

**St. Andrews Presbyterian Church**

*traditional land of the Three Fires Confederacy: the Odawa, Potawatami and Ojibwe.*

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**Worship This Week March 5, 2023**

**WELCOME & Prayer –**

**PRAISE SONGS –** Let there be praise, In moments like these

**YOUNG & YOUNG AT HEART –**

**SONG –** We are one in the Spirit

**RECEIVE OFFERING**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS –** Bible study

**GOD IS MY WITNESS –** 1. Connect the Block. 2. Asbury revival. Jesus Revolution movie. Our own Bible study. (coincidence? I think not)

**PRAYER –**

**SCRIPTURE –** Colossians 3:20-21

Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged.

**MESSAGE –**

Last week, we talked about God's blueprint for a healthy marriage. It's a relationship in which husband and wife give themselves to each other fully. They are to submit and love one another, respect each other's differences and submit their marriage and their family to God. Men need to feel respected (and loved) by their wives, and women need to feel loved (and protected) by their husbands. Part of a wife's respect is that her husband may need to make a final decision if there is disagreement. The wife should not be forced into this position but must willingly choose to be in submission, to yield or defer if necessary. If both partners are fully submitted first to God, then the need for the husband to break a deadlock may never happen. The ultimate goal is to be in sync with God.

This is the nucleus or core of society. Of course, many people are single for whatever reason. That does not mean they have a lesser role in God's world. We'll talk about that in a minute.

Like we did with last week's scripture, we'll examine the key words closely then put them back together and see what they say.

Children = child of either gender, "offspring"

Always = "in all things"

Obey = "to hearken to a command, i. e. to obey, be obedient unto, submit to,"

Parents = those who have birth to you, both parents

Pleasing = "well-pleasing, acceptable"

Lord = "he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has the power of deciding; master, lord; "

Aggravate = could also say "provoke" or stir up to fight.

Children = male or female

Discouraged = "to be disheartened, dispirited, broken in spirit:"

Here's my own translation from the original language.

**Kids, obey** your parents all the time and because they're the boss of you. God is very happy when you do this and think this way. **Parents**, be Godly leaders, firm and disciplined yet patient – realize that children don't always want to obey. The last thing this world needs are children whose spirits are broken.

After writing this, I looked for other expanded translations to compare. There's two translations which take the original language and go beyond a literal translation. They expand it with the idea that it's difficult, if not impossible, to do a word-for-word translation from an ancient dialect and capture the full meaning in 21<sup>st</sup> century English.

Here's The Message translation:

Children, do what your parents tell you. This delights the Master no end.  
21 Parents, don't come down too hard on your children or you'll crush their spirits.

Short and sweet in everyday English but with a bit of poetry.

The Amplified translation is long winded, but still fair and accurate:

**Children**, obey your parents [as God's representatives] in all things, for this [attitude of respect and obedience] is well-pleasing to the Lord [and will bring you God's promised blessings]. 21 **Fathers, do not** provoke or irritate or exasperate your children [with demands that are trivial or unreasonable or humiliating or abusive; nor by favoritism or indifference; **treat them** tenderly with lovingkindness], so they will not lose heart and become discouraged or unmotivated [with their spirits broken].  
Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord.

Language is powerful. What a wonderful world. We are blessed with instant Bible translations. (On this note, we are invited to make use of the amazing resources freely available online for the believer who wants to go deeper in their faith.)

**It's only** in recent generations that we've paid much attention to the pain of children who have endured bad parenting. Thankfully, there is much less tolerance now for violent parents. Children are told that they have the right not to be abused. And that's only fairly recently. In that light, Paul was way ahead of his time. (Actually, it wasn't Paul as much as it was God speaking through him.) God knew that children can be robbed of self esteem, have their spirits broken when parents are overly dominant and controlling. Children have lived their entire adult years emotionally crippled by the verbal, emotional and physical abuse by their parents. Sadly, it's nothing new otherwise God would not have provided this wisdom through Paul.

There's only one issue I have with Paul's words, whatever the translation, and it's the fixation with fathers – as if they are the only ones who can provoke and be

abusive. I think it's reasonable to include mothers in this. Let's go with that understanding.

**What this all** comes down to is the fact that family is to be a **centre of caring**. Families come in all shapes and sizes. Traditionally, we think of mom/dad and children. But there are people who are single or who will never marry. There are couples who do not have children. They are part of this centre of caring. The best definitions of families are multi generational or extended. Traditionally, it's grandparents, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. But even that's not inclusive. So we include aunts and uncles and great-aunts and great-uncles, plus cousins. But even that does not include everyone. Enter the church. Consider that if God is our true father and we are brothers and sisters in Christ, we have a spiritual bond, which is arguably more powerful than human family. There we have it. No one is truly alone. The church is the ultimate centre of caring.

**HYMN – 703 Happy the home – four verses**

### **LORD'S SUPPER**

**HYMN – 324 Great is thy faithfulness**

**BENEDICTION – May you dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of this life and in the world to come.**

### **NEW PRAYER**

Sandra Pegg – home from hospital, but continue to pray

### **CONTINUE TO PRAY**

Health and healing –

1. Jennie Atherton, Becky Desjardine, Bill Eves, Margaret Follows, Ron Mason, Bette Northcott, Tom O'Neill, Cherie Pegg, Sandra Pegg, Mary Whitson, Sandra Whitson
2. Waiting for surgery: Dan Shaw
3. Anyone seeking or undergoing treatment for addictions
4. Anyone wrestling with anxiety and depression
5. Karen Northcott – thanks for good biopsy results but continue to pray.

There are many whose names are not listed here – God know who they are and what they need.

Seniors and shut ins – Alan (Curly) Clark and Norma Latimer at Riverview Gardens, Jim Lusk and Ross Fuchs at Oaks Wallaceburg, Joyce MacTavish at The Waterford Home in Barrie, Bill Lozon at Copper Terrace, Aubrey Butler at home.

Session – Mark Labadie (clerk and representative elder), Cindy Brewer, Sheila Eves, Andrew Neely, Mark Richards and Julie Shaw.

Board of managers – Wendy Weston (chair), Paul Vandenbogaerde (treasurer), Will Brewer, Ross Fuchs, Linda Malott, Jenn Mason, Von Parking, Mark Richards, Jodie Rich, Dan Shaw and Mike Wicks.

## **WHAT'S UP:**

Pop can fundraiser – Bring your pop cans to church! Leave them in the bin behind Rutherford Hall. They're worth money!

## **DATES**

March 6 – Session 7 p.m.

March 8 – Lenten Lunch noon at North Dresden Baptist Church

March 11 – Presbytery visitation, 10-noon at church.

March 16 -- Lenten Lunch noon at North Dresden Baptist Church

March 19 – Annual Congregation Meeting in the Rutherford Hall following worship.

March 22 -- Lenten Lunch noon at North Dresden Baptist Church

March 25 – Renewal Fellowship annual meeting in Welland or livestream. Register via Eventbrite or see Pastor Andy

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

### **GIVING:**

E-transfer to [pcvan1313@gmail.com](mailto:pcvan1313@gmail.com). Bring envelope on Sunday or if you have a key, leave it in the treasurer's mailbox. Mail it to the church, PO Box 93 Dresden. NOP 1M0. Put it in the mailbox at the home of treasurer Paul Vandenbogaerde. 1313 North Street, Dresden.

Telephone number 519-683-6194

GIFT CARDS – You pay face value for the gift cards and the church buys them at a discount through Chatham Christian Schools. **Next deadline March 26.**