

FROM THE PREACHERS DESK

Fairness

There are some things that are crucial for Christians to understand. One of those things is our understanding of fairness.

Oxford Dictionary defines fairness as, *impartial and just treatment or behavior without favoritism or discrimination.*

If we don't have a good understanding of fairness, our thinking can get really messed up. So what do we need to know, exactly? Here are a couple things that help:

First, we must understand that God is never unfair, but people, even God's people, have always accused Him of being unfair. For instance, the prophet Ezekiel ministered to God's people at a time in history when they lived in exile in Babylonia.

In exile, Israel accused God of being unfair. Here's how He responded, Ezekiel 18:29

...the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not right.' Are My ways not right, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not right?

Basically, the Lord says to His people, "You have no idea what you're talking about." Their vision didn't extend beyond the end of their noses. All they could see was that they were living a life they didn't want and they blamed God for that.

Any of us can do the same. We can come up with any multitude of reasons to accuse God of being unfair. When I was a child, I thought God was unfair. I thought that if God had made me more intelligent, school wouldn't have been so hard for me, and life would have been better. If I could have been born into a different family, I wouldn't have had the bad experiences I had, and life would have been better. If He would have made me a talented athlete, I could have had fortune and fame, and life would have been better. It wasn't fair that others had what I wanted and didn't have.

But then I discovered Jesus and like Saul, the scales fell from my eyes (Acts 9:18), and I realized how wrong I had been. It was not God's ways that were wrong, it was my ways, my thinking, that was wrong.

I learned through God's Word that God did not create the sad state
(continued)

of our current world, we did, by our own choices and the effects of sin are seen throughout the entire world, in all creation.

Second, we must understand that not only is God never unfair, but that He is always MORE than fair. Fair treatment from God would be God giving us what we deserve, but God doesn't give us what we deserve, He gives us BETTER than we deserve.

Again, when I discovered Jesus, I learned that He had to come to this earth, live a perfect life, die a terrible death and be raised from the dead so that I could be saved from eternal punishment in Hell.

THAT isn't fair. Taking the punishment someone else deserves isn't fair. Committing no sin, no crime and being sentenced to death isn't fair. It isn't fair that Jesus had to do those things, but He did because God is MORE than fair. He gives us BETTER than we deserve.

Looking back, the things that I thought made my life unfair were blessings. If God had made me more intelligent, I might believe that I'm smarter than Him, and never seek true wisdom. If I had been born into a different family and not had bad experiences, I may never have sought a better life in Christ.

If I had been given the talent needed to have fame and fortune, I may never have sought out God, but worshiped a false god, or believed myself to be a god.

I haven't learned all there is to know about fairness, but what I have learned is that the things that I once thought were unfair were actually blessings in disguise and many things that I once thought were blessings were traps in disguise.

Praise the Lord that He is always better to us than what we deserve! He is always more than fair, so beware of the toxic thoughts and demonic theology that He is ever unfair.

Much love!

Wes LeFlore (918) 607-8489 or huskerwes1@gmail.com

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Journei Bales—18th

Jane Cole—19th

Madi Bradbury—23rd

Bryan Turner—27th

Addison Jenkins—19th

Jason Newberry—19th

Tanner Dillon—25th

Helen Norris—30th

PRAYER LIST

Marvin Kline—is doing well. Doctors say no surgery at this time.

Joe Brown—son of Bertha Brown, received bad news from his doctor. Keep him in your prayers for comfort.

Others on the prayer list: Connie Morris, Russell Day, Kendall Brundage, Shirley Stoner, Melinda Miller, Hailee Moyer

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

The family of Kevin Hunt will be having a celebration of life in his honor. The celebration will take place Sunday, April 25 at 2:00 p.m. at Melody Bowl Park in Wellington, KS. Memorials may be given to the Sumner County Fair Association through www.cornejofuneralhome.com.

SILVER MAPLE CAMP COUPON CODES

We are excited to announce that Silver Maple Camp has opened registration for the summer 2021 sessions.

1st session: July 11-17 Junior session lead by Steve Sears for children ages 9 thru 13.

2nd session: July 18-24 Senior session lead by Matt Carden for teenagers ages 13 thru 18.

3rd session: July 25-31 Youth session lead by John Dunham for children ages 9 thru 18.

***Camper registration is \$210 and your portion is \$105.00. But if you register before June 6th, you can receive a \$25 discount, and your portion will be \$92.50. See Jennifer for your 1/2 price camp codes. **Spots are currently limited**, so register today at www.silvermaplecamp.com.

Please visit <https://silvermaplecamp.com/covid19> for more information on our COVID-19 policy.

WORK DAY AT SILVER MAPLE CAMP

There will be a work day at Silver Maple Camp on Saturday, April 24th. Anyone interested in going, please let Wes know. Transportation will be provided for anyone who would like to attend.

WEDDING SHOWER FOR RAEANN HINES

There is a wedding shower being planned for Raeann Hines on May 15 at 10:00 a.m. If you want to help, please meet down front this morning after morning services or see Lynette Turney. If you want to participate in a group gift, give your money to Brianna Boccanegra or Emily Pierce.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

April

Apr 18—Linda Wartick

Apr 25—Kaylee Jenkins

May

May 02—Helen Norris

May 09—Lynette Turney

The Advanced Lessons, Part 12: Fairness
Matthew 19:30-20:16

Landowner = _____

Workers = _____

Vineyard = _____

Day = _____

Evening = _____

Denarius = _____

Foreman = _____

Principles:

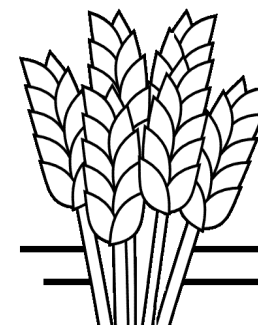
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THOSE WHO SERVE

SUNDAY A.M.	18-Apr 2021	25-Apr 2021	02-May 2021
Elder in Charge	T. Norris	T. Norris	R. Harris
Opening Prayer	L. Lewis	R. Harris	B. Turney
Song Leader	W. Pierce	W. Pierce	A. Shields
Communion Prayer	R. Harris	M. Kline	E. Newberry
Contribution Prayer & Collection	N. Bradbury J. DeJarnett	N. Bradbury J. DeJarnett	M. Neal P. Dodds
Ushers	J. Rayl J. Willson	J. Rayl J. Willson	A. Hines L. Helton
Closing Prayer	T. Norris	T. Norris	R. Harris
Deacon in Charge	M. Neal	M. Neal	D. Pierce
SUNDAY A.M.	09-May 2021	16-May 2021	23-May 2021
Elder in Charge	R. Harris	R. Harris	R. Harris
Opening Prayer	K. Dodds	N. Bradbury	D. Pierce
Song Leader	A. Shields	A. Shields	A. Shields
Communion Prayer	T. Norris	R. Harris	M. Kline
Contribution Prayer & Collection	M. Neal P. Dodds	M. Neal P. Dodds	M. Neal P. Dodds
Ushers	A. Hines L. Helton	A. Hines L. Helton	A. Hines L. Helton
Closing Prayer	R. Harris	R. Harris	R. Harris
Deacon in Charge	D. Pierce	D. Pierce	D. Pierce

Note concerning COVID-19: We are now requiring adults to wear masks in services, unless performing a public speaking role in the service or partaking of communion. If you have a medical limitation, we are not asking you to wear a mask and disregard that limitation. We also ask anyone who is subject to quarantine to abide by those recommendations. If you have a cough or are feeling ill, please do not attend services in person. By taking these measures, we believe we can respond to Paul's instructions in Philippians 2, where he wrote—*"do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."*



*"Reaching Inward, Outward
 Upward, Downward"*

Wellington Church of Christ

217 W. 13th St. Wellington, KS 67152 620-326-7511

ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 18, 2021

Call to Worship

Song "Here I Am to Worship"

Song #76 "How Great Thou Art"

Prayer

Song "Above All"

Song #344 "Low in the Grave He Lay"

Communion Prayers

Contribution Prayer

Contribution Collection

Lesson

Song #567 "Restore My Soul"

Closing Prayer

ELDERS		DEACONS	
Rex Harris	Marvin Kline	Kevin Dodds	Aaron Hines
Ed Newberry	Tom Norris	Leroy Lewis	Mike Neal
		David Pierce	Alan Shields
MINISTER			
Wes LeFlore			