

“Living With a Biblical Worldview: How to Have a Healthy Church Culture —  
Developing a Culture of (Dis)Honesty”  
Ephesians 4:25-32; 1 Peter 3:10-12

“Love one another earnestly from a **pure heart**, since you have been born again....” (1 Peter 1:22b-23a)

- Defining terms: *Massive hindrances to delighting in God.*
  - **People Pleasing:** A craving for approval and a fear of disapproval. You will compromise the truth so that people approve of you. An interest in the praise of men more than the commendation of God.
    - “For they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God” (John 12:43). “For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ” (Galatians 1:10).
  - **Flattery:** A lie masquerading as encouragement. It is to praise someone so that you can have control over their lives or so that they will like you. Affirming and praising without challenging or correcting.
    - “Whoever rebukes a man will afterward find more favor than he who flatters with his tongue” (Proverbs 28:23). “A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet” (Proverbs 29:5). “A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering mouth works ruin” (Proverbs 26:28).
  - **Confession of Sin: Honesty and purity of heart** involve continual admission of sin to appropriate people in our lives. At times, we believe confession of our sin is optional, not necessary.
    - “Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy” (Proverbs 28:13). “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed” (James 5:16a).
- Ephesians 4:25-32
  - Because we are new (Ephesians 4:20-24) the way **that we communicate and interact** with each other is drastically different from the world.
  - The Christian community is **a community of truth**. We speak the truth in love with one another and we live the truth towards one another (Ephesians 4:15).
  - When we lie to one another we are **hurting ourselves and one another spiritually**. We are injuring our own bodies.
  - There is to be no corrupting (rotten, putrid, decay, foul) talk coming out of our mouths. “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” (Matthew 12:34b)
  - Our speech within the body of Christ is meant to **build up and give grace**. We encourage (1 Thessalonians 5:11) and wound one another. “Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.” (Proverbs 27:5-6; cf. Psalm 141:3-5)
  - The Christian community is full of kindness and tenderheartedness, especially when it comes to forgiveness. We are sinners forgiving sinners who have been forgiven by a great Savior.

**Worship:** God Is For Us — CityAlight

Leaning On The Everlasting Arms — Various Artists

In Tenderness — The Sing Team

**Closing Song:** Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken — Indelible Grace Music

**Service Times:** Sundays: Sunday School 9/Prayer 9:45a/Church 10:30a; Tuesdays: Bible Study — Women 6:30p/Men 7p; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20p/Church 7p

## **Announcements:**

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of January we are collecting monetary donations for Heartbeats. Heartbeats is a life-affirming pregnancy resource medical center serving the people of our community with the love of Christ. For more information about Heartbeats and what they do, please see the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary. You can give your monetary donations on Venmo, please make sure to note that it is for Heartbeats. Or you can put your monetary donations in the container on the back table. ***NEXT Sunday is the LAST day for this collection!***

★**FELLOWSHIP LUNCH:** We are having a Fellowship Lunch NEXT Sunday, January 26th, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the table in the entryway, please sign-up to bring something to the meal. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the food and the fellowship with us.

★**CHURCH GAME NIGHT:** Our monthly Church Game Night is TONIGHT starting at 5pm, at Andy's house. Please bring your favorite board or card game to play and bring a food item to share with everyone!

★**CHURCH NIGHT OF PRAYER:** Our monthly Church Night of Prayer is NEXT Sunday, January 26th, from 5:30-7pm. During this prayer time we will be praying for specific prayer requests within the church body. Please consider joining us for a portion of this time or for the full hour and a half of prayer.

★**SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY COURSE:** Our next Systematic Theology Course will begin on Monday, January 27th: "God and the World." We will be studying the literal 24-hour six, day of Creation in Genesis and the Age of the Earth; God's Divine Decrees (Sovereignty and Providence); Angelology (Angels); Satanology (Satan)' Demonology (Demons); Anthropology (Man); and Hamartiology (Sin). We will study how many Holy angels there are versus Fallen angels and their activities, we will also look at Satan and his strategies as our enemy, we will study man who is made up of body, soul, and spirit, and study the doctrine of sin and its results. This course is eight weeks long and we meet every Monday night from 6:00-9:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. If interested please let Elder Richard know so he can prepare a syllabus for each student.