice In The Lord Daily – Psalm 118:24

“This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”

II. Confess Your Sins Daily – Lamentations 3:22-23

It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

III. Forgive Others Daily – Matthew 6:11-12

“Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”

IV. Die To Self Daily – I Corinthians 15:31

“I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.”

V. Take Up Your Cross Daily – Luke 9:23

“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

VI. Study God's Word Daily – Acts 17:11

“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

VII. Pray To The Lord Daily – Psalm 55:17

Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

VIII. Be Sensitive To God Daily – Hebrews 3:7

“Wherefore, as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness.”

IX. Obey The Lord Daily – Psalm 61:8

“So will I sing praise unto thy name for ever, that I may daily perform my vows.”

X. Exhort Others Daily – Hebrews 3:13

“But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

Daily Application

Thursday

1. Summarize Matthew 1:20b-23

2. a. What was Joseph doing when the angel of the Lord appeared to him? b. How could Joseph possibly be asleep at a time like this? c. When is “sleeping on it” a good thing for troubled believers to do? d. What might “sleeping on it” actually prevent a troubled believer from doing? e. What is it that usually prevents troubled believers from “sleeping on it?”

- a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____
e. _____

3. Look up and paraphrase the following verses:
Psalm 4:3, 8

Proverbs 3:6, 13, 17, 24

Acts 12:5, 6

4. When facing difficult decisions, it is important that we learn to bring the matter to the Lord in prayer – rather than worry, trust in Him to guide us – rather than assume the worst, and try to get some sleep, rather than thinking all night. **T or F?**

5. How may you apply this principle to your life?

Salvation of Loved Ones

Alberto Urionaberrenechea

Debbie Monroe	Angela St. Pierre	Mary Lou Ricci
Joyce Plante	Beth Friedman	Dave Fredette
Allan Gladding	Neil Corse	Jeff Corse
Joe Maynard	Bill Arnold	Allyson Bentley
Joseph McDuff	Deidre Plante	Brad Inman
Sharyn Stoff	Alyssa Capuano	Andrew Vickers
Linda Simmons	Stan Lewandowski	Danielle Alves
John Vota	Ruth Arellana	Carolyn Lowe
Helen Anthony	Leslie Hayes	Chris Saroka
April Stovarros	Dave Stovarros	Tracy Testa
Sadie Vasterling	Cesar Alvarez	Christian Bell
Brandon Silva	Cheryl Gagnon	Anne Capalbo
Andy Gallant	Brenda Holland	Jordan Raymond
Dennis Cellemme	Steve Young	Louie Testa
Pauline Hill	Christine Lill	Cory Barter
Aaron Vitiello	Ardella Toolin	Heather Wills
Barbara Parker	Sara Toolin	Scott Duncan
Chris Hamson	Tracy Parker	Ron Wexler
Derek Coderre	Austin Geremia	Chris Schreffler
Allen Thimas	Amanii Thimas	Erica Poxon
Helen Andrews	Robert Oliveira	Cheryl Saroka
Saito Austin	Charles Poxon	Marissa Peck
Vinny Thompson	Nicholas McKaffey	Liz Poirier

Melissa LaFramboise

Jeff	Jewel	Less	Matthew
Arlene	Janice	Daniel	Kanoko
Jeff	Jeremiah	Mike	Karen
Wayne	Martha	Jay	Becky
Sherry	David	Nathan	Danny
Doris	Harold	Albert	Sue
Regina	Albert E.	Renee G.	
Hannah	Gloria		

Daily Application Friday

1. Summarize Matthew 1:24, 25

2. **a.** How could Joseph possibly know that the dream was from the Lord? **b.** Convinced that the dream was of God, what did he proceed to do? **c.** What should we do when we consult the Lord for His wisdom? **d.** What would a *just* man do once God provided the wisdom to him? **e.** Why do we often fail to do the right thing once we know what the right thing is?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

3. Look up and paraphrase the following verses:
Psalm 37:3

Luke 6:46-48

James 4:17

4. When faced with a difficult dilemma, we should diligently seek the Wisdom of God, completely trust His counsel, and quickly obey Him leading – because doing right once we know it will bring us blessing – but failure to do so is a sin. **T or F?**

5. How may you apply this principle to your life?

**The Divine Symbols That Set Forth
The Sacred Beauty Of The Church**

1) The church is the Building of Christ. Its Builder is Jesus “the Rock” and each believer is a “living stone.” As with all buildings, the church has a purpose in the community. Scripture reveals three purposes: to serve as the “conscience of God in the community” (I Timothy 3:15); to live as the “consecrated of God in the community” (I Peter 2:4,5); and to gather as the “convocation of God in the community” (Ephesians 2:19-22).

2) The church is the Brotherhood of Christ. Its Father is God and each believer is a member of His family. As with all families, there should exist a love between members. The Bible defines this love in the following way: a demonstration of a “friendly spirit of love” (II Corinthians 13:11,12); a demonstration of a “fervent spirit of love” (I Peter 1:22); and a demonstration of a “forgiving spirit of love” (Luke 17:3).

3) The church is the Bride of Christ. Jesus is the waiting Husband and the believers are espoused to Him. As with all marriages, a wife should respond to the love of her husband. The Word of God teaches that the believer’s response to Christ, in this context, should be as the following: a “loyalty to Christ” (II Corinthians 11:2); a submissive “love to Christ” (Ephesians 5:32-33); and a “longing for Christ” (Revelation 22:17).

4) The church is the Body of Christ. Jesus is the Head and the believers are the various members. As with any functioning, healthy body, there are certain principles that help maintain functionality. The Lord describes these principles as: “the diversity of its members” (I Corinthians 12:14-24); “the discipline of its members” (Colossians 1:17-18); and “the duty of its members” (Ephesians 4:11-16).

5) The church is the Branches of Christ. Jesus is the Vine and the believers are the branches. As with any fruit-bearing plant, there are certain expectations of the husbandman. The Scriptures teach us that the Lord Jesus expects His branches: to bring forth “plentiful fruit” (John 15:2); to bring forth “pleasant fruit” (Song of Solomon 7:6-13); and to bring forth “pure fruit” (Luke 6:43).

6) The Church is the Beacon of Christ. Jesus is the light of the world, and believers are individual light-bearers. As with any instrument of light, there are certain qualities that enhance the usefulness of the light. The Word of God describes these qualities as: “the shining of the light” (Matthew 5:14-16); “the situation of the light” (Philippians 2:14-16); and “the separation of the light” (Ephesians 5:8-13).

**Daily Application
Saturday**

1. Summarize Matthew 1:18-25

2. Do you realize that it is when you are under stress that you must live what you have learned, doing what you know is right?

3. If you are guilty of the sin of being Christlike *only when things are going your way*, will you repent of this sin?

4. Write out a sample prayer asking God to help you become more Christlike in this area of your life.

5. Let’s Review

When we are put in a difficult situation because of what another person has done, we should never act out of impulse, emotion, or vengeance, but rather take enough time to think about things, consult the Lord in prayer, and let His peace rule in our hearts. Then, when we are sure as to how God wants us to act, we should do so, without hesitation.

What did you learn?
