

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 671

March 23, 2022

“All About Relationship!”

Genesis 1:26 - 28a

“26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it;...”

Genesis 2:18; 21 - 25

“18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”
21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.
22 The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. 23 The man said,
“This is now bone of my bones,
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man.”
24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.”

Of course you recognize this text as the creation story from Genesis one and two. I believe sometimes we need to hear it again, not for combating the non-gender or transgender debate, though this text can certainly do that. We need to hear often, not so that we can show that man is to rule over all things, though this text certainly tells us that. I believe we need to hear it often because it denotes “relationship”.

Folks, God created man to be in relationship with Him. AND, God created man and woman to be in relationship with one another. AND, God created the ability for man and woman to multiply (Gen. 1:28) so that their offspring could be in relationship. Relationship is so important in God’s economy. Relationship is a driving force in our salvation. I want to give a few examples of what I mean.

God created the family unit, husband, wife, children, for relationship. We are told to train up our children in the ways to the Lord (Proverbs 22:6), creating relationship. So the family unit was intended to be in relationship with each other and with God. This was absolutely God’s intent.

This family unit of God, called to be a part of the Body of Christ, the church, was to be in relationship with others. You CANNOT be a part of the Body of Christ, the church, without being in relationship with one another. It just doesn’t work that way.

So far, I would say, most if not all of you are on the same page with me. But here is where there may be a little variance. We are called to be relational with the lost. Jesus is the example. He ate with sinners, the outcast, the lost, those living in adultery. He associated with the lame, the blind, the sick, the leper. Why? To show them who He was. To create a relationship that would transform them into His likeness. We are called to

do the same. We are to be His witness. We are to build relationships that are winsome. And yes, God did not call us to be successful, but faithful, but in being faithful, how can we not be winsome in our witness in which HE has called us to be? He wants us to be in relationship with others so that HE works, HE calls, HE redeems, HE brings other into the Body of Christ.

We look at Cornelius the gentile who had a vision and called Peter a Jew to come and see him. God used Peter to win over the Gentile for Him. This relationship changed Peter’s perspective about the gospel and who could receive Christ Jesus as LORD. Paul and Silas created a relationship with the Philippian jailer and his family. Through the witness of the gospel they all came to Christ. Phillip heard the Ethiopian reading scripture and witnessed to him about the gospel of Jesus Christ and we saw the gospel carried back to Africa. Over and over God uses relationship to present the gospel of His Son.

As we develop relationships, God will use us as His means, for His purpose to share His gospel. He asks us to be willing, be available, and be relational for the gospel, then let Him do His work by His Spirit.

It sounds easy, but it’s not. Satan tells us we can’t. Satan tells us we shouldn’t. He tells us “those people” are not ones you want to be around, associate with, develop a relationship with. “Those people” will try to wrap you into their ways of life. We doubt ourselves. We doubt our knowledge. We doubt our abilities to share the gospel. BUT, here is the thing folks, if you are a follower of Jesus Christ, you have a story/witness. God calls you to share that story of what He has done for you, how you see God working in your life, and let Him do the rest. He asks that we be willing to share our story.

So here’s the deal. Anyone reading this Connection article today, I want you pray that God will show you someone you need to develop a relationship with so that you can share your witness of what Christ has done for you. Share who Christ is to you. The scriptures tell us that the Holy Spirit will give us the words when we are faithful and don’t know what to say. Call on that promise.

But Marty, why are you so intent on us being a witness for the gospel of Jesus Christ? Because church, that is what Jesus has commanded us to do. To be relational. Love God! Love Others! Be My witness to ALL the world! Start today developing a relationship that God will use for His purpose.

Blessings my friends,
Pastor Marty - HOPE Church Raleigh
Worship . Grow . Serve

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, March 23

Wednesday Night Supper, Study, & Prayer @ 6:15 p.m.

Thursday, March 24

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 26

Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 27

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Worship Team Practice @ 8:30 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.

Sunday School @ 11:10 a.m.

Monday, March 28

Staff Meeting @ 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, March 30

Wednesday Night Supper, Study, & Prayer @ 6:15 p.m.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship Food - March 27

Church Will Provide

Soundboard - March 27

Dave O'Dell

Communion Steward - March

Sandra Pierce

Greeter - March 27

Volunteer Needed

Volunteer for the Nursery - Mar 27

Terry Duffell

This Sunday
Scripture Text and Sermon

Romans 8:31 - 39
"Secure In the Grip of Grace"

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

Mar. 27	Numbers	23
Mar. 28	Numbers	24
Mar. 29	Numbers	25
Mar. 30	Numbers	26
Mar. 31	Numbers	27
Apr. 1	Numbers	28
Apr. 2	Numbers	29



Sunday School for all ages This Sunday

Our Outreach Ministries

"Food of the Month" for the Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry. **March:**

Canned Vegetables and Canned Soup

We have a collection bin in the foyer

Meal Ministry

Take a meal from the freezer if needed for you or someone else.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to help prepare meals for others. See Christina Johnston with questions.

WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, March 26th
@ 1:00 p.m.

The Computer Lab

To Resume on Saturday, April 16th

MEN of HOPE

Tuesday, April 5th at 7 p.m.
A ZOOM link for the meeting will be sent out beforehand.
Join us!

Mark Your Calendars

Holy Week 2022

April 10

Palm Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.

April 14

Maundy Thursday @ 7 p.m.

April 15

Good Friday

Sanctuary open for Prayer

7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

April 17

Easter Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.
(No Sunday School)

Quote of the Week

*"There is no death of sin
without the death of Christ."*

John Owen

Prayer Requests:

Covid -19, Mark Drylie, Kyle Rohweder (Friend of Rich and Diane Williams), Chandi Haswell & family, Ken Guy (Lynn Joyner's brother-in-law), Revill & Mary Lane Mallory, Evelyn Doby, Jamie Baldwin, Donna Williams, Renee Logan, Loretta (Sandi Underwood's daughter), Joan Summers, Jordan & Cinnamon (son and daughter of Lynn Joyner's family members), Tommy Lanphere (Lynn Joyner's brother), Becky Hale's mom in Wyoming, Gene & Becky Hale, The Baker family, Dave & Dot Geil, Joy Forrest's daughter Haley, Carlyle and Cynthia Franklin (Sandra Pierce's dad and stepmom), Brian Adam's dad, our Military, our Missionaries, our Nation, and the world. If you have those you would like added to our prayer concerns, please email me those names.

Wednesday Night Supper, Tonight (3/23) @ 6:15 p.m.

Menu:

Spaghetti, Salad, Fruit,
French Bread & Dessert

Ephesians Study Continues

Schedule:

6:15 p.m. - Supper

7:00 p.m. - Bible Study

7:00 p.m. - HOPE4Kids

7:45 p.m. - Break

7:50 p.m. - Prayer Time

Church Workday

Saturday, April 2nd

8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Great Opportunity

We have a family that would like to challenge the HOPE congregation to match their \$5000 contribution to the EPC World Outreach Disaster Relief Fund by the end of March 2022. This family would like to remain anonymous. The EPC World Outreach Disaster Relief Fund is currently helping with Ukraine relief. If you would like to contribute towards the "Challenge", please mark your checks "EPC Relief Fund". The Challenge ends at the end of March 2022.

HOPE Church Raleigh

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

4911 Green Rd

Raleigh, NC 27616

919-508-6827

Worship Time: 9:30 AM

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org

www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh

Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh

YouTube.com (type "HOPE Church Raleigh" in the search box)