

Bay City Wesleyan Church
October 1, 2017

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Sunday Morning 10-01-2017

Our Challenge for 2017 is to regularly ask Jesus, "Am I following you?"
When was the last time you asked?

<http://bible.com/events/288871>

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Support Needed for AWAKEN Youth Ministry

AWAKEN is back in full swing again and they need our support - both prayer and financial. On the youth bulletin board, there are envelopes with \$ amounts on the outside and a list of prayer requests inside. If you can support them in this way, please grab an envelope and begin praying for the requests. Return the envelope with the corresponding money amount enclosed. Please, place the envelope in the offering. Thank you

[Image]

http://d1o2alqw72z1h8.cloudfront.net/5722009-1506258361477_152x152.jpg

Baseball. Life. Jesus.

If Jesus came to our community now, he might say, "Friends, everything I needed to know about life I learned on the ball diamond. Life and baseball are full of fresh starts. Every batter will strike out and every player will make an error from time to time. Keep swinging. Keep trying. Never; never; never; ever give up!"

A. Unlike what you've heard, there are rules for life, just like baseball.

B. We are powerless to stop hitting foul balls in our moral decisions until we

love Jesus more than everything else. Our foul balls (idols) are powerless to satisfy our deepest needs and desires.

A Lesson from the Life of Jesus

James and John came with their mother to ask Jesus for a favor. There is evidence that their mother was a sister to Jesus' mother, Mary. So, Jesus' aunt and two of his cousins, two of the three disciples closest to him, came with a question.

Matthew 20:20-28 NIV

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father." When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become

great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

<http://bible.com/111/mat.20.20-28.NIV>

Sermon in a Sentence:

Figure out what counts on the last day, so you know what to count every day! #BaseballLifeLessons

(Hint: RELATIONSHIPS)

Jesus declares that our broken world tends to see only two ways for people to relate to each other.

OPTION ONE: dominate others

OPTION TWO: be dominated by others

BUT IN GOD'S KINGDOM-FAMILY,

OPTION THREE: dignity

Ephesians 5:1-2 NET

Therefore, be imitators of God as dearly loved children and live in love, just as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God.

<http://bible.com/107/eph.5.1-2.NET>

Ephesians 5:18-21 NET

And do not get drunk with wine, which is debauchery, but be filled by the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for each other in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

<http://bible.com/107/eph.5.18-21.NET>

MUTUAL VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION

Love does not ask, "What will you do to meet my needs?"

Love asks, "What can I do to meet your needs?"

Ephesians 5:22-33 NET

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, because the husband is the head of the wife as also Christ is the head of the church - he himself being the savior of the body. But as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her to sanctify her by cleansing her with the washing of the water by the word, so that he may present the church to himself as glorious - not having a stain or wrinkle, or any such blemish, but holy and blameless. In the same way husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one has ever hated his own body but he feeds it and takes care of it, just as Christ also does the church, for we are members of his body. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and will be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This mystery is great - but I am actually speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Nevertheless, each one of you must

also love his own wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

<http://bible.com/107/eph.5.22-33.NET>

Ephesians 6:1-9 NET

Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. " Honor your father and mother , " which is the first commandment accompanied by a promise, namely, " that it may go well with you and that you will live a long time on the earth . " Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but raise them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Slaves, obey your human masters with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart as to Christ, not like those who do their work only when someone is watching - as people-pleasers - but as slaves of Christ doing the will of God from the heart. Obey with enthusiasm, as though serving the Lord and not people, because you know that each person, whether slave or free, if he does something good, this will be rewarded by the Lord. Masters, treat your slaves the same way, giving up the use of threats, because you know that both you and they have the same master in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

<http://bible.com/107/eph.6.1-9.NET>

A NEW POINT OF VIEW:

Our broken world tends to see only two options in relationships - either to dominate others or to be dominated by them, to control others so they meet our needs or to be controlled by other to meet our need to be needed. But God's Kingdom love is the standard. We are to treat others with dignity, with love, with mutual voluntary submission.

FIRST STEPS:

- Change your mindset by memorizing Ephesians 5:18-21
- Ask the Spirit to fill you so your words point people to Jesus
- Ask the Spirit to fill you so you can relate to others with dignity, love, and mutual voluntary submission

Ephesians 5:22-33 NET

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