

Good News From Chardon

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Issue 35



128 Maple Ave. 440-286-5505

Blemishes? What Blemishes?

By Joe Chesser

Oh to be willing to see other Christians the way Jesus does!! Specifically, I'm thinking of how Jesus encourages husbands to see their wives as he sees his Bride, the Church. Ephesians 5.25-28:

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”

God gives us choices when it comes to what we see in each other.

The most natural choice is to see the warts and blemishes. That's the easy thing to do because we all have them. They're glaring. They're obvious. I mean, who could miss the humongous moles on the lip and chin of Nanny McFee?! (If you haven't seen the movie, just imagine them). Even if they are not that conspicuous, if we choose, that'll still be what we focus on. (I know you're thinking of someone.) It's bad enough when the blemishes are physical (warts, scars, baldness, whatever). But it's worse when we choose to focus in on each other's spiritual flaws. Some are more obvious than others, but we all have them too, don't we? (Weak faith, greed, divisive spirit, anger, unforgiveness, gossip, selfishness, etc.) Everyone has sinned (Romans 3.23). Everyone continues to sin (1 John 1.8-10). And so, the natural, the worldly thing to do is to allow blemishes to be what we see in each other.

However, Jesus wants the church to choose to see each other differently, like he chooses to see us. He knows we have warts and wrinkles and blemishes, even after he has washed us clean with his blood. But he doesn't choose to see us as anything but a radiant, blameless church. And neither does God! When because of faith in Jesus we are baptized into Christ, we are covered with Christ's blood like clothes covers our bodies (Galatians 3.26-28, Romans 6.3-7). All of our past sinful blemishes are taken away. All of our present and future blemishes are continuously washed away by Jesus' blood as we walk in the light (1 John 1.7). Consequently, all that is visible to God is a radiant, holy, blameless church. “In this same way, husbands are to love their wives.” Loving each other like Jesus loves the church means to choose to look beyond the blemishes and see the beauty of Christlike purity in each other. “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4.8). Loving like God chooses to be patient ... kind ... to keep no record of wrongs ... to always protect, trust, hope and persevere (1 Corinthians 13.4-7). “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2.5).

This does not mean to ignore flaws. We are to help each other overcome our sins (Galatians 6.1-2). It does mean that we refuse to let their blemishes define who others are.

How would refusing to focus on other's stains and blemishes help your personal life ... your family life ... your church life? Can you say, “Blemishes? What blemishes?”

Joe Chesser preaches for the Fruitland Church of Christ, Fruitland, MO.

Schedule of Services:

Greeting: Mark

Song Leader: Dale

Opening Hymn:

261—Love Lifted Me

Opening Prayer: Tom

Hymn:

77—Halleluiah Praise Jehovah

Scripture Reading: Robert

Galatians 6:1-10

Hymn:

301—He Loved Me So

Lord's Supper: Mark

Hymn:

84—Have Thine Own Way Lord

Sermon: Mark

Invitation Hymn:

47—No Not One

Closing Hymn:

346—Hold To God's Unchanging
Hand

Closing Prayer: Ray

PRAYER LIST

- *Margaret's bone was also shattered in the accident that almost severed her finger.
- *Beverly's nephew passed away last week.
- *Wanda mother passed away and was buried in West Virginia.
- *Kathy was baptized last Sunday.
- *Tom and Nina's friend Steve finished his treatments and is doing well.
- *Zarna and her family.
- *Larry and Ruth.
- *Pat and Ron and their daughters.
- *Juanita's sister Betty.
- *Mary and her family.
- *Robert and Sara
- *Juanita and her family
- *Ray and Barbara
- *Ron and Bonnie and their family
- *Dale and his family. His friend Darrell who has a tumor.
- *Ray, Rebecca, and Steven.
- *Myron & Carole
- *Mark and his family.
- *Our congregation

CALENDAR

- Aug. 30—Worship 11 am
Speaker: Mark
- Aug. 30—Bible Study 6 pm
on-line
- Sep. 1—b. Juanita
- Sep. 2—b. Nina
- Sep. 4—b. Austin
- Sep. 5—b. David
- Sep. 6—Worship 11 am
Speaker: Mark

Bear and Share Burdens

Scripture Reference: Galatians 6:1-10

ALONE	ANOTHER	ANYONE	BRETHREN
CONSIDERING	CORRUPTION	DECEIVED	DOING
ESPECIALLY	EVERLASTING	EXAMINE	FAITH
FLESH	GENTLENESS	HEART	HIMSELF
HOUSEHOLD	MOCKED	NOTHING	OPPORTUNITY
OVERTAKEN	REJOICING	RESTORE	SEASON
SHALL	SHARE	SOMETHING	SPIRIT
SPIRITUAL	TAUGHT	TEACHES	TEMPTED
THEREFORE	THINGS	THINKS	TRESPASS
WHATEVER	WHILE	YOURSELF	

R D S H A L L E O Y E N O L A B E E
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 V K A A N A E L O T H F A I T H O E
 E C S R M R A H S E L F S B U R F R
 T O O I T I G E N T L E N E S S E D
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 W E P D E T P M E T T R O I G B H E
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Hidden Message: _____

Answer to Puzzle: Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

The best way to cheer yourself up is to try and cheer someone else up.—Mark Twain

SUNDAY: Worship — 11:00 am; Bible Study — 6:00 pm (on Zoom);

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