



# FAITH ALLIANCE CHURCH

February 19, 2017



## Welcome to Faith Alliance!

In the Bible there are some difficult sayings about how believers are to interact with their family, I want to share a few thoughts on these difficult passages. Let's look at a few examples:

**Mark 3** - Jesus disowns his family.

If your family is starting to say that you're possessed because of your complete surrender to God (as was happening in Mark 3), then you need to reject your family and stand by Christ. If your family is calling the work of God evil, or the work of Satan good, then you may need to make it clear that you are incapable of relating to them concerning their thoughts on who God is and how he acts in the world. In some situations, I believe the most loving thing we can do is to be willing to let our family know that we identify more readily with our spiritual brothers and sisters than we do with our biological or adopted family. If your family is truly following after Christ and they're not hindering you then praise God, they're your family in two ways - the spiritual connection being most important.

**Matthew 10** - "For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."

First off, this statement was not intended to apply to 100% of families. Jesus didn't come to destroy families. But, when there is tension between your family and following Christ, you have to side with Christ. Don't let your family keep you from loving God. If you're trying to apply this to a spouse who is hindering you, then that is different. The marriage relationship is to be honored above a father/son relationship, for example. Marriage is our chance to show the world how Jesus loved the church - if you're married, cherish it! The idea behind this text is that if you love God then you will be able to love your spouse and children better. God should determine how we love our family, not the other way around.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Prayer Concerns... 2  
Letter Continued...  
Sunday Bible Study...  
Prayer Night...

Wednesday Night 3  
Dinner Menu...  
Sunday Mens Bible  
Study...

Women's Lenten Break-  
fast...  
Attendance Reports...

Youth News... 4

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(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

Luke 14:26 - "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters--yes, even their own life--such a person cannot be my disciple."

First a confession, I love my father, mother, brother, sisters, wife, and children. I don't feel bad about it, either. I also love my own life. Before you throw me out as a heretic, remember Jesus' answer to the question, "what is the greatest commandment?" His response, "The greatest commandment is to love God, and the second is like it, love your neighbor just as you love yourself." Clearly Jesus expects his followers to love their own lives. What Jesus is saying is that we must hate the life we lived before we were following after him - if we don't hate that life then we won't be willing to let go of it. I do hate that life, it purposefully celebrated sin too often. In the same way, our love for Jesus must be greater than the love for our family. Read the preceding verses, Luke 14:12-24, and it provides some clarity. In Lk. 14:12-24 people are refusing to attend the banquet because they just bought a new field, got married, and bought new oxen. If you don't "hate" those things in comparison to your love for God, then you can't be completely surrendered, and surrender is what Jesus requires. Read John 12:24-25, it's helpful here, too.

It's not an easy topic, but that doesn't mean we need to insist that the scripture is wrong and twist it to make better sense and to fit neatly into our current situations. Teachings like these should send us directly to God in prayer, confessing our weaknesses and asking for his wisdom and guidance. This was a small space to address a difficult issue; I welcome your thoughts and questions: [trent@faith-alliance.org](mailto:trent@faith-alliance.org)

Blessings,  
Pastor Trent

### Current Prayer Concerns...

- Joyce Albers, Trigeminal Neuralgia
- Donna Baumgartner, broken bones in leg
- Tyler and Jill Henschen's baby in womb, Hypo-plastic left heart syndrome
- Ken and Kathy Young's 3 oldest granddaughters have cystic fibrosis, in hospital currently

### Sunday Morning Bible Study...

Starting March 12 at 9:00am Andrea Ball will be leading a study called, *The Armor of God* by Priscilla Shirer: All day, every day, an invisible war rages around you - unseen, unheard, yet felt throughout every aspect of your life. A devoted, devilish enemy seeks to havoc on everything that matters to you: your heart, your mind, your marriage, your children, your relationship, your resilience, your dreams, your destiny.

But his battle plan depends on catching you unaware and unarmed. If you're tired of being pushed around and caught with you guard down, this study is for you.

The enemy always fails miserably when he meets a woman dressed for the occasion. *The Armor of God*, more than merely a biblical description of the believer's inventory, is an action plan for putting it on and developing a personalized strategy to secure victory. If you are interested in joining this study please sign up on the sheet in the foyer.

### Prayer Night, Thursday Nights...

Thursday nights at 6:00 pm here at Faith Alliance, there will be a prayer group meeting to pray for the Revive team of Auglaize county.

## Why We Should Celebrate Lent

Lent is known as a time of prayer, repentance, and recommitment leading up to the celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter. Starting with Ash Wednesday, Lent is a time of spiritual preparation for the most important religious holiday for believers. The idea is to abstain from pleasurable activities and instead use the time and energy usually spent in those activities to focus on taking stock of the one's own spiritual condition and repenting for spiritual failures. In this case, the ashes represent sorrow over our sins and the pain and death caused by sin. As we prepare to celebrate Easter, we want to use the weeks before to focus less on our physical needs and more on our spiritual needs - to appreciate anew the cost of grace and the victory of the empty tomb.

Women of Faith Alliance are invited to join together for early morning breakfast and devotional time the six Fridays before Holy Week. Beginning Friday, March 3, we will give up a little sleep in the morning to meet at the church at 7:00am. A light breakfast will be provided and a short Lenten devotional shared. Join us for "It is Finished" - a Lenten study of Christ's final words on the cross.

## Sunday Morning Men's Study...

Starting March 12 at 9:00 am. Rich Ball will lead a study called *Stepping Up - A Call to Courageous Manhood*. Men today are in a battle. It's a battle without bullets or bombs, but a battle all the same. It's a fight for our families and our future. Facing the battles of life demands courage, and courage is the ability to do the hard thing in every circumstance, despite the cost.

*Stepping Up* calls men to courageous manhood, offering a powerful vision for what it means to be a man today who truly conquers men to honestly evaluate where they stand. Then, he prepares men bravely master their life purpose by developing a strategic plan and establishing a winning vision. If you are interested in this 10 week study, please sign up on the sheet in the foyer.

## Wednesday Night Dinner Menu...

OMGSH Chicken , Rice, Rolls, Salad Bar, and Dessert.

Dinner begins at 5:30 pm. Everyone is welcomed to join together with us for dinner. Following dinner there is a time for worship and prayer. Then small discussion group begin at 7:00 pm.

### Financial Report

Offering February 12, 2016

General Fund: \$6,594

Building Fund: \$50

Great Commission: \$500

Kitchen Fund: \$35

Hope House: \$10

Tea House: \$10

Local Mission: \$218

### Attendance

Week of February 12, 2016

Early Worship - 86

Kids - 69 Workers - 15

Late Worship - 191

Total Worship - 361

Foundation Class: \$11

# YOUTH GROUP

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## WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

Doors open - 6:30p.m.

Jr. High Class - 6:30p.m. 7:30p.m.

Sr. High Class - 8:30p.m. 9:30p.m.

## SUNDAY MORNING DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship Class - 9:15am-10:15am

*(In Classroom 8)*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### February:

25th: Pizza Making Day

### March:

3: College visit at Indiana Wesleyan

31: College visit at Grace College

*Happy Birthday this month to*

Bryan Kidder, Grant Brautigam

Hanna Lemley, Kierstan Williamson

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