

Oaks-West church of Christ

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. • Bible Study: Following 1st Service

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Services are live-streamed to our website: oakswestchurchofchrist.com

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Enjoying the Moment

by George Slover

"Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity." (Luke 8:14)

Have you ever found yourself enjoying a movie? It may be one of those thrillers that keeps you on the edge of your seat, or that "tear jerker" that stirred the emotions? However, throughout the entire show the person sitting behind you ruins it all by being a constant distraction. You fail to understand why this rude jerk can't find the same appreciation for this wonderful work of art!

Life's greatest joy is simple fellowship with God. It is appreciating God's handiwork and wonderful creation on a mountainside. To feel the cool breeze and hear the mountain stream causes us to stand in awe of our Creator. There is the joy of witnessing one obey the gospel. We are overwhelmed by how profound and simple is the grace of God, and encouraged by the difference it has made in someone's life. Or we come to appreciate the majesty of God in a time of worship. The simple words such as "God is so good" have come to mean a great deal to us!

However, it is also true that life is filled with those who will never appreciate that simple fellowship. They defile Him by worshiping the created rather than the Creator. They demonstrate defiance to God's grace by their immoral and unprincipled lives. They distract us from the worship by their irreverent behavior. Thus, we ask, "why can't they also appreciate God's wonderful work of art?"

But, before we become too impatient with that rude jerk behind us, we may need to examine our own lives. It is also easy for us to become so filled with anxious care and so focused on the mundane that we too fail to enjoy the moment!

My brother, while laboring and toiling in this old world, don't forget your purpose and learn to enjoy your Savior and King!

What Is Marriage

by George Slover

"Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge." (Hebrews 13:4)

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends. We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Ladies' Class - February 25

Gospel Meeting - San Marcos, February 28 - March 2

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

Biblically, marriage is a relationship between a man and woman wherein they become one another's by means of a covenant and the consummation of the covenant. Let us look at various features of this definition.

First, marriage is a relationship between a man and a woman. In Genesis 2:18-24, God saw that it was not good for the man to be alone, thus he made a companion suitable for the man. In so doing, God instituted one of the most wonderful and intimate of relationships. Since God made marriage he has the right to rule this relationship.

Second, in marriage the man and the woman become one another's or one flesh. In marriage, the man and the woman share physical and emotional intimacy together.

However, this intimacy is not to be shared casually, but to be based upon a covenant or agreement between the two to be loyal to their mate for life. According to Malachi 2:14: Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant." (Malachi 2:14) Notice the passage says that God is the witness of this covenant (Matthew 19:6) and does not view it lightly. He does not approve of those who violate this agreement: To deliver you from the immoral woman, From the seductress who flatters with her words, Who forsakes the companion of her youth, And forgets the covenant of her God. (Proverbs 2:16-17) (See also Romans 7:1-3) Nor, does he approve of casual intimacy whether it is a one-night stand or a twelve-year romance. Paul says, "Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a

woman. Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband." (1 Corinthians 7:1-2) A couple must first make a formal agreement to each other before God, and also seek to make such an agreement honorable in the sight of all men. (Romans 12:17)

Finally, there is the consummation of the covenant. In Genesis 24:67: "Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her." (Genesis 24:67) The only honorable way to express this intimacy is in the context of marriage. (Hebrews 13:4) All other expressions of this intimacy are sinful.

Our society is in great need of understanding these things and then applying. The downfall of a nation begins with its failure to respect God's laws of marriage.

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jimmy Stinnett is struggling from his leukemia and is under treatment.

Dinah Williams is having some issues with her legs from diabetes.

Dorothy Steadman is undergoing radiation treatment.

Shut-ins: Don and Alene Simmons, Dinah Williams, Marcia Neuhaus, Shirley Perkins

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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