



THE MESSENGER

A COMMUNITY IN CHRIST FOR ALL GENERATIONS



NOVEMBER 2020

THE IDEAL WIFE

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Old Testament: **Genesis 1:25-28**

New Testament: **Ephesians 5:22-33**

The word 'submission' is not popular these days – or any days for that matter. We have an inbuilt prejudice against submission mainly due to our exposure to corrupt or abusive authority. This leads us to believe that submission is equivalent to inferiority. So, the subject of submission gets silently shelved and serious talk about the subject is generally avoided. However, if we want to get a proper understanding of authentic submission, it won't do us much good to look at the broken role models we're so familiar with in everyday life. Instead, we must look at Jesus Christ, for he gives us a picture, not only of true authority, but also of open-hearted submission. In his care for the church, Christ demonstrates authentic headship and, in his deference to the Father, he gives us a perfect picture of submission.

Jesus didn't see submission as inferiority. Indeed, it was his delight to submit to the Father because he knew he was deeply loved and shared equal glory with his Father in every respect. Jesus lost nothing in his submission; on the contrary he was glorified as he did the will of his Father. Naturally, Jesus was certain that the will of his Father was only for good and that it would be mutually beneficial, and he was therefore in a secure place that enabled Jesus to freely love and serve his bride, the Church. All he expects is that we, in turn, will submit to his love: that we will let ourselves be glorified by him.

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THE IDEAL WIFE CONT.

With this in mind, we can better understand the dynamics going on in the story of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples in John 13: 5-8. When Jesus came to wash Peter's feet, Peter was incredulous that he, Jesus, the Lord and master, would serve him in such a lowly way. To this Jesus said, "Unless you let me wash you, unless you let me serve you, then you'll have no part with me." Can you see what's going on here? Jesus wanted Peter to understand that unless he submits to the love and service of Christ he will never really participate in the ongoing flow of love. The first and most important act of faith is not us loving Christ, rather it is submitting to his love for us.

Something similar is going on in Paul's letter to the Ephesians where he explains how it is that Jesus, as the bridegroom, makes the church, as the bride, glorious. It is not for the Church to make herself glorious so that she can be accepted by Christ. It is the other way around! Christ accepts us as we are, then he washes us and loves us into our glory "to present her to himself as a radiant church" (Ephesians 5: 27). All Christ asks of us is to submit to his washing – his love, his grace, his mercy.

That's the kind of template Paul is using to measure submission. He is certainly not saying that the husband is the 'boss' of his wife. Sure, a husband is meant to be first in line to serve, but a wife is not inferior to her husband. What he is saying is this: wives, do not resist the love and self-giving of your husbands, rather let them freely glorify you, and respond in kind. Real submission is all about receiving and responding to the initiative of self-giving love. You might be thinking to yourself, "That doesn't sound too difficult," but just like Peter when he resisted the washing of his feet, it's a whole lot harder than it looks. We've already seen some of the obvious faults of men, but if women have a fault then it's this: resisting glorification.

It takes courage for a wife to freely submit to her husband's love and be willing to take up an equal share of the power being offered to her. It requires courage because there is no longer the defence of disadvantage to hide behind. The excuses for not becoming all she could be are removed. With an equal playing field comes freedom but, with it, responsibility and equal accountability with the husband. It takes a real woman to do something like that – until then she remains a girl.

In faith

David Kowalick

*All Christ asks of us is to submit to his washing
– his love, his grace, his mercy.*

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK 25 - 31 OCTOBER

- **Hike Group TODAY** *Sunday 25th October* 2pm. Kenneth Stirling Conservation Park, Ostigh Rd, Carey Gully. Medium rated hike. Meet for coffee at Uraidla Hotel, Greenhill Rd, Uraidla.
- **Craft Group** *Tuesday 27th October* 10.00am in Hall 2
- **Seniors Exercise** *Tuesday 27th October* 10.30am in Hall 1
- **Bible Study** *Wednesday 28th October* 10am in Hall 2
- **Prayer Group** *Wednesday 28th October* 11.15am in Vestry
- **Playgroup** *Thursday 29th October* 9.30am

MEN'S MUNCH

November's Munch generally falls on Melbourne Cup day (the first Tuesday). We have changed our date to the second **Tuesday 10th November** at The Walkers Arms at 12.00 noon. It will go back to first Tuesday in December.

John Laubsch. Contact 0475563130

MEN'S GROUP *and* WOW

Men's and Women's Fellowship
CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP

Thursday November 19 at Church.

Men please bring a hot chicken, ladies please bring a salad or dessert. Everyone is welcome



YOU & YOUR FAMILY ARE INVITED TO...

MSG@5
family service

Messy
Church

FAMILY FUN IN THE PARK



Sunday November 15th

5PM TO 6.30PM

PLEASE BRING CHAIRS AND PICNIC RUGS

Sausage sizzle (vegetarian option)

St. Andrews Early Learning Centre Playground
behind Walkerville Uniting Church
17 Smith Street, Walkerville

SONGS

GAMES

www.walkervilleunitingchurch.org.au

BIBLE
STORY

DAVID WILL BE AWAY...

David will be absent on Sunday 1st November and Sunday 8th November because of pre-COVID arrangements which had to be postponed - but have now been reinstated.

Mr. Jim Everett will lead our worship on 1st November and Pastor David McGregor from Uniting College will preach on the 8th.

HIKING GROUP

Sunday 22nd November.

Geoff Ellery is planning this hike - more details to follow!



PLEASE NOTE:

If you have received your Working with Children Check from the Department of Human Services, could you please forward the office a copy for our records. Thank you.

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

Day/ Date	Time	Activity	Contact
Tuesdays	10.30am	Seniors Exercise	Mia 0404 368 318
Wednesdays	9.45 am	Bible Study	David K 0413 098 965
Wednesdays	11.15 am	Prayer Group	Tina
Thursdays	9.30am	Playgroup	Sue Clark 8344 1155
Sundays (excluding msg@5)	5.00 pm	Youth Group	David K 0413 098 965
Tuesday 10th November	10.00am	Craft Group	Helen 0407 830 640
Tuesday 10th November	12.00 noon	Men's Munch (at Walker's Arms)	John Laubsch 0475 563 130
Sunday 15th November	5.00pm	msg@5	Merilee 8269 3256
Thursday 19th November	6.30pm	Men's Fellowship & WOW Group— Christmas breakup	Graham Slater 0479 014 105 Janis 0437 527 771
Sunday 22nd November	2.00pm	Hike Group	Lisa Preston 0417 282 527
Tuesday 24th November	10.00am	Craft Group	Helen 0407 830 640
Thursday 26th November	1.00 pm	Ladies Chat Group	Kay Graham 8269 5538

NOVEMBER ROSTERS

Date	Prayers	Bible Reader	Welcomer	Flowers
November 1st	J Iles	J Wiseman	L Everett	T Jew
November 8th	H Baker	J Magee	L Everett	P Morrison
November 15th	F Raymond	S Farrant	L Everett	R Sellars
November 22nd	N Andrew	F Slater	L Everett	R Whitehead
November 29th	M Millard	J Everett	L Everett	T Jew
December 6th	R Smedley	F Sampson	C Brownbill	S Farrant

Date	Children's Chat, & Godly Play	Morning Tea	Stewards & Counters	Sound Desk
November 1st	Robyn S/ Lauma	Andrew	J Everett & G Slater	R Jew
November 8th	Fran/Merilee	Morrison	J Everett & G Slater	S Nethala
November 15th	Children stay in Church	Farrant/Sellars msg@5	J Everett & G Slater	J Laubsch /msg@5
November 22nd	Carolyn/ Merilee	Preston/Joy	J Everett & G Slater	L Preston
November 29th	Tina/Lyn	Everett/ Wiseman	J Everett & G Slater	R Jew
December 6th	Robyn S/Fran	Colwell	E Morrison & P Jackson	C Preston

2 Timothy 1:7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

THE CHURCH OF THE FUTURE... IS NOW?

2020 has certainly been a challenging year and its impacts are still being felt across communities and the church.

On September 12th this year, David Gardiner reflected on an article that he wrote back in 1995, which took a look (with a certain amount of humour) at his thoughts on the church of the future ... given the year that we have experienced he was not far off the mark!

Yawn. I don't think I'll ever get used to getting up early for church. It's good to catch up with friends. But worship is the real reason we get together each week.

Of course our church, like most is 'virtual.' We all meet via our computer communications link. Sure, you miss out on actually being with other people. But there are advantages.

You can attend your own church, no matter where you are in the world. It allows people with disabilities to participate as much as anyone. What I consider the biggest advantage is that you can 'tune-out' those noisy kids!

On reflection, I guess modern church life has changed a lot over the years.

Today, we had communion. I think my replicator is on the blink, because the wine/grape juice was an uncharacteristic luminescent green.

The minister's message was pretty good. I do appreciate being able to fast forward over the boring bits. I don't know how

people used to cope when they actually had to sit through a whole sermon.

The use of hypertext scripture readings, multimedia and 3D real-time computer animation are commonplace in the sermons of today. They certainly add a new dimension to understanding the Bible in today's society.

Like most churches, we are often struggling with our regular giving. Accepting all major credit cards has helped, though. But I'm not so sure about the floating of our church on the stock market. Next thing you know the CPI will stand for the 'Consumer Prayer Index!'

And another thing. Call me old-fashioned, but I do prefer those tried and true choruses - I can't relate to all these modern techno-sampled tunes we have in church now.

Well, I guess things are always changing - technology, language, people. But God never changes. God's still as relevant today as in the 1990s.

(Article first published in the August 1995 edition of New Times. Posted Oct 20, 2020 in Faith in New Times Online).



BARISTA COFFEE SUNDAY MORNING

A complimentary coffee for visitors

\$2.50/coffee for others

**\$15, \$25, \$50 vouchers are available -
check with Rhonda or Carolyn**

**We also have decaf coffee and hot
chocolate available**

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

In Romans 12, the apostle Paul gives some wonderful advice about living the transformed life as a believer – no longer conformed to this world, but freely living according to God’s will. In particular, he lists some of the gifts God has given us in order to serve Him and each other in a special way.

He points out that just as a body has many members all with different functions, so do we as members of the body of Christ have different gifts. These gifts have been given to us, not to boost our egos and make us feel superior, but to bring blessing to the church and glory to God. He says we do not all have the same function, but we all have different gifts.

His list includes the gifts of prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, helping

others in their need, leadership and mercy. Notice that leadership is not placed first as may be expected, but second to last followed by mercy. A truly good leader is humble, not authoritarian and bossy, but kindly, caring and considerate. He or she will also encourage and commend others in the faithful use of their gifts.

One final and very important point – we are not to envy the gifts that others have and wish we had them ourselves. God has chosen our gifts for us, be they ever so humble, and He wants us to discover them within ourselves, then joyfully develop and nurture them and use them. In this way we will be a joy to others and be blessed ourselves and, best of all, our Lord will be glorified.

Love and blessings,
Jan Lines.



DEFIBRILLATOR

Many thanks to the Edwardstown Rotary Club who have generously provided our church and community facilities with a defibrillator. Unfortunately there have been a number of occasions over the years when we have needed to call an ambulance to our church; while that still may be the necessary course of action, the provision of this defibrillator will give our congregation and those who use our premises an added level of safety.



Rotary
Club of Edwardstown





Messy Science -
a favourite
experiment, the
rocket!

WEEK 2 SACRED SPACE FOR MY LIFE STORY

The wreath represents the port-hole to our treasure chest of stories.
The circle shows the hope that the stories will be passed on and shared through generations.
The different colours and textures of the flowers show the many different kinds of stories.
The flowers in full bloom represent the concluding of many stories while the tiny buds are the stories in their infancy.
The vibrancy of the wreath arrangement with its combination of flowers represents the beauty and sheer joy of our stories.

By Helen Penhall



WALKERVILLE UNITING CHURCH

Office Hours: Tue & Thur 9am - 12pm

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