

Covington Family News

February 9, 2025

Dying Wedding Vows

Remember when “honor and obey” was a standard part of wedding vows? Then, the feminist movement said, “No way will I vow to obey my husband!” Today, you rarely hear a couple using this worthy vow to recognize and accept the roles and relationships God established in marriage (Genesis 2:22-24; 3:16; Ephesians 5:22-24; 1 Peter 3:17). Now, “till death do us part” is also being rejected. More and more couples are opting for such preemptive phrases as “for as long as our love shall last,” “until our time together is over,” and “for as long as our marriage shall serve the greatest good” (“Till Death Do Us Part” is Dying Out, Jennifer D’Angelo, FoxNews.com, July 22, 2005). The rationale offered is, “Don’t make a promise you can’t keep.” The same article noted that actor Brad Pitt considers his marriage to Jennifer Aniston a “total success” for having lasted five years. Rationalization does not change reality: after five years, their marriage ended in failure, not success. When a husband and wife do not honor marriage for what God intends it to be—a life long union—they lay the foundation for marital failure. Add to that a distorted and selfish definition of love, and you have a recipe for trouble (Hebrews 13:4; Romans 7:2-3; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; Ephesians 5:25-31; Titus 2:4). To vow “as long as love shall last” implies the person has no say in the matter; that somehow love decides when “it” will leave a marriage. No, love is a conscious decision of the heart that acts toward its object in good ways (in this case, the husband toward his wife, and vice versa). If love does not last it is because one or both parties decided to no longer love the other. We should also note that wedding vows mean something; they are solemn commitments to bind oneself to another and to fulfill the obligations of a husband or wife. One such obligation is to honor the permanency of marriage. When marriage is not viewed as “till death do us part” it becomes increasingly easy to end it rather than solving the problem (with love). Vows must not be lightly made nor conveniently broken (Proverbs 20:25; Ecclesiastes 5:4-5). God says marriage is “Till death do us part,” regardless of the changing attitudes toward it (Matthew 19:4-6; Malachi 2:14-16).

Joe R. Price

via Huntington Park church of Christ
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BulletinDigest.com



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SERVING THIS WEEK 2/9/25 AM Worship Service

Announcements Neil Bringle
Song Leader: Noah Liles
Sermon Mike Rogers

Presiding Over the Lord's Table:

Head: Michael Wyatt

Brad Evins, Landon Bringle, Craig Robinson, Nick Maness,
Ken Mason, Zach Higgins, Myles Benjamin, Donnie Benjamin

Opening Prayer: John Evans
Closing Prayer: Donnie Benjamin

Nursery Worker: Leslie Howard

February Food Committee Leader: Leslie Howard

Attendance Card Collectors: (2/9)

Eli Charnock, Noah Charnock, August Charnock

February Bus Driver (2/9 & 2/12)

Brad Evins

PM Worship Service

Song Leader: Noah Liles
Opening Prayer: Jeff Phillips
Closing Prayer: Craig Robinson
Sermon Mike Rogers

PROOF OF OUR LOVE

Sunday Bible Classes	142
Worship AM	225
PM	130
Wednesday Bible Study	114

VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Alyssa & Chris Dunn	Brighton, TN
Marcia Murray	Covington, TN
Kaitlyn McCain & Kynlee Gross	Atoka, TN
Winona Robinson	Brownsville, TN
Mark Glidewell	
Autumn Beyer	

Covington Church of Christ

1690 Highway 51 South – PO Box 9

Covington, TN 38019

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY

Bible Classes 9:00AM

Worship 10:00AM & 5:30PM

WEDNESDAY


Bible Classes 7:00 PM


Mike’s Message
Marks of a True Friend
“A man that has friends must himself be friendly” (Prov. 18:24a NKJV). I want us to consider these thoughts in light of our theme for 2025, “A Common Love.”
1 Samuel 18 shows David increasing in popularity with Saul’s household and with the people of Israel. It also describes Saul’s jealousy of David’s popularity. 1 Samuel 18:1-5 focuses on the friendship between Jonathan and David. Three essential points are stated in these verses.
First, Jonathan’s soul was “knit” with David’s. The NIV reads: “Jonathan became one in spirit with David.” Souls being knit together and being one in spirit means there is perfect unity of purpose, a unity of character, a kind of inseparable pairing where you can’t imagine the one without the other. This is the kind of relationship that everyone needs for true happiness. We all need someone who shares our vision, someone who appreciates our worth and understands our perspective. It should be our spouse. If we are not married, it should be someone that we can confide in. We are familiar with examples like the Lone Ranger and Tonto; Batman and Robin, but these have more of the hero and sidekick picture. David and Jonathan are equals more like Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. If you have ever watched an episode of this show, you noticed there was not one dominant figure, they were equals. They did not always agree, but they were always together, one in spirit. By every example we have, and by everything we know, David and Jonathan were the perfect example of friends. Second, “Jonathan made a covenant with David.” A covenant is more binding than a contract. It is an allegiance, an oath sealed with a union of souls. This is why marriage is considered a covenant, not a contract. Marriage is not simply an agreement between two parties, but a making of “one flesh” (Gen. 2:24). “Jonathan made a covenant with David.”
Finally, Jonathan expresses his friendship by giving David his robe and his weapons. By giving David his robe, armor, sword, bow, and belt, Jonathan was stripping himself of his allegiance to his father, and his father’s authority over the kingdom and giving it to David. As we see later, when Saul is trying to kill David, Jonathan once again shows his allegiance to David over his father (1 Sam. 20:12-17). We see that friendship is a voluntary allegiance, i.e., covenant that knits two hearts together in eternal devotion. Twice in these five verses it is said that Jonathan “loved [David] as himself” (vv. 1, 3). Love is the motivating factor of friendship (cf. Prov. 17:17). The friendship Jonathan shows for David is the Common Love we should share with one another!
–Mike Rogers

Prayer List
Sandy Newman—Hospice
Phillip Scrip—Health problems
Paulette Watkins—Home
Vicki Mayfield
John Evans
Ken Bringle Sr.
Susie Wyatt
Alan Otts
Betty White—Wife of Bobby White
Bill Willis—Brother of Jimmy Willis, recovering from a car accident
Victoria Orman
Israel, Plane Crash Victims, Wildfire Victims, Our Country, Our Missionaries, LaVerne Baxter, Heath Billings, Debra Brownlee’s granddaughter, Gloria Brownlee, Robert Brownlee, Captain Mike Shipley, Larry Coughlan, Kenneth Coulston, Jason Elliott, Hattie Fields, Malissa Garner, Jackie Gatlin, Kay Gatlin, Pat Gatlin, Kyle Hanks, K.C. Haynes, Coy Hendrix, Stan McDevitt, Phyllis McLillie, Judy Merritt, Kathy McMahan, Gigi Miller, Robin Montgomery, Larry Newman, Sophie Nolan, Randy Rhoads, Bonita Rogers, Donna Sonwineski, Anthony Stacks, David South, John Oliver Wall, Melvin Wall, Fran Westmoreland, Delores Whaley, Larry Whaley II
NURSING HOME: Covington Care: Shirley Laxton, Cynthia Wilson
MILITARY: Killian Bridgeman, Logan Bridgeman, Major Creel, Bradley Evins, Dayana Fendley, Danny Fields, Tanner Mason, Richie Newbill, Chris Nowak, Michael J. Pena, Jedidiah Phillips, Jackson Robinson, Jacob Sampson, Parker Speight, Isaac Stewart
SYMPATHY
We extend our deepest sympathy to Heather Keith in the death of her cousin, *Randy Mitchell*; to Jimmy Willis in the death of his sister-in-law, *Diana Willis*; and to Tony Sonwineski in the death of his uncle *Danny*.
RESPONSE *Ron Teems* responded Sunday asking for prayers. Please remember him.

A class of little children was learning to spell. They spelled a number of words such as cat, dog and cow. After each word they were asked to imitate the sound that the animal makes. When Mary was asked to spell love, she didn’t stop to spell the word but ran and threw her arms around the teacher’s neck and kissed her on the cheek. “We spell love this way, it is the best way.”
Bulletin Digest (June 2008)

Calendar of Events
FEBRUARY EVENTS
8—Chocolate Tour
10— Monday Night for the Master, group 2
11, 18, 25— Ladies Bible Class, 10AM
15—Birthday Party at Magnolia Creek Nursing Home
16—Devotional at Covington Care, 3:00
17—Monday Night for the Master, group 3
24— Monday Night for the Master, group 4
26—Devotional/Worship in song
Secret Sisters forms are on the table by the Nursery.
The date to turn them in is Sunday, February 9th.

SUPER BOWL PARTY

Sunday, February 9 following the PM Worship Service, everyone is invited to our Super Bowl Party. Domino’s Pizza & Wings will be provided. Please bring your best finger foods or dessert.

March 2-5—Gospel Meeting; Speaker: Todd Clippard
April 17-20—Lads to Leaders
June 1-4—VBS
June 11—Wednesday Night Summer Series begins
FEBRUARY YOUTH EVENTS
8—Chocolate Tour
9—Devo. Night
17—No School
21—LOCK-IN & LOOK UP
BIRTHDAYS FEBRUARY 9-15

9—Rusty Cartwright
10—Stephanie Beasley, Gordon Cartwright, David Kidd, Chris Sanders
12—Brandy Brown
14—Jeni Chaney
ANNIVERSARIES
13—Ken & Susan Mason
14—Craig & Kim Clay, Jack & Myung Carroll
BIBLE READING SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 9-15
February 9—Numbers 1-3
February 10—Num. 4-7
February 11—Num. 8-10
February 12—Num. 11-13
February 13—Num. 14-16
February 14—Num. 17-19
February 15—Num. 20-22

The Carpenter’s Apprentice
“I don’t know why she was so mad; I thought the skunk hide turned out beautifully, but anyway, I might need a place to stay for a few days.” This was the message I sent to a couple of my closest friends who I thought would understand. It is trapping season and you just never know what you will catch! To be honest though, I did not catch the skunk in a trap, rather I saw it unscathed lying on the side of the road and decided the fur was just stunning. In fact, at the time, I was thinking of starting a collection of skunk hides to highlight their variation and beauty. While currently rethinking that plan, there are a number of Biblical lessons we can learn and applications we can make from trapping fur bearers. First of all, to be a good trapper, one must know the animal he is targeting. Knowing an animal’s likes and dislikes, his habits and habitat are crucial in making a successful catch. Once the habits are learned, the next most important part is deception. Deception involves lures and attractants using both visual attractions and various scents to challenge, seduce or entice the target animal into the vicinity of the trap. Bait is also used to capitalize on every living thing’s need to eat and a seemingly free meal is not always free! Finally, camouflaging or hiding the actual trap is a necessary, because anything out of the ordinary will clue the animal to be alert and wary and ultimately avoid the trap. I realize this is a vast oversimplification of trapping but I share some of the basics with you because Satan is a trapper. He uses similar lures and enticements to snare his victims too. He studies our habits to know where to place stumbling blocks. He studies our lives to know what we like and don’t care for so he is not wasting his time with unattractive attractants. He tailors each set to his specific quarry. He is a very good trapper. He pays no attention to seasons, hunting year-round and often doing some of his best work out of season - when we least expect it. Worst of all, he has no respect for and no use for his catch. He just enjoys watching them squirm and suffer. The Bible is very clear about Satan. He is on the prowl constantly seeking his next catch (1 Peter 5:9) and has been doing so for a long, long time (Job 1:6-12). He has attempted to capture some “big game.” The Twelve were not immune. He went after Judas (Luke 22:3) then Peter (Luke 22:31) and even Jesus himself (Matthew 4:1-11). It is not surprising to learn he would come after one of us. So whether you put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-17) or you simply draw near to God (James 4:7-8) and let Him do the fighting for you, be alert (1 Peter 5:8, 1 Corinthians 16:13) because he is coming to try and trick you.
-jeff