

Love within Relationships

In their book *Mistakes Were Made (But Not By Me)*, social psychologists Carol Tavris and Elliot Aronson describe how a fixation on our own righteousness can choke the life out of love. They write:

The vast majority of couples who drift apart do so slowly, over time, in a snowballing pattern of blame and self-justification. Each partner focuses on what the other one is doing wrong, while justifying his or her own preferences, attitudes, and ways of doing things. ... From our standpoint, therefore, misunderstandings, conflicts, personality differences, and even angry quarrels are not the assassins of love; self-justification is.

The problem of self-justification and looking after one's own interest above another's is a human problem as old as sin itself. When it comes to the relationship that spouses have, the Apostle Paul spoke to this issue. In Ephesians 5, Paul speaks to the household, giving advice to wives, husbands, parents, and children. The whole section begins with this simple, yet profound, command: ²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Everything that Paul discusses returns to this command.

We are called to submit to one another. The word here is hypotassō. It means to willingly place oneself under another. Within the relationship of marriage, husbands submit to their wives and wives submit to their husbands. The goal is not to get one's own way in the marriage, but to work to better the other person by placing their needs above our own. In Philippians 2, Paul will state that the goal of the Christian life is to do the following: ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. This is the same concept Paul explains in Ephesians 5 should be the overriding feature of our relationships. Look after the needs of others above your own interests.

In February, we tend to focus on our love relationships, celebrating St. Valentine's Day on February 14th. It is a good time of the year to remember that the best relationships are those that do not seek to self-justify what you are doing, but instead seek to do what is best for the other person.

Offering

January 2024

Offering YTD —- \$11,444.80

Name of the State of the State

Budget Needs YTD —- \$18,940.00

Attendance

1/7/24	1/14/24	1/21/24	1/28/24
122	73	126	117

Things Happening:

- On February 14th we will be having a night of prayer and worship starting at 6:00pm. This day marks the beginning of the Easter season, and on this night, we will begin to focus our hearts and minds on the sacrifice of Jesus and what it means for us. We'd love for you to join us.
- On February 18th, we will have our annual Service Fair following both services. This is a chance for you to check out various ministry and service opportunities. If you are new to the church or new to serving, we'd love to talk with you and discuss ways you can serve the Kingdom at Kentucky Road.
- On February 18th, we will also be having our annual Bowling Night at Mexico Lanes. The bowling begins at 2:00pm. There are discounted prices. We'd love to see you out there, even if you are not interested in bowling. It is always a great time of fun and laughter.
- In February, we begin the process of nominations for the next term of Elders and Deacons. From February 4th through the 18th, there will be a suggestion box located in the foyer table. You can place names for both positions in that box with the provided suggestion forms. Please be in prayer throughout this process.



2/02 Barbara Snodgrass

2/06 Allen Snodgrass

2/06 Shannon Davolt

2/10 Maria Loyd

2/14 Wanda Ferry

2/14 Rick May

2/15 Helen LeCount

2/15 Matt Sause

2/16 Albert Conklin

2/18 Shanann Owens

2/18 Jared Stinnett

2/19 Tony Maxwell

2/20 Kenzie Wilson

2/22 Tori Wilson

2/23 Karen Hoagland

2/28 Donna Rivers

Happy Anniversary

Feb. 8th

Doug & Lori McPike

Feb. 15th

Steven & Janis Holtcamp