

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Chad Futrell
Song Leader: Chad Futrell
Opening Prayer: Kyle Pool
Lord's Table:
Presiding: Sibio Farrington
Assisting: Ben Grant
Tyler Christian
Sermon: Byran Hatcher
Closing P.: Luka Herrera

Those serving Wednesday

Teacher: Byran Hatcher
Announcements: Byran Hatcher
Devotional: Julius Cook
Song Leader: Chad Futrell
Closing Prayer: Tyler Christian

Pantry Item
Canned Chicken

Sermon Notes *How Are You Listening?*

I. _____ to Listen

II. Listen only _____

III. Listen only _____

IV. Listen with _____

November 23, 2025

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Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

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Fayetteville, NC
28304

Phone:
(910) 425-1108

Website:
capefearcoc.org
Find us on
Facebook!
Sermons are
archived on our
YouTube page!

Service Times

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

Wednesday Night:
B. C. 7:00pm

Ladies' Class:
Tuesdays 10:00am

Elders
Wade Hedgepeth
Byran Hatcher

The Cape Fear Crier

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

The Truth In Love

By inspiration the Lord's servant Paul wrote, *“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.”* (Eph. 4:14-15). It is always important to teach the Gospel in a loving way since precious souls are at stake. The apostle also taught that *“...the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth”* (II Tim. 2:24,25). Christians should always strive to present the Gospel in a way that avoids unnecessary upset or controversy. The truth is divisive enough without adding a bad attitude on the part of Christ's follower (Luke 12:51-53; John 10:19). Regrettably, some first century disciples preached Christ from envy and strife while others did so out of love (Phil. 1:15-17).

There are some who claim members of the Lord's church are arrogant when they present the message of salvation. Declaring there is only one true church Jesus will save is not a mark of arrogance. It is stating Biblical truth that will save souls (Eph. 1:22,23). When people believe one church is as good as another, there is no incentive to seek the true church. What is exceedingly strange is that some who hold this view are members of the Lord's church. The very people who ought to know the truth act as if they do not understand it. Perhaps they have been deceived into mouthing this popular, though fallacious opinion. Perhaps an appeal to reason can rectify the situation (Isa. 1:18).

Arrogance implies one is “making claims of superior importance.” Was Jesus arrogant when he said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”* (John 14:6)? No. He was simply stating the exclusive truth, even though it offends many. Was Peter arrogant when he said, *“Neither is*

there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12)? No, though there are many who would accuse the apostle of being too narrow minded. The Bible declares there is only one way to be saved and that is through Jesus Christ. Any other way is the way of eternal loss. This is not an arrogant claim of superior importance, it is God’s revealed truth.

Was Paul arrogant when he said, *“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism”* (Eph. 4:4,5)? Certainly not! It was the same writer who just ten verses later instructed Christians to speak the truth in love! Paul was not guilty of insolence when he pointed out the Gentiles were *“alienated from the life of God”* (Eph. 4:18). Instead, Paul was motivated by love for lost souls. He wanted the Gentiles to hear the Gospel that could save them (Rom. 11:13; I Tim. 2:7). Paul spoke the truth saying Christians have salvation while the unconverted Gentiles did not in Galatians 6:14,15 *“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.”* Paul pointed out the Jew was no better than the Greek since all have sinned (Rom. 3:9,23).

Some have concluded speaking the truth in love means never upsetting anyone. However, this is not in harmony with God’s word. Jesus said things that offended some who heard him. A good example of this are the hard words Jesus spoke to the Pharisees (Matt. 15:1-11). *“Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying”* (Matt. 15:12)? Even some of Christ’s disciples got upset and no longer walked with Him because of His teaching (John 6:60-66).

Speaking the truth in love means following Jesus’ example. *“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments”* (I John 5:3). We must love lost souls enough to confront them with their sin and doctrinal error just as our Lord did. The apostles had plenty of opposition from unbelieving Jews but Paul said, *“I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God”* (Acts 20:20,27). Failing to declare all of God’s word to avoid controversy is not truly loving; it is cowardly.

Accusing a person of being arrogant when he stands for the unique identity of the Lord’s church makes one a judge of the heart. Who alone can fairly and accurately judge a person’s heart? Only the God of Heaven.

- BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 11/16
Chapters Read: 267

B.C.: 28
Worship: 50

Daily Bible Readers: 11
Wednesday: 27

Family News and Notes

Rob Sparks’ mother, **Phyllis Molina**, is back at home and doing better. **John McDougale**, **Geraldine Harrington’s** uncle, is not doing well. **Gwen’s** daughter, **Sarah**, was in a bad car accident last week; she is improving. Kyle Pool’s coworker, **Jeremy Rankin**, was in an auto accident causing him to endure several surgeries with more to come. Jeremy’s wife also gave birth to their third child the same day. Jennifer’s coworker, **Nicole Jones**, is going through personal health issues and family struggles. **Carlton Norris**, **Jeanette Freshley’s** dad, is in hospice care and not doing well. **Barbara Norris** is also struggling with her health. **Ally** is in West Virginia with them to help out and is doing a fantastic job caring for them. **Linda Jenkins’** son, **Shannon**, is struggling with mental health issues. **Kim Perkins’** parents need prayers and the family is going through a lot of stress.

Also remember: **Linda Boston**, **Margaret Langston**, **Vicky Carver**, **Wade & Sandra Hedgepeth**, **Barry & Melany Hatcher**, **Frances Salaz**, **Linda Hernandez**, and the **Davis** family.

Bible Reading Plan

Nov 23	Nov 24	Nov 25	Nov 26	Nov 27	Nov 28	Nov 29
Eze 31-32	Eze 33-34	Eze 35-36	Eze 37-38	Eze 39-40	Eze 41-42	Eze 43-44
Pr 19	Pr 20	Pr 21	Pr 22	Pr 23	Pro 24	Pr 25

Events

Prayer Service: November 26, all in the fellowship hall for prayer service 7pm.

Holiday Baskets: Please bring in goodies for baskets. Assembly is Friday night, Dec 12, Delivery Dec 13.

Holiday Fellowship: Sunday, December 13th 1pm, at the Oxendines’ house.

