

“Authenticity and Hypocrisy;
Reconciliation and Separation”
2 Samuel 14:1-33

“So you also **outwardly** appear **righteous** to others, but **within** you are full of **hypocrisy** and **lawlessness**.”
(Matthew 23:28)

“This people **honors** Me with their **lips**, but their **heart is far** from Me.” (Matthew 15:8)

- Deception strikes again:
 - The “wise” woman of Tekoa: She was “wise” at deceiving just like Jonadab was “crafty” at sinning.
 - Joab used *a woman* and *the Law* to manipulate David to do what Joab wanted him to do (Exodus 22:22-24; Deuteronomy 25:5-10).
 - The woman of Tekoa uses lies and flattery to try to manipulate David (2 Samuel 14:17,20).
 - Joab was hoping that in bringing Absalom back it would change the course of the trajectory that the kingdom was going. The kingdom was becoming worse and worse (2 Samuel 14:20).
 - Joab believed that Absalom would be a good king because he was impressive physically. But Absalom, like Joab, was dead spiritually (1 Samuel 9:2; 10:23-24; 16:6-7).

- Pride doesn’t allow reconciliation:
 - David had been separated from his son, Absalom, for 5 years (2 Samuel 13:38-39; 14:28).
 - Sin creates separation and eventually disdain and hatred between people (2 Samuel 13:15).
 - Absalom did not return to the king as a prodigal, he returned to the king as a murderer. David didn’t give Absalom justice and Absalom never asked for mercy (Luke 15:17-24).
 - Receiving the blessings of the king can either lead to honor and thankfulness, or it can lead to a progressive hardening of our hearts (Ephesians 4:17-19).

- True Submission to The King: (Psalm 2:10-12)
 - Unlike David, Jesus can not be manipulated or controlled by our lies. He sees through all hypocrisy and knows our hearts.
 - Jesus is to be served with fear and enjoyed through submission.
 - Jesus will always use His power for righteous purposes and He will always do what is just.
 - **Amnon, Absalom, Joab, and the woman of Tekoa had no fear of David because he was no longer a man of justice.**
 - Jesus offers justice for the rebellious and proud and offers mercy for the humble and repentant.

Announcements:

★**SERVICE TIME CHANGE & CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT!!** THIS Sunday, December 24th, we will be transitioning to our morning worship service time! This will be our Christmas Eve service, at 10:30am. *We will NOT be having an evening service on Christmas Eve!* Christmas Eve is a great opportunity to invite friends, relatives, and co-workers to join you for church.

*A note to all parents: There will be NO Children's Ministry for the Christmas Eve service. Please know that you are welcome to use the Flex Room at the back of the sanctuary if at any point you need to remove your child from our gathering. One parent must be in the Flex Room with their child at all times.

★**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY:** Our annual New Year's Eve Party will be NEXT Sunday, December 31st, at Andy Wesley's house (1062 National Drive SE; Hebron). There is a sign-up list on the table in the entryway, please sign-up to bring something for the party! The festivities will start at 6pm and last until midnight! EVERYONE is invited to join us for a fun night of games, food, and fellowship!

★**LEGACY THEOLOGY PRACTICUM:** Starting on January 8 through March 11, 2024, we will be offering a 10-week course on "**Church History**" on Mondays from 6-9pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be studying the birth of the Church in Acts 2 in 30AD up to our present time of 2023. Our Christian heritage is filled to the brim with fascinating figures whose lives we can learn from. Church history also records the teaching, movements, and mistakes of Christians who held to the truth of the Word and sought to reflect the invisible God. For the past two-thousand years of our history, Christians have wrestled with Scripture. The stories of Polycarp, Athanasius, Irenaeus, Augustine, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Jonathan Edwards, and John Wesley (just to name a few) help us to persevere in our faith during tough times and inspire us to live our lives in full for God's glory. We will study the major disputes of Heresy, such as the Council of Nicaea, that condemned Arianism in 325, the Council of Carthage that denounced Pelagianism in 418, and the Council of Chalcedon that rejected Eutychianism in 451. We also will study when Churches and Denominations begin. Please see the back of your sermon notes for more information about this course. Let Elder Richard know if you may be interested in this course so we can prepare a Syllabus for you. [(419)651-0053]