



August 23, 2020

Weekly Newsletter

The Preacher's Post – *Darin Kennedy*

“They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.”

—Jude 4

We have fought and divided over many things, as both individuals and congregations. And when unity is damaged or destroyed within, it is the most damaging thing to our work outside in this world as well. Our kids pay for it, and our neighbors want nothing to do with it. The fighting itself is not the problem; indeed, people like a good fight. The problem is what we fight over. If the central issue of the fight is not worth it or if the central issue is just a mask for a more personal power move or for getting one's personal preference, then the main charge brought against us is pettiness. The courage to fight and the ability to fight well are admirable qualities, especially when they come from a people who stand for truth and justice, who are the invaders of light in a dark world. But pettiness has no place among people who serve the King of Kings and whose main interest should be the salvation of souls. Pettiness is downright embarrassing.



What in the Bible is worth fighting over? We ought to look and see what gets the right people (Jesus, apostles, biblical writers) mad or what makes them choose sides in an argument. If our issues don't fit

within their most important issues, then we can have an intellectual discussion over coffee, laugh at ourselves to prevent self-importance and competition, and agree to disagree, but we cannot become angry, give a cold shoulder, or create factions.

1) *Exclusion* – If people are ever excluded or treated unequally because of some position, then God is furious.

Paul is enraged in Galatians when the Gentiles are treated as incomplete, even facing Peter in public. Jesus condemns the Pharisees because they lay heavy burdens on people and refuse to help them. James denounces favoritism for the rich over the poor, as is the same in all the prophets. No one can be excluded from God's grace or from God's people or treated as inferior.

2) *Immorality among God's people* – Immorality in the world is to be treated with compassion and urgency, but immorality in the church is not to be tolerated. Jesus teaches his disciples about lust and anger at the level of the heart. Paul knows of an abhorrent case of incest in the Corinthian church. Jude also exposes those who revel in immorality. Those who know better but pursue greed and sexual promiscuity are called into the open and shamed.

3) *Views of Jesus* – The nature of Jesus as the Son of God is mysterious. There will always be incomplete ways of describing him. We do not fight because we have questions or doubts. But the argument is worth it if a particular view is held in arrogance and causes other problems, such as the exclusion and immorality listed above. John condemns those who say Jesus has not come in the flesh, which causes other things like love from being practiced in the flesh. Paul must address those who think Jesus' second coming has already happened because they proclaim power when the times still demand living according to Jesus' sacrifice. Jude speaks of people who deny Jesus, which leads to immorality. Jesus defines himself as the one who came to serve and to give his life as a ransom, in contrast to all those views of what a powerful Messiah and King ought to be like. It is good to get Jesus right—God made flesh, Suffering Servant, coming again.

Outside of these things, concerning the issues that push our buttons or light our fires, it is good to ask, “Is this worth fighting for? Is this worth anger? Is this worth division?” The answer is much, MUCH, **MUCH** more often, no.

Prayer Requests

Jeff and Brenda Petersen's son's father in law – passed away this week. This family lives in Spain, **Laura and Moses Sumpter** (former members) – recovering from COVID 19, **Stormy Cook's** mother – had 2 mild heart attacks this week, **Mary Ellen Myers's** friend (Wyatt Becker) – was in a car accident and has brain bleeding among other things, **Roman Martin** – had shoulder surgery, **Lillie Ramage** – has stage 4 pancreatic cancer, **Mary Ellen Myers's** friend (Sandra Innacarro) – has bladder cancer, **Paul Walker's** friend (Barbara Landis) – was diagnosed with ALS, **Gerri Hasty** – has melanoma in her finger and has surgery on September 3, **Stormy Cook's** brother (Ralph) – is doing much better, **Mary Ellen Myers's** son-in-law (David Ellifrites) – is having heart issues and his son (Jason) is scheduled for back surgery, **Cathy Eldridge** – has some internal bleeding, **Mary Ellen Myers's** friend (Arthur Smith) – has bone marrow cancer, **Linda Hyde's** mother (Willa Dean Haley) – is currently in hospice care, **Donna Wealand** – had foot surgery and is finally weight bearing, **Marina Belekonnii** – from Ukraine has Hodgkin's lymphoma, **Jeannie Ewens's** daughter (Emily) – health problems that have affected her ability to work, **Debbie Peerson** - (UPDATE: She had plasma injections. Praying for no surgery!), **Mary Ellen Myers's** sister (Carmen Stevens) - has been given only 3-6 months to live. (UPDATE: she is doing very well!!!), **Flora Swartz's** friend (Joanie Green) -UPDATE: the chemo pills are not having the desired effect. She started the second round, but if there aren't any changes, they will start drip chemo. David Church – **Ben Church's** brother, **Andy Hester**, **Ralph and Eloise Staley**, **Joel Morehead**, **Bruce Keeton**, **Jurhee Bench**, **Will Kreisel**, **Dave Nash**, **Lena Bramlett**



Birthdays: August 23rd – 29th

Mike Peerson – 24th

Scott Simmons – 24th

John Wubbenhorst – 24th

Logan McCrea – 25th

Bernie Sandiford – 28th

Cheryl Sutton – 28th

Sharon Lang – 29th

Shirley Simmons – 29th



Logan McCrea is turning 9!!!

The word PRAYER written in vintage wooden letterpress type in a wooden type drawer -[enterline](https://www.123rf.com) © [123rf.com](https://www.123rf.com)

Wooden little men hanging on rope with pin. Symbol of friendship, help, support and teamwork -[Ivan Kruk](https://www.123rf.com) © [123rf.com](https://www.123rf.com)

children read a bible on the bed – [Volodimir Kalina](https://www.123rf.com) © [123rf.com](https://www.123rf.com)
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