

Living Word

Christian Church

MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER || LANGLEY, B.C.

What's happening in May

May 8- Mother's Day

LWCC honors all our mothers and mothers to be! We thank you for your love and sacrifice.

May 15- Graceleen's Bridal Shower

Calling all ladies, let's all come together and celebrate Graceleen as she starts a new chapter in her life. Contact Aileen C. for more info

May 29- Christian Spirituality Seminar

Join us in this free and enriching seminar held by Pastor Brad. Contact Pastor Brad for more info.

Proverbs 31:28-29

Her children arise and call
her blessed;
her husband also, and he
praises her:
Many women do noble
things, but you surpass them
all.

At LWCC, we support and encourage one another.

We had a successful baby shower for Kassie and Joseph as they anticipate their first child. As a church, we support, pray, encourage and help one another in every chapter or season.



Pastor's Corner

One in Spirit and Purpose by Pastor Brad

Many years ago I was a member of a church whose pastor seemed to preach on the same theme every other week. The theme was unity. I began to wonder if he only had a few sermons in his repertoire, and so he had to keep recycling, with minor adjustments, his sermon on unity. For a while I was not impressed with what seemed a lack of variety and creativity. For a while I was not impressed, because while he preached the truth, I was already among the converted and convinced. But since my time in that church, I have become more sympathetic towards and more appreciative of the pastor and his sermons. I have seen that one of Satan's most successful weapons against the church is interpersonal conflict and organizational strife. Satan is vehemently opposed to Christian unity and he works hard to destroy it. He doesn't want people relating to one another and serving God being one in spirit and purpose.

A story is told about several parts of the body trying to determine who would be the boss. The brain said, "Since I already coordinate every function of the body I am the logical choice to be boss." The heart objected, saying, "Without my pumping blood throughout the body, none would be able to function, so I should be boss." The eyes said, "Without us the body would not know where it was going. We should be boss." The mouth said, "I speak for the body. I should be boss." One by one, each member of the body gave his reason as to why he should be boss. Finally the neck spoke up and said he should be boss.

"You!" said the brain. "Why you? You don't do anything to begin with." "Yeah," said the heart. "We wouldn't even miss you if you weren't here." This made the neck very mad, and he became tense. His muscles knotted up, and he began to exert excruciating pain. So intense was the pain that the brain couldn't think. The eyes became blurry. The heart had to work so hard that it became tired and began to skip a beat every now and then. After a week of this, all the parts of the body agreed that the neck could be boss.

The moral of this story is that you don't have to be a brain, or have a heart to be boss. All you have to do is be a pain in the neck. Many of us have suffered in a church because someone was a pain in the neck, always wanting to be the boss, always wanting to get their own way. But consider what Paul says to the people in the church in Philippi. In Philippians 2.1-4 he says "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." Satan tempts people to be a pain in the neck by looking out only for their own interests. Paul teaches us to be a force for unity by being one in spirit and purpose and by looking out for the interests of others.

Why is unity in our church such an important matter? Let me give you two reasons.

First, unity is God's desire. In John 13.34 Jesus said: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." Jesus says in John 17:20-21 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you." In Romans 12.9-18 Paul said: "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." The psalmist said in Psalm 133.1 "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity." Like my pastor of long ago, the Bible keeps speaking again and again about unity. It is God's desire for us to live in unity. Our unity is no small matter to God. It is his desire. It is his demand.

Second, unity leads others to faith. Consider how Jesus prayed in John 17:20-23: "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." My pastor of long ago was on to something. Loving unity is a marvelous tool for evangelism.

One of the most tragic stories of Christians failing to lead someone to Christ is recounted in the autobiography of Gandhi. Gandhi said that in his student days he was truly interested in the Bible. He was deeply touched by reading the Gospels and he seriously considered becoming a convert to Christianity. Christianity seemed to offer the real solution to the caste system that was dividing the people of India. One Sunday he went to a nearby church to attend services. It was his intention to see the minister and ask for instruction in the way of salvation and enlightenment on other doctrines. But when he entered the sanctuary, the ushers refused to give him a seat and suggested that he go and worship with his own people. Gandhi left and never came back. He said, "If Christians have caste differences also, I might as well remain a Hindu."

May we never be guilty of creating caste differences within our Christian faith and our church family. Let us be one in spirit and purpose, doing nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. In humility let us consider others better than ourselves. Let us be one in spirit and purpose so that the world will know that God sent his son. Let us be one in spirit and purpose so that we will not be the cause of anyone rejecting the gospel.