

THE BULLETIN

Marriage—Who’s In Charge?

Are you sure I’m going to say “husbands”? You’d be mistaken.

The truth is that God is supposed to be in charge in every human relation and institution. Sadly that’s not always the case, but that’s the way it’s supposed to be—and will be in the Christian home.

Just like God has made the nighttime sky as a wonder to behold; just like He has created the physical universe with its marvelous, predictable order; and just like the Lord is the designer behind the intricately complex ecosystems that ecologists work so hard to preserve: God has a perfect plan and order for your (and every) marriage.

The problem is that we don’t believe it. *“If there’s a chance that I won’t get what I want under God’s plan,”* we think, *“then it couldn’t be right.”* *“What if things don’t go my way? What if God’s plan requires me to do things I don’t want to do? Oh the oppression...Oh, the slavery...the sadness...the despair! REBELLION!”* And we hear a faint whisper in our hearts growing louder, “Has God said... ?” (See Genesis 3:1).

And at that moment, when we begin to deviate from God’s plan and the promises that we made, chaos and disorder awakens.

God’s plan and design for marriage is probably best expressed in Paul’s teaching in Ephesians 5:22-33. In a nutshell it amounts to...

- Wives submit to your husbands as you would to the Lord
- Husbands love your wives...
 - ✓As Christ loved the church (providing for all her needs and acting in her best interests)
 - ✓As a man loves and takes care of his own body
- Take the relationship of Christ and the church as a model for understanding

So, instead of arguing about who’s wearing the pants in the family, stop, take a deep breath and realize that God is supposed to be in charge. Ask Him about the budget, about sex, about in-laws, about children, and about all the rest. It will make out of your union a marriage that will rival the Milky Way in breath-taking beauty and majesty.

The Manchester church of Christ

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Our Ministers:

Park Linscomb 540-0287
Mark Casella (501) 388-1687

Our Elders:

Barry Fogal 487-2387
Gerry Millette 497-3105

Our Deacons:

Tony Casella- Finance
Doug Paul- Education
Stuart Peacock- Worship
Pete Steffensen- Facilities
David Skerry- Benevolence & Outreach

Regularly Scheduled Services

Sunday worship: 9:30am
Sunday Bible class: 11:00am
Sunday evening: 6:00pm
Wednesday Bible class: 7:00pm


Use your God-given talents


Our Family

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household," Ephesians 2:19, NAS95.

If you're a visitor to our church, welcome! If you have questions, we welcome them; please don't hesitate to ask Park Linscomb our minister (the really tall guy) or any other church member.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

5th Week Camping - July 30 - Aug 6 this is the fifth week of camp this year, and a great



spiritual benefit for all who attend.

Families stay in touch! There are forms in the foyer to complete.



When you complete it, please give it to Kathy F., Mark or leave in the basket in

the foyer by Aug 14. If there is no change, please put your name on a paper & indicate 'no change'. Updated pictures will be taken.

VBS is August 15-17. "Animal Tales" is our theme.



Mark your calendars.

GOSPEL MEETING, Aug. 28 - 31, West Kennebunk, ME. Flyer in the foyer with



additional details.

WAYS TO HELP

LAWN MOWING: This building belongs to all members we need people to sign up and mow the lawn. Bring the children and make it a family service project.

LORD'S SUPPER to shut-ins: There is a need for someone to take the Lord's Supper to the shut ins during the month of July. Also there is a sign-up sheet in the back of the auditorium.

MNFM Cooks are needed after August. Sign-up sheet in the back of the auditorium.

WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL: Need someone to take the lead. It's a great opportunity to teach the Good News from home,

Family Workshop: October 21-23 the church will host a family workshop with Dr. Joe Brumfield from Harding University.



LIFELINE: There will be a lifeline screening here at the building October 27. Needs: greeters and people to remove & set up chairs.

NEW - ADDITION TO LIBRARY

We are adding media to the library. There is a case with CDs arranged by topics. Please come use our assets.

PRAYER CORNER: SUSIE PEACOCK, PENNY RANGER



CONTINUING

REQUESTS:

Good Works: current Bible studies, our website, MNFM, food pantry, Penny Ranger's online evangelism

Health: Dick Potter, Casey Jones, Tamera Silva, David Lovering is getting worse and for Barbara and she is caring for him and has Parkinson's herself. Darlene Chamberlain's continued recovery, Judy Diaz's neighbors sorrow, David Skerry's brother-in-law (Eddie), Tom Jones, Lynn Millette, Penny's niece Chelsea, Mary Jane Parker, Natalie Cleavitt, Linda Tetrault and her brother Bob, John Matthew and Anni

Struggles: Tamera Silva and her children; Jim Kenison; the spiritually weak.

Thanksgiving: Dick Potter is home; Marge Simon is home; Casey Jones is home.

Leadership: Ministers, Elders, Deacons, Teachers, Parents

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;" Matthew 5:14, NAS95.

A Word of Encouragement

“Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.” 1 Corinthians 16:13, NAS95.

THE DISCIPLINE OF CHILDREN

This topic, of course, is often a very sensitive one. But let’s acknowledge that it is one of the hardest jobs you’ll ever do, and that we could all use a little encouragement and few pointers on it from time to time. With that in mind, may I offer a few ideas culled from Biblical principles, a few observations over the years, and a few years of experience?

How do I discipline my children?

- ➔ **Love them**—The world may think that love is contrary to discipline, but it is really the essence of it. I’m not talking about the indulgent, so-called love some parents display, “because I just love them too much to tell them no.” I’m talking about a love that is both tough and tender, and which has the child’s best long-term interest at heart. Proverbs says, “He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently”, Proverbs 13:24.
- ➔ **Fairly**—Both children and adults respond very well to fairness. What they dislike are rules that seem to be made up and change as we go, and enforcement that favors one person over another. How is “fair” applied? Fair is about being clear about the rules and consequences. It isn’t fair to say, “You should have known better,” about something they’ve never been told about. They’re kids, and they very often don’t know better until they are told. And fair is about dealing consequences to every “culprit” evenly, age appropriately, and without favoritism.
- ➔ **Consistently**—Inconsistency is any parent’s most damaging and most alluring form of self-sabotage. It’s so easy and tempting to let discipline slide “this once”. We get tired, we don’t want to be the “bad guy” again, and “I’m too busy to deal with this right now” are just a few of the many roads that lead to inconsistency. Once is bad enough, but once usually leads to twice and five and ten and more times. Inconsistency is read by kids as “it’s possible to get away with this”.
- ➔ **Rationally**—Sadly, discipline is often dealt out when the parent is angry; and it’s difficult to be both angry and fair at the same time. That’s why it’s a good idea to call a parental meeting to sketch out the rules of the house and the appropriate consequences, *while you’re calm and rational*. After you have your list, share it with the kids—infractions and consequences—for discussion and questions, so you know that everyone “got the memo”. Post them on the fridge; and next time an

infraction of the house rules is committed, everyone can refer to the posted rules. It needs to be discipline, not revenge.

- ➔ **In keeping with the “crime”**—Consequences are best crafted, when they have a direct connection to the “crime”. “Late for dinner” consequences could be cold left overs, or no dinner at all. “Destruction of property” consequences could be paying it back by docking allowance until paid for. You can’t always find a close match, but you get the idea.
- ➔ **As close to the time of the “crime” as possible**—The more immediate the consequences for breaking the rules, the stronger the impression of the discipline is. Don’t say, “Wait until your dad or mom get home,” unless you’ve *already* disciplined the child yourself. “Now” is always the best time to discipline; “later” is usually too late to have maximum effectiveness.
- ➔ **With an explanation**—Yes, you’ve already explained the rules of the house to them before, but with every infraction needs to come another explanation of the rule. As the children get older, answering the nuances of the rule and explaining “why” becomes increasingly important. Be patient, be firm, and be clear that it isn’t a negotiation, just a reiteration of the rules.
- ➔ **With an assurance of love**—Never leave the child with the idea that you don’t love him/her. Of course, every child will say, “You don’t love me!”—you can’t change this about human nature—but you can *always* tell them you love them and give them a hug. It is never, ever fair to threaten a child (whether plainly said or implied) to withhold affection and love. *Never*.
- ➔ **Under God’s direction**—Children are a stewardship from the Lord. To be faithful to that stewardship, we should raise them God’s way. “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:4.

Parental disciplining is hard, thankless work for first couple of decades. But like so many truly good things we can continue to practice it in a godly fashion with endurance; if we focus on the outcome—children who are mature, hardworking, godly, respectful, spiritual, independent, self-disciplined, and ready to enter a difficult and challenging world. With God’s help, you can do this!



* Many will be at camp throughout the summer, please keep them in your prayers.

* Mark & Ann at camp week 5 as well as most of the youth group.

* Mr Pete Steffensen will be covering the Youth Group Class in the Annex Basement today. Teens on Wednesday will be downstairs with the children to help with that class.

* August 10th from 1-8 will be a college send off! Come hang out and have fun! We will have a cookout as well! Bring 5 dollars to help cover food. We will start at Mark and Ann's house.

* August Calendar is in the Foyer. September and October Calendars loom soon!

* Saturday August 13th will be a VBS set up day! Look out for times and jobs to be done!

* We need Volunteers for VBS Desperately! Please Please help! Especially for the times between 9 and 12 on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of VBS! We appreciate all of our volunteers.

* **VBS NEEDS**

* Someone to head up the snacks and chaperons for each class.

* 300 empty toilet paper rolls

* Unused trash bags (ASAP!)

* Newspaper (ASAP!)

Bible Reading Schedule for this Week			July 31	AM	PM	August 3
Sunday	July 31	Isaiah 47-49	Call to Worship	<i>Gerry Millette</i>		
Monday	Aug 1	1 Thess 4	Song Leader	<i>Stuart Peacock</i>	<i>Steve Johnson</i>	<i>Park L</i>
Tuesday	Aug 2	Isaiah 50-52	Scripture	<i>Nick Bonzagni</i>		
Wednesday	Aug 3	1 Thess 5	Lord's Supper	<i>Karl Davies</i>		
Thursday	Aug 4	Isaiah 53-55	Closing Prayer	<i>Dave Skerry</i>		
Friday	Aug 5	2 Thess 1	Coordinator	<i>Rich Therrien</i>		
Saturday	Aug 6	Isaiah 56-58	Worship Tech	<i>Kathy F</i>		
			Devo			<i>Fred Hillhouse</i>

Our Congregational Calendar for July 31 - August 13

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Worship @ 9:30am Bible class @ 11am Bldg sm grp-- 6pm Gary Diaz , Mark Dumas, Park L - BD	1 Carol Eskel - BD MNFM	2 Scott & Terri Apgar - Anniv	3 7pm Bible study Cecilia Skerry - BD Dick Potter - BD	4	5	6 6th week of GB Thomas Carroll - BD
7 Worship @ 9:30am Bible class @ 11am Bldg sm grp-- 6pm Jamie Hazelton - BD	8	9	10 7pm Bible study Luke Bergeron - BD	11	12 Heather King - BD Lincoln Bergeron - BD	13 Chris Dion - BD