

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Scot Parchman

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Kyle Pool

Assisting: Brynn Hatcher
Ron Austin

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Those serving Wednesday

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Scot Parchman

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Pantry Item

N/A

Sermon Notes *Hope in the Resurrection*

I. *The* _____

II. *The* _____

III. *The* _____

October 31, 2021

Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

3808 Village Dr
Fayetteville, NC
28304
Phone:
(910) 425-1108
Website:
capefearcoc.org
Find us on
Facebook!

Service Times
Sunday:
B. C. 9:00am
Worship 10:00am

Wednesday Night:
B. C. 7:00pm

Ladies' Class:
Tuesdays 10:00am

Elders
Scot Parchman
Wade Hedgepeth
Byran Hatcher

Deacon
John Williams

Volume 35 Issue 5

The Cape Fear Crier

“Cry aloud and shout...for great in the midst of thee is the Holy One of Israel.” Isaiah 12:6

Living In Adultery

Occasionally, the phrase “living in adultery” is used to refer to those who have been divorced for a cause other than fornication and have subsequently remarried. Does this phrase accurately describe the condition of such people? Three reasons this is the right way to describe those in this life circumstance:

1. It is possible to both live in sin in general or in a sin in particular. 2 Peter 2:18 refers to those who “live in error.” Titus 3:3 addresses the idea of “living in malice and envy.” James 5:5 accuses some of having “lived in pleasure.” Colossians 3:5-7 is very helpful in establishing this matter: “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye **lived in them.**”

Fornication is a broad category which includes, among other sexual sins, the sin of adultery. Adultery, of necessity, involves the sins of uncleanness, inordinate affection (passion), and evil concupiscence (lust). Adultery is clearly a sin which is included in this list of sins. “*And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day*” (Acts 23:1). It is clear that Paul had “lived in all good conscience” because he had continued to do the things his conscience prompted and refused to do those things his conscience forbid. Biblically speaking then, when we continue in something we are said to be living in it. The Colossians were described as having “lived in” these sins because they continued to commit them. Any sin we continue to commit on a regular basis we are “living in.” Since it is possible to live in these sins, it is clearly possible to “live in adultery.”

It is also interesting that Paul seems to be describing the lifestyles of the Colossians before they became Christians. God's law is the same for Christians and non-Christians. The Corinthians were guilty of

adultery **before** they were washed and sanctified (1 Cor. 6:9-11). Paul made it plain in writing to the Corinthians that all men are under the law to Christ (1 Cor. 9:21). It is possible for both Christians and non-Christians to “live in adultery.”

2. People who divorce for a cause other than fornication and then remarry are “living in adultery” as long as they continue in that marriage relationship. Matthew 19:9, “*And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.*”

Jesus declares that those who marry under such circumstances “commit adultery.” This means clearly that those marriages are not legitimate, God-recognized and sanctioned marriages, for how could they be both adultery and marriage? Such relationships do not enjoy the marriage bed that is always holy or undefiled (Heb. 13:4) because such relationships are adulterous. God joins people in marriage (Matt. 19:6). It is not possible for God to join people in marriage when the union results in adultery.

This concept of “living in adultery” is seen in Jesus' use of the present tense verb, showing a matter that is ongoing or continued in. It does not matter whether the people under consideration are Christians or non-Christians since all are under the law to Christ (1 Cor. 9:21). Since Jesus labeled remarriage after a divorce for any cause other than fornication adultery, it is adultery as long as one continues in it. To continue living in such a relationship is to “live in adultery.”

3. People who are “living in adultery” must leave the adulterous relationship. As we have seen, people are described as “living in” various sins when they continue to commit those sins. Repentance involves turning from those sins, i.e. not continuing to commit them. If we understand repentance, then we also know the answer for those who are living in adultery (see 2 Cor. 7:10-11).

Christians who are “living in adultery” must repent and leave the relationship that Jesus labels as adulterous. As long as they continue in that relationship they are continuing in rebellion to the will of God showing they are unwilling to repent of every sin.

Non-Christians who are “living in adultery” must repent and leave the relationship that Jesus labels as adulterous. As we teach the Gospel to people, we are obligated to try to get them to reflect on their lives, to understand those areas of their lives that are sinful, and to repent, or turn from those sins. Baptism has no power to turn adultery into a legitimate, God-sanctioned marriage. A couple would have to dissolve their sinful relationship to demonstrate their repentance so that baptism would result in remission of sins and their being added to the body.

Is it difficult to leave an adulterous relationship? Incredibly! Is it possible to leave one? Only if one’s love for the Lord exceeds love of self.

- BTH

By the Numbers

Attendance 10/24/21

Bible Class: 26

A.M. Worship: 55

Wed. B. C.: 19

Family News and Notes

Jeff Meiser, Kyle Pool’s boss, was just diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. **Debbie Smith’s** parents’ are not doing well at this time, especially her dad. **Brent Pollard** is now at home in GA, and is improving. Linda Williams’ mother, **Mary Pipkens** and her brothers, **Wayne** and **Harry** all are in need of prayer because of serious health concerns. **Jack** and **Sondra Wain**, Kim Perkins’ parents, are dealing with serious health issues. Her sister-in-law **Rhonda Wain** needs prayers as well. **Jamie Phillips** is caring for his mother and going through a hard time. **Claudia Farrington** is having a difficult time right now. **Frances Salaz** is going through chemo. Let’s remember one another in prayer.

Active military: Pray for our active duty military members; they could be called to a conflict area at a moment’s notice. Remember to pray for their families as well.

Also remember: **Margaret Langston, Vicky Carver, Deborah Ross Alex Freshley, Frances Salaz, Tylia Landrum, Gwen & Sarah Jennen, John and Linda Williams**, the **Pollard** family, **Claudia Farrington, Rick Caldwell**, and **Thelma Adams**. Please pray for those in Bible Studies, teachers and students!

Bible Reading Plan

Oct 31	Nov 1	Nov 2	Nov 3	Nov 4	Nov 5	Nov 6
Is 63-66	Jer 1-3	Jer 4-6	Jer 7-9	Jer 10-12	Jer 13-15	Jer 16-18
Ps 120	Ps 121	Ps 122	Ps 123	Ps 124	Ps 125	Ps 126

Events

Regular Bible Classes: Children 6th grade and under are in the Fellowship Hall, and High School students are in room 11.

Teachers’ Meeting & Lunch: This morning after the worship service. Lunch provided.

Gospel Meeting: Nov 7-10 @ Oak Forest in Goldsboro. 7pm weeknights.

