



the word

July 2018 | Monthly News from Crown of Life Church

Coming Soon

July 22 – August 12



Marriage has been around for as long as the world has been. You'd think we'd have it all figured out by now. But every married couple at some point in their marriage echoes the words of Paul in Ephesians 5, "This is a profound mystery." Join us as we spend 4 weeks exploring God's design for marriage. We'll see how following God's design for marriage helps demystify the issues faced in marriage.

Dedication to Doctrine

BY PASTOR ZACHARY PUDLO

"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31)

The Negative View of Doctrine

Over the past few hundred years there has been an ever growing emphasis in Christian churches to get away from doctrine. It's almost as if the very word "doctrine" is taboo. It's something that has taken root in people's hearts. I've heard multiple people say something similar to this many times before: "We don't need more doctrine. We need more love. I don't need to know the teachings of the Bible to show my love."

This point of view is still very prevalent in churches and in the hearts of millions of individuals. In both "liberal" and "conservative" churches, there is a resistance to an emphasis on doctrine. Often it is put this way: "We are not saved by believing doctrines and teachings, but by obedient trust in God. What matters is acting in loving Christ-like way."

Doctrine Directs All

This is a very simplistic way of viewing things. Echoing C.S. Lewis, this is "the view I call Christianity-and-water, the view which simply says there is a good God in Heaven and everything is all right - leaving out all the difficult and terrible doctrines about sin and hell and the devil, and the redemption...these are boys' philosophies."

continued

David Martyn Lloyd Jones had an even harsher sentiment for this kind of “boys’ philosophy”. “Whether you like it or not, to speak like that is, in and of itself, to speak in a doctrinal manner. To make statements along that line is, in actual practice, to commit yourself to a particular doctrine... the doctrine of works and, in a sense, of justification by works.’ ‘Ah, but’ they reply, ‘we are not interested in such a term as ‘justification by works.’” But whether they are interested in such terminology or not, that is exactly what they are saying... In other words, whether we like it or not, we cannot avoid doctrine. ... There is no such thing as an irreligious person; everyone has his or her religion, if you mean by religion that ultimate philosophy or view of life by which people live.”

In short, Lloyd Jones is saying we all have a doctrine by which we live. So many live by the “deeds not creeds” religion. When someone says, “I don’t care about doctrine, it’s how you live that matters,” that person is promoting a doctrine. It’s doctrine of justification by works. That person has a doctrine they are promoting that is very important. When a person follows this doctrine it leads to a life of trying to earn God’s favor by living a good life.

So what’s the point? Your doctrine, or what you believe, always leads to a way of life. When you have the wrong doctrine, you also have the wrong way of life. Doctrine is important.

When We Misuse Doctrine

As important as doctrine is, there is a danger that comes with this understanding. The danger that comes with this is when people see their only mission in life as protecting pure doctrine. How can you tell if this happens? Lloyd Jones says it this way: they have “lost their tempers, forgetting that by so doing they were denying the very doctrine which they claimed to believe”.

Doctrine should never be the end, but rather the means. The Bible says it this way, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings

salvation to everyone who believes.” (Romans 1:16) In other words, the doctrine of the Bible is the very word of God and it is the tool God uses to save people. Saving people! That’s the mission and the tool we use is the pure doctrine and teaching of the Bible.

What are the applications of this? Many. But let me expound on just a few.

1. Paul writes, “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. (Eph 4:15) If we only speak the truth of doctrine, we forget love. If we preach only loving things like, “As long as you’re a good person you’ll be saved,” we forget the truth. Balance is necessary.
2. If you only dedicate yourself to being good for the sake of earning God’s favor, you’ll lose yourself. But if you dedicate yourself to the truth of God and his word, to pure doctrine, you’ll find the balance of truth and love.
3. Finally, nothing could be more worthy than dedicating yourself to the word of God. When you do so you see the truth that you and I are far more horribly sinful than we could have possibly realized, and yet far more deeply loved than we could possibly imagine. That’s the heart of the gospel truth.

Conclusion

As a pastor, i sometimes get the feeling that we tend to lose our dedication to God during the summer months, myself included. It seems like the business of family and work takes a priority. Whether that’s true or not, let me encourage you to dedicate yourself to the pure word of God. When you do it pays off dividends beyond measure. It leads to an overwhelming feeling of love that flows from the realization that God loves you beyond what you can imagine. And that feeling then turns into a life of love towards others. Doctrine does indeed affect our lives. Dedicate yourself to the pure doctrine of God’s undeserved love for you as the only way to salvation.

Getting to Know You: Aaron and Elizabeth Stokke

Crown of Life has two new teachers this year. Our new second grade teacher will be featured in this edition of the newsletter, and our new 6th grade teacher will be featured in August.

Elizabeth Stokke was born in Two Rivers, WI, but because her dad was a teacher, their family soon moved to Newburg, WI. Six years later, they moved to Watertown, WI, where Elizabeth attended 1st-8th grade at Trinity-St. Luke's, and Luther Prep for high school. Throughout high school, Elizabeth was involved in sports and music. From there she went on to MLC. Her husband, Aaron, grew up in Inver Grove Heights and attended Emanuel/Crown of Life, St. Croix, and MLC.

Aaron and Elizabeth met and started dating during their time at MLC. Elizabeth graduated from MLC in May 2014 and was assigned to teach Kindergarten and 1st grade in Aberdeen, SD. They got married in June 2015 and moved to Chaska, MN. Aaron started his master's program at MSU-Mankato, and Elizabeth got a job as a paraprofessional, and then moved into a long-term subbing position. From there she taught 1st grade in Belle Plaine for the past two years. Aaron recently

graduated with a Master of Science in Physics and got a job at Seagate in Bloomington, and they are currently looking for a house in the area.

What are their hobbies?

Elizabeth enjoys playing volleyball, baking and finding new recipes to try, playing piano, and going to fitness classes. Aaron enjoys officiating baseball.



What lead Elizabeth to become a teacher?

In her own words: "My parents and many of my relatives are teachers, so becoming a teacher myself was on my mind from a young age. I always enjoyed helping take care of my younger siblings as well as babysitting. Throughout grade school and high school I was encouraged to pursue teaching and looked forward to attending MLC. After having a variety of experiences over the past couple years, I am greatly looking forward to starting my time at COL and having the privilege of sharing God's Word every day!"

Little known facts

Ellie Waege (former 1st grade teacher at COL/Emanuel) and her husband set up Elizabeth's parents (when they lived in the Two Rivers, WI area) and Ellie was also Aaron's first grade teacher.

REPORTS

TREASURER Fiscal Year 7/17 - 6/18

May ended the fiscal year to date (FYTD) with \$1,566,338 in total income with expected budget income to be \$1,510,734 which was \$55,604 above budget. **(58,956 is an undesignated bequest and \$21,000 are special donations for the Pre-K playground.)** Expenses (FYTD) were \$1,509,047 which gave us a FYTD of +\$57,290. (FYTD) Envelope Offerings are \$82,427 less than budgeted. We owe \$20,000 to our special funds account and current available balance is \$95,002.

BAPTISM – Henry James Fenske son of Andrew and Alicia on May 30, 2018 by Pastor Kom.

MARRIAGE – Marriage of Eric Gahr and Kayla Wilttrout on 6/9/18 with Pastor Pudlo.

DEATH – Evelyn Geisinger died June 8, 2018, funeral at COL with Pastor Kom on June 14, 2018.

ASK THE PASTOR

How do we know Moses was accurate in recording the events of creation?

One of Satan's tools for undermining God's word is calling into question the authenticity and accuracy of the first five books of the Bible. So how do we respond to this attack? In short, there are two main points I would make. First, for over 3000 years this has been widely accepted by all people. It hasn't been in questions that Moses was the writer of the first five books of the Bible. There are plenty of Bible passages that confirm Moses did indeed write the first five books of the Bible, which would include the creation account.

1. Moses claims he wrote these books: Exodus 17:14; 24:4; 34:27; Numbers 33:1–2; Deuteronomy 31:9–11.
2. We also have the witness of the rest of the Old Testament: Joshua 1:8; 8:31–32; 1 Kings 2:3; 2 Kings 14:6; 21:8; Ezra 6:18; Nehemiah 13:1; Daniel 9:11–13; Malachi 4:4.
3. The New Testament is also clear in its testimony: Matthew 19:8; John 5:45–47; 7:19; Acts 3:22; Romans 10:5; Mark 12:26.

And secondly, if someone is going to claim Moses didn't write these books and they are, therefore, not authoritative, then they must come up with an alternate suggestion for an author. Every other suggestion that has been proposed over the past couple hundred years fails to hold water.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Giving a Cup of Cold Water

During Jesus' last three years on earth, He spent much time nourishing and teaching His disciples. Only when they were prepared to go out into the world to preach, teach, and heal did He send them. Leaving without provisions, the disciples were totally dependent upon those whom the Lord would send them for their support. The disciples relied upon the power of the Gospel to move the hearts of their listeners who would willingly provide for their needs. They were to travel light and trust in the Lord.

In Matthew 6:40-42 Jesus, referring to His disciples, said, "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives the One who sent Me. Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is My disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward." Jesus told His disciples that whoever gives to you is also giving to Him. Although support today doesn't fund the work

of the 12 original disciples, we assist the spreading of the Gospel by supporting today's disciples and missionaries around the world. As we provide for church workers locally and abroad in the name of Jesus, we are serving the Lord Himself.

As we express our Christian faith through our giving and serving, God is pleased. God notices every act of compassion and kindness that we express. In the verse above, He refers to even the simple gesture of giving a cup of cold water to a thirsty person. Through our faith, we are empowered to do acts of service. When we act in response to the Lord and not for recognition, God will bless us. Having already been assured of salvation by God's grace through faith, blessings such as peace, contentment, patience, and hope are added rewards.

Only a small number of people make their living as full-time church workers, but we all are given the privilege and opportunity to be Christ's ambassadors. May God bless us all as we work to further His kingdom.

Source: 12 Months of Congregational Stewardship (vol. 1) by Ronald J. Chewning, Stewardship Advisors

Summer Food Drive

"if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday."

Isaiah 58:10

Thousands of students lose access to free or reduced cost meals during the summer months while school is not in session. In our community, 45-67 percent of students receive free or reduced lunch during the school year. The Food Shelf at Neighbor's Inc. sees

increased use in the summer when children are not getting fed in school. To help these families in need, we will be collecting both food and cash contributions throughout the months of July and August for Neighbor's Inc. at both Crown of Life campuses.

Items needed: pancake mix, syrup, jelly, juice, applesauce, canned meat, beef stew, soup, chili, rice, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, laundry soap, cereal, spaghetti sauce, mac and cheese, and ketchup.

JULY CALENDAR

Sunday, July 1

8:00 am Worship WSP
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am Education Hour-WSP
10:15 am Education Hour-EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP

Monday, July 2

6:30 pm Worship WSP
7:00 pm Evangelism-EGN

Tuesday, July 3

10:00 am The Commons on Marice-Sr. Living Service

Wednesday, July 4

Independence Day
6:30 pm NO - Bible Class EGN

Thursday, July 5

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

Saturday, July 7

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, July 8

8:00 am Worship WSP
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am Education Hour-WSP

10:15 am Education Hour-EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP

Monday, July 9

6:30 pm Worship WSP
7:30 pm Worship Committee

Tuesday, July 10

10:00 am The Commons on Marice-Sr. Living Service

6:30 pm Properties
7:15 pm Stewardship

Wednesday, July 11

6:30 pm NO - Bible Class EGN

Thursday, July 12

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
7:00 pm Elders-WSP

Saturday, July 14

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, July 15

8:00 am Worship WSP
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am Education Hour-WSP
10:15 am Education Hour-EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP

Monday, July 16

6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, July 17

10:00 am The Commons on Marice-Sr. Living Service
7:00 pm Council-EGN

Wednesday, July 18

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Thursday, July 19

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
7:00 pm Riverview Cemetery

Saturday, July 21

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, July 22

8:00 am Worship WSP
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am Education Hour-WSP
10:15 am Education Hour-EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP

Monday, July 23

2:30 pm Lilydale Sr. Living Service
6:30 pm Worship WSP
7:00 pm Youth & Adult Education

Tuesday, July 24

10:00 am The Commons on Marice-Sr. Living Service

Wednesday, July 25

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Thursday, July 26

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

Saturday, July 28

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, July 29

8:00 am Worship WSP
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am Education Hour-WSP
10:15 am Education Hour-EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP

Monday, July 30

6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, July 31

10:00 am The Commons on Marice-Sr. Living Service

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 Zachary Hauck
Benjamin Koeppen
Natasha Miller
Robert Uecker
2 Cade Matkin
3 Carol Fetzer
Ronald Will
4 LaDene Boody
Janet Garcia
Marta Haynes
Nicole Sherrard
Nathan Wolfrath
5 Suzanne Danner
6 Julene Hartfiel
JoAnne Sylvester
7 Clair Iburg
Derek Lasovich
Lynne Wieden
8 Daniel Boehlke
Sam Danner
James Thul
Jenavieve Vandenbosch
Peter Wright

9 Elroy Rechtzigel
Cheza Sylvester
10 Lorna Kapanke
Leah Moe
11 Mary Hansen
Hadley Johnson
12 Amy Pasbrig
Sharon Sachwitz
13 Andrew Kinsley
Luke Klocow
14 Connor Hunter
Austin Thul
James Wakefield Sr.
15 Sarah Goette
Ilah Little
Mia Rubio
Nick Sachs
16 Noah Bluhm
Dustin Mullins
Jillian Patton
Troy Rich
17 Brenden Steber
Abigail Stensland

18 Lenora Munoz
Paul Oberg
Jessica Staples
20 Jonathan Bumhoffer
Savanna Moe
Daniel Petermann
Renee Wright
21 Ric Gibson
Mackenzie Letendre
Felix Mulinix
Madison Staples
Aleya Vandenbosch
22 Adeline Swanson
23 Rodney Heitman
William Kapanke
Beverly Kraupa
Susan Swanson
24 Emma Davis
Lois Gydesen
Leo Haehnel
Chris Maki
Gabriel Rowe
25 Arie Hussong

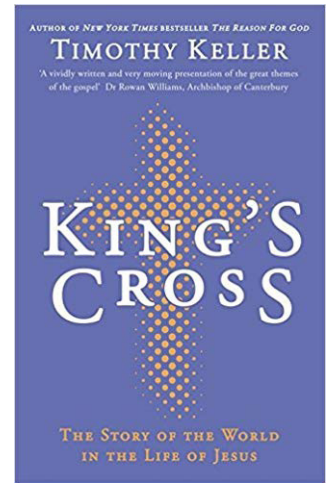
Bradley Kutz
David Mommsen
Sophia Schaller
Dior Wallace
26 Ian Boehm
Dorothy Haberkorn
Brent Kelm
Cheryl Stettner
27 Landon Buysse
Jordan Goette
Jamison Ohm
28 Seon Dittman
Donald Krosting
Carla Smith
29 Kaci Lasovich
Erik Ludden
Naomi Marzinske
30 Becky Kruse
Sharon Lapointe
Jontae Watson
31 Anibell Allen
Christine Fischer
Russ Rider

“King’s Cross”

TIMOTHY KELLER | RELIGIOUS | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

What makes Jesus different from any other religious leader from the long past? Timothy Keller divides his book into two parts answering that very question. As he walks the reader through the book of Mark, Keller notes that Jesus doesn’t just claim to be a prophet. He claims to be the king of the universe, God himself. In part two of the book, Keller shows the reader that the Christian God didn’t become man to squash mankind under his authority. Rather, he came to subject himself to the painful death on the cross.

King’s Cross is a quick and easy read. Keller does a phenomenal job of exposing some of the common failures and idols we all have. But he never leaves it there. He always shows how Jesus came to make payment for all those sins. I would recommend this to anyone who wants a refresher on the basics of sin and grace, whether they be a long time Christian or someone only interested in what the Christian religion is all about.



VBS 2018 a Big Success!

A huge thank you to all who helped make the Summer VBS another great event!



ANSWERS TO JUNE QUOTE FALL: In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.



CROWN OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
 West St. Paul Campus – 115 Crusader Ave W, West St. Paul MN 55118
 Eagan Campus – 4150 Pilot Knob Rd, Eagan MN 55122