



MOUNTAINSTREAMNEWS

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DOORMATS FOR JESUS?

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Ephesians 4:32
Be kind to one another,
tenderhearted, forgiving one
another, as God in Christ
forgave you.*

Nobody wants to be a doormat.

Yet it seems like if we obey Jesus' instructions to develop grace-based relationships we risk being treated as doormats. Why would Christ put those He loves into such a potentially challenging position?

Grace-based relationships insist on treating people – even (or especially?) difficult ones with patience, understanding, and kindness. This approach goes against our natural tendencies. We are more likely to treat difficult persons with impatience and harshness. But when we consider Jesus' grace-based prescription, we discover that it has benefits

for each member of the relationship. Today we will focus primarily on how it benefits the obedient Christian. We discover that grace-based responses help to moderate at least two unhelpful qualities that we possess: our harshness and our hastiness.

While we do not like to admit it, we as human beings are extremely vengeful people. When we experience wrong, we want to retaliate at least in kind – but most times with greater intensity. If we practice this approach often enough, we begin to harden on the inside. Our desire for retribution grows so strong that we are quick to strike back and hurt those who hurt us – even our loved ones. And the scary thing is we scarcely recognize how harsh we are becoming. After all, we tell ourselves, we are only responding to a difficult person who deserves all he gets. But that harshness is directly opposed to the tender heart God wants to develop in us. That is why God calls us to leave vengeance to Him. He is capable of dispensing justice without becoming hardened in the process.

Not only are we harsh, but we are hasty. We chafe

at having to wait for anything. We want what we want. And we want it now. Yet the best things in life require patience, so our haste generally breeds inferior results. Jesus uses the powerful symbol of farming to show that there is a period between sowing and reaping. We need to learn to wait for the best results. In fact, our true rewards and vindication await us in Heaven. Choosing to pursue grace-based relationships shifts our focus from immediate, fleshly gratification to the lasting eternal rewards that can be ours only in Heaven. What if God's ultimate purpose for grace-based relationships is to help make us more like Him? Who doesn't want to be more like our glorious Lord Jesus Christ?

May God help us realize that grace-based relationships aren't intended to make us doormats, but rather offer us the opportunities to be mirrors of our Lord's patience and tenderheartedness.

God bless you,
Pastor James

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CORPORATE PRAYER
TUE @ 7 PM

APR 18

Join us via Zoom video
Please contact Pastor James
for log on information at
rcantio@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP
FRI @ 6:45 PM

APR 21

In-person at church.
For teens
ages 13 and over

EVENING SERVICE
1st & 3rd
SUN @ 6 PM

MAY 7 & MAY 21

Join us in-person
at church

KIDZONE & NURSERY
SUN @ 11 AM

APR 23

These ministries are
available every Sunday
during the morning service
Kidzone for ages
6-12 yrs. old.

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN @ 11 AM

APR 23

In-person service and
Livestreaming on Facebook,
Youtube and our webpage.

- Ladies Meeting this Saturday, April 22 at 10:30 am at church. Hosted by Vicky Correa.
- Save the date: Vacation Bible School will be from July 17-21. Be praying how God might use you in this ministry.
- Join us this Saturday April 22 as we help our township pick up our streets. Contact Tom for details. Contact Tom for details.
- The Pregnancy Resource Center's Fundraising Banquet is May 11 @ Camelback Resort. Contact Lori for more details.
- Clarks Summit University's Lyfe Women's Conference is June 2-3. Contact Sherrill or Becky for more information.
- Join us on 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 3:15 at the Garden at Stroud as we sing and share the gospel with the residents. Contact Tom for more information.
- Bible Reading plans for 2023 are available at the Information Center. Also, read Pastor Jimmie's daily blog on the readings via the link on our website.

QUICK TIPS ON WAYS TO GIVE YOUR OFFERING

Traditional during the Sunday morning service, with a check by mail or through our secured website. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!