

STRESSED?

Jeremiah 29:11

Proverbs 29:11

Proverbs 3:5-6

Ephesians 4:26

Ephesians 4:31-32

Matthew 6:19-21

Welcome to our services and thank you for visiting. If you have any questions about our beliefs or practices, please don't hesitate to ask.

God has not only commanded us to worship Him, but has also told us how, in His word. **The elements of our services, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:**

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

- www.defendthegospel.com
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5th Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
- Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

Southside church of Christ, 1167 South Lowry
Smyrna, TN 37167, Phone (615) 459-7854
"They...searched the scriptures daily..." –Acts 17:11

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LOVE YOUR SPOUSE!

Michael Pickford

Ephesians 5:25 says, "Husbands, love your wives." Titus 2:4 tells us that the older women are to, among other things, "Admonish the young women to love their husbands" (Titus 2:4). We must love our spouses!

A Commanded Love. The thought may seem strange to some, but it is actually a command that we love our spouse. Paul commanded the men, "Love your wives." Love isn't just a mushy emotion, as some seem to think. It is that great divine love, agape Love! This type of love by definition is an active love; active good will towards others. Years ago, while speaking to a young man who was divorcing his wife, he told me, "I just don't love her anymore." I encouraged him to understand the command aspect of love. He had never considered that.

A Committed Love. Marital love is also a committed love. We are to be devoted to our spouse. The Husband is told to love his wife even as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25). That's a sacrificial love; for Christ shed His precious blood to purchase the church (Acts 2:28). My commitment for my wife should be so strong that I would gladly give my life for her. A woman once told a counselor, "I really think he would die for me, I just wish he would live for me." If we're not careful, our spouse can simply become a roommate. Merely someone we share a house with. We must be committed to our spouse. Love them. Plan and do things with them. Be interested in their concerns, their desires, their wants and needs (Emotional, physical, and spiritual).

A Consenting Love. Wives are commanded to submit to their husbands. Not with an, "Ok, fine, you're the boss, whatever you say" attitude; but submission with respect (Ephesians 5:22). "Let each of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband" (Ephesians 5:33). This consent and submission must also be present in the romantic, sexual aspect of the marriage. Paul deals with this in 1 Corinthians 7:1-5. "Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband" (vs. 3). "Do not deprive one another..." (vs. 5). The sexual aspect of marriage isn't a tool to be used for manipulation or punishment. It is an honorable privilege granted only to a man and woman who are married to one another, and they should be happy to consent to it (Hebrews 13:4). ☺

WHAT IS LENT?

Michael Pickford

"Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. The purpose is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ - his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection." (<http://christianity.about.com/od/holidaytips/qt/whatislent.htm>).

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which generally occurs 46 days before Easter. Lent itself is a 40 day period of fasting (Sundays not included). On Ash Wednesday, it is common for an officiant in the church to place a mixture of ashes and oil (sometimes Holy Water is used) on the forehead of church members in the form of a cross. Many choose to wear this on their forehead throughout the entire day of Ash Wednesday. The Lenten season began around 1000 AD in the Catholic Church. (That's one thousand years after Christ built His church). While it began in the Catholic Church, many protestant denominations have taken up the practice (Consider Matthew 15:8-9). It is common for those who observe the Lenten season to give up something for the 40 days (40 days taken from Jesus' 40 day fast in the wilderness before being tempted). A list I found of suggested things to give up during this time included Gambling, fornication, dance clubbing, etc.

I have been reading and studying the Bible for over 35 years and I have never ran across anything known as Ash Wednesday or the Lenten season. This should be our first red flag: it's not found in scripture! John wrote "*Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son*" (2 John 9). Many other passages teach that we are only to practice those things which are found and authorized in Christ's doctrine (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 4:11, etc). Churches which practice Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season are in violation of the doctrine of Christ.

Now back to the list I mentioned. In that list were things such as fornication, gambling, and dance clubbing. Other things known to be given up by folks during this time include cigarettes, drinking, and foul language. Remember, this is a commitment to give these things up only during the forty days of Lent. But the Bible calls upon Christians to give up sinful things at all times, not just 40 days a year. Many of the things in this list are covered in the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21. And we are told that those who practice these things will have no part in the kingdom of heaven. Do we really think God is pleased with us if we only commit to giving them up for 40 days in a year?

Further, Lent is associated with Fat Tuesday and the Mardi Gras celebration. Anyone who knows anything about Mardi Gras knows that it is nothing more than a drunken lascivious festival in which people freely "Let themselves go" to practice any immoral activity one can think of. The idea is basically to get it out of one's system in order to prepare for Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the 40 days of spiritual discipline. But they do so only to repeat the process the next year. Shameful!

The command to "*Abhor what is evil*" (Romans 12:9) is to be observed every minute of every day in the life of a true saint. The grace of God teaches us that we should deny ungodliness and worldly lust (Titus 2:12) at all times, not just 40 days a year. The entirety of our lives should be devoted to living "*soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age*" (Titus 2:12). ☺

SERMON NOTES

Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.

Title: _____

STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Frank Anderson
Reading: 1 Peter 5:5-11
- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Opening Prayer.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Kenny Johnson
Serve.....John Nelson
Serve.....Kenny Todd
- Closing Prayer.....Sam Miller

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord's Table.....Lynn Buttrey

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Sam Miller
- Invitation.....Kenny Johnson

Thank You For Serving!

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

Obey Today!

*Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!*