

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23

THE PASTOR'S PEN

October 20, 2024

FAMILY IS IMPORTANT TO GOD

All of us, independent of when we were born, where we were born, how long it took for us to be born and the parents to whom we were born, were born into a family. Have you ever thought about why God chose to give us life and bring us into this world through families?

As we ponder the question, consider the relationship of the three persons in the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The relationship between the first two persons in the Trinity is Father and Son or Parent and Child. That is, family.

Consider, the relationship between God and God's people in the Old Testament is a relationship of husband and wife.

Isaiah 54:6, ⁵ *For your Maker is your husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; the God of the whole earth he is called.* ⁶ *For the Lord has called you like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, like the wife of a man's youth when she is cast off, says your God.* (NRSV)

Ezekiel 16:8 ⁸ *And when I passed by again, I saw that you were old enough for love. So I wrapped my cloak around you to cover your nakedness and declared my marriage vows. I made a covenant with you, says the Sovereign Lord, and you became mine.* (NLT)

Hosea 2:19, 20, ¹⁹ *And I will take you for my wife forever; I will take you for my wife in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy.* ²⁰ *I will take you for my wife in faithfulness, and you shall know the Lord.* (NRSV)

Consider also, the relationship between Jesus and the church is a relationship of groom and bride.

Matthew 9:14, 15, ⁴ *Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?"* ¹⁵ *And Jesus said to them, "The wedding attendants cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.* (NRSV)

2 Corinthians 11:2, ² *I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I promised you in marriage to one husband, to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

Ephesians 5:25-27, ²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her* ²⁶ *in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word,* ²⁷ *so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind, so that she may be holy and without blemish.*

Even more, Jesus instructs us to consider our relationship with his Father as our Father, which makes Jesus our elder brother.

Matthew 6:9, ⁹ *In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven...*

Not only is the relationship between the first two persons in the Trinity represented as family (Father and Son / Parent and Child), in both the Old Testament and the New Testament the relationship between God and the people of God are represented as family (Husband and Wife).

Of all the relationships that God could have chosen, or even created, to represent the relationship between God and God's people, the relationship of family was chosen. This reflects the seriousness with which God considers family and our hope that God is present with us when we desire to ensure that our family relationships are well and healthy.

Every day at 6:00 p.m., pray for your biological family, pray for your church family and watch God work in ways that only God can on behalf of your family.

WORK FOR THE WEEK

OCTOBER MEMORY VERSE

¹² Who else has held the oceans in his hand? Who has measured off the heavens with his fingers? Who else knows the weight of the earth or has weighed the mountains and hills on a scale? ¹³ Who is able to advise the Spirit of the Lord? Who knows enough to give him advice or teach him? ¹⁵ ...He picks up the whole earth as though it were a grain of sand...²⁵ "To whom will you compare me? Who is my equal?" asks the Holy One. ²⁶ Look up into the heavens. Who created all the stars? He brings them out like an army, one after another, calling each by its name. Because of his great power and incomparable strength, not a single one is missing.

Isaiah 40:12-26

OCTOBER MEDITATION QUOTES

"It is important to keep in mind that the image of God, which a people or a person possesses will determine the potential limits of their minds. If people have a narrow image of God, then their minds are narrow. If people believe that the biggest reality is a tree, then that is the extent to which their minds can aspire. If one believes that God can be only as large as a river or a lake, then that is as large as that mind will be able to reach. Such an image prohibits you from conceiving of the ocean which feeds the lake, and if you cannot conceive of the clouds which feed the ocean, your potential for understanding "Truth" and the competence which comes from Truth is limited. People with a limited or narrowed concept of God, then, have an automatically limited and narrowed psychology.

Na'im Akbar, Ph.D.

TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

Do I only believe what Jesus said or do I believe in who Jesus is? _____

FOR THE YOUTH

You have believed in a lot of things in your life...

Do you believe in Jesus?

The Pilgrim Rest Oasis

Sharing the Faith · Securing the Future

Through faith God has given us the space to be an oasis in the middle of the city.

An oasis is a fertile spot in the desert where refuge, relief, and refreshment is found.

Be part of God's plan for Pilgrim Rest and this community.

Start contributing to the Oasis today!
Let's continue to make progress!



Thank you for your continued support of God's plan for us.

Beginning



Current

Your contribution can be dedicated to a specific activity or the Oasis, in general.

	Educational Enrichment	Technology Literacy	Athletics & Recreation	Performing Arts	Facility Innovation
\$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Subject books for elementary (math, literature, history, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 iPad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 basketballs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 art sets for aspiring artists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External security lighting to keep the street well-lit and safe
\$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 Summer Bridge books to help students retain learning during breaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 "learn how to code" kits for elementary students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 tennis rackets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 beginner saxophones or 8 beginner violins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camera security system to keep everyone safe
\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 students can be challenged to excel using interactive problem-solving programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 computer for graphic design and website creation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 sets of golf clubs for children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Play Scripts with performance/licensing fee and cast instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wireless PA system to easily communicate at the school
\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 smartboard to help teachers engage students in learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 STEM lab cart of materials for a classroom with multiple activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-day Speed and Agility workshop for 15 young aspiring track stars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 pairs of tap shoes for aspiring dancers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery operated floor scrubber to keep the building looking its best
\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 trip for 15 students to visit 1 HBCU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 Robotic kits to reinforce studies in STEAM subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open gym for 20 young people 1 X a week throughout the winter in a safe place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 tickets to see Alvin Ailey Dance Company 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LED light fixtures throughout the school to promote learning and natural light