

Pastor's Pen

Remain Faithful!

You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world sets himself as an enemy of God. James 4:4

When a Christian couple gets married, they promise before God to remain faithful to one another till death do they part. If sometime down the road one spouse decides that they want to be with someone other than their spouse intimately, they have committed adultery and would be an adulterer. John MacArthur writes the following about this verse:

“In referring to adulteresses, James uses the term metaphorically in a way that his Jewish readers would clearly understand, referring to men as well as women. He is not talking about sexual but spiritual infidelity, as the term is often used in the Old Testament of God’s unfaithful people, Israel. Through Jeremiah, the Lord said, “I saw that for all the adulteries of faithless Israel, I had sent her away and given her a writ of divorce, yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear; but she went and was a harlot also” (Jer. 3:8). Similarly, Ezekiel spoke of Judah as an “[adulterous] wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband!” (Ezek. 16:32).

Scripture nowhere uses the terms adulterer or adulteress figuratively of Gentiles, because only Israel had a covenant relationship with God to be unfaithful to, just as husbands and wives have the covenant relationship of marriage. Gentiles could be spiritual fornicators, as it were, but not adulterers—a contemptible distinction reserved for Israel, the unfaithful wife. Whether they turned to pagan gods and idols or simply turned to the world as their supreme love, to do so was to be unfaithful to the Lord and commit spiritual adultery, a figurative name for apostasy.

Jesus spoke of unbelieving Israel of His day as “an evil and adulterous generation” (Matt. 12:39; cf. 16:4; Mark 8:38). It was because most Jews, even those who were religious, had turned away from the Lord and His revealed Word to gods of their own making and to their own man-made traditions that they did not receive Jesus as their Messiah. They used their traditions to interpret Scripture, and in doing so they strayed from and often contradicted Scripture, becoming blinded to God’s truth and even to His own Son (Matt. 15:1–9; Mark 7:1–13; Col. 2:8; cf. John 5:39–40). Despite fierce claims of faithfulness to Judaism and the God of Judaism, they were adulterous and apostate.”

The same can be said of those who claim to be Christians and attach themselves to the church but have no saving relationship to God or love for Him or His Word. They were found even in the early church, and James calls them adulteresses. There is no middle ground.

When you became a Christian you became part of the Church. As part of the church you are now the bride of Christ. We are to be faithful to Christ above all others. Nothing in this world should draw us a way from Christ. What say you Christian, are you faithful to the one who saved you? Are you salt and light? If you can’t answer yes, then you are a spiritual adulterer.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

“The seasons change, and you change,
but your Lord abides evermore the same,
and the streams of His love are as deep,
as broad, and as full as ever.”

— Charles H. Spurgeon

Grace Gems

To be born again is to be transformed!
-Jim Elliff

The transformation in true Christianity is supernatural and profound. Not everyone who professes to be a Christian has experienced it. But without such a change, there is no authentic Christian life or true hope. Consider that the change is

From death to life
From blindness to sight
From slavery to freedom
From rebellion to submission
From darkness to light
From dead spirit to new birth
From self love to sacrificial love
From religious externalism to inner motivation
From the lordship of our flesh to the lordship of Christ

The change is so profound in true regeneration that it really makes no difference where a person starts that life in his or her journey, or whether a person thinks he or she is born into the previous lifestyle or simply chose it. Christ is able to make every person new, conforming that person to Christ’s new and better life from the inside out. He brings this new believer into the new and better destiny also, with complete forgiveness because Christ’s death in the place of that person removes all true deserved legal guilt before God. The transformed person lives happily under Christ’s gracious benevolent authority.

The new person in Christ then wants to obey Christ. Therefore, attempts to negotiate how the old life can be kept to any degree is a non-starter. The Spirit of God helps the person prior to Christ to be convinced of sin and need and potential in Christ. The humble person who comes to Christ believes that the life being left is a disappointing mess and damning, destructive and pitiful. He is escaping from it. He is being rescued or “saved.” That old life, being such a failure, is part of the motivation to come to Christ. But Christ’s beauty and offered forgiveness and eternal life will be even more alluring. With the change God causes, all is surprisingly different as hope enters the chambers of death, like brilliant light in a pitch-black cave.

Jesus described the necessity of this change with these simple words: “You must be born again.” He is right. Without this supernatural change, there is really no hope.



Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old Testament
New Testament
Young Parents
Young Adults
Sunday Morning @ 9AM

Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Bible Study
Every other Saturday:
Women of Grace | 9am

Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
every other week @ Chambers & Cox's
& @ Patrick's
Every Friday @ 7pm @ Royall's

Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team and forgot to sign up, please contact the team leader at the appropriate email address.

Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study
AWANA @6:30PM

Service Times

Sunday Service 10:30AM
Children's Church @10:30AM

Giving from service on 3/06/2022

General Offering	14,220.60
Building Fund	2,336.60
Uganda	400.00
Total	\$16,957.20

Attendance	212
Sunday School	133
Online.....	26

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance @ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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Welcome