



Cape Coral Church of Christ

1010 S.W. 20th Avenue

Cape Coral, Florida 33991

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<http://www.thelordsway.com/capecoralfl>

Schedule of Services

Sunday: Bible Study: 9:30 A.M.

Worship: 10:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday: Bible Study: 6:00 P.M.

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The Need to Share

"If you are really thankful, what do you do? You share." - W. Clement Stone

From the time we are children, we have to learn to share. It is hard for children to share their toys, food, possessions, etc. What is sad is seeing those who grow up never having learned the blessing of being able to share. Yes, there are adults today to whom sharing is foreign. They are selfish and act as though they only care about themselves.

When one is born anew, in Christ, and as they take on that honorable title of Christian, they learn that sharing is needful. In fact, we read the amazing words, "Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostle's feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need" (Acts 4:34-35).

Quite often Christians are blessed to be able to share with others monetarily or physically. There is a sharing of resources and time for the benefit of others. But the puzzle is in why Christians do not share the saving message of Christ? It has often been said, if we see our neighbor's house is burning, we will risk our lives to save the people or animals that may be in harm's way. This seems strange because we know of those who are facing the fires of Hell and we say virtually nothing. So, a house fire becomes worse than the eternal fires of Hell?

Friends, you have the saving message of Jesus Christ. You have the health, ability, and the means to share a very powerful message that can lead to the salvation of their souls (Rom. 1:16; James 1:21). Why then are we so timid and afraid to share the truth with others?

Maybe you haven't learned to share as much as you thought? Perhaps sharing the Gospel message hasn't crossed your mind? Here is a quote from of old that we can apply:

"Then they said to one another, We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent" (2 Kings 7.9).

Seven Facts about Marriage

The key to an enjoyable, happy marriage is to conduct it God's way. Consider seven foundational principles from the Bible about marriage.

1. A godly marriage is a lifelong commitment. "For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man" (Romans 7:2-3).

2. A godly marriage is between a man and a woman. "And He answered and said to them, Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?" (Matthew 19:4-5).

3. A godly remarriage can occur on the basis of death or adultery. "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery" (Matthew 19:9).

4. A godly marriage is about partnership and companionship. "And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him" (Genesis 2:18). "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). "[A]s being heirs together of the grace of life" (1 Peter 3:7).

5. A godly marriage has roles for husband and wife. Husbands are called to the head of the home (Ephesians 5:23). Wives are to submit to their husbands (Ephesians 5:22), and be keepers of the home (Titus 2:5).

6. A godly marriage values treating each other rightly. Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25) with a sacrificial, giving love, that leads as a servant (Matthew 20:25-28). Husbands are to honor their wives (1 Peter 3:7), and not be harsh with them

(Colossians 3:18). Wives are to love their husbands (Titus 2:4), and be respectful (1 Peter 3:1-6).

7. A godly marriage is devoted to sexual faithfulness. "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefined; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4). "Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by mutual consent for a time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; and then come together again, that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control" (1 Corinthians 7:2-5).

Give and Take

Life is often a matter of giving and taking. But with what spirit do we give - or take? The British author, Elizabeth Bibesco, once said, "Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting."

Accomplishing that will require some practice, won't it? Giving something to another person or to God's church, and not remembering the act may go against our nature. Yet, when we can give without remembering or without begrudging what we gave, the giving can become habitual and instill a feeling of joy. So try to remember the happiness of giving, but forget the occasion of doing so.

On the other hand, most of us are recipients of gifts given and good deeds done by others. Remember with gratitude those blessings. Savor the joy they aroused in us and be grateful for the givers.

Give without remembering. Take without forgetting. These are clues for better living.

Don't Give-up on Prayer

Prayer is communication! A wonderful privilege! Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, it is laying hold of His highest willingness.

Truly, "more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." In the fourth chapter of Philippians, Paul says to "worry about nothing" and "pray about everything." Nothing is too great for His power, nothing too small for His fatherly care.

God hears! God answers! Jesus told several parables with this simple, but emphatic message: God answers prayer! (Luke 11:5-13; Luke 18:1-8).

Jesus teaches us how to pray. The pulse of prayer is praise. "Hallowed be thy name."

The heart of prayer is gratitude. "In everything give thanks." (1 Thess. 5:18). We let our requests be made known unto God "by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving" (Phil. 4:6).

The voice of prayer is obedience. "Thy will be done." Nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer except that which lies beyond God's will.

The arm of prayer is service. Prayer fails when we expect God to do things for us which He desires to do through us. Put action into prayer. That which is prefaced by prayer should be punctuated by practice.

Popcorn Worship

Years ago, Frank Pack expressed a desire to know what really went on during a worship service. He said that just one time he would like for the bodies of the worshipers to go where their minds were.

As a preacher, I don't know if I could stand that.

A businesswoman, thinking of the house she hoped to sell that afternoon, would suddenly pop out of the assembly and be with her prospect.

A teenager might return to Friday night and the touchdown he scored to give his team the victory.

Several adults have already popped out of the assembly with their minds fixed on the opening kickoff of a televised football game, and wondering if the service will conclude in time for them to race home and see it.

A married couple sits in the pew seething with anger at each other and trying to figure out what to say next in the argument which started on the way to the service.

An elderly man's thoughts turn to the grave of his wife who was buried on Friday.

A woman's mind returns to her kitchen, and the roast she put in the oven.

An avid golfer contemplates how he is going to play the fifth hole next time.

If on a Sunday morning our bodies went where our minds did, I'm afraid there would be so much popping in and out that all of us would be dizzy from looking up and down long before the service concluded. Worship in spirit and truth is not easily accomplished. It requires discipline on the part of every worshiper.

Make sure your worship this Sunday is a response to God, to what God has done, and to what God is doing. "Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness" (1 Chronicles 16:29).