



August 2008
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Norwood Christian Grapevine

I AM THE VINE YOU ARE THE BRANCHES... JOHN 15:5



Pastor's Promptings

An Engaging Situation

I have some exciting news. My oldest son, Zack is engaged to be married! After 22 months of courtship with Natalie Colvin, the daughter of our dear friends Charlie and Liz Colvin from Pearblossom, California, Zack asked Natalie to be his wife. Natalie said, "Yes."

While this turn of events did not come as a surprise to us, in some ways it is surprising. It seems like only yesterday that Chris and I were celebrating the birth of Zachary, our first born child. Now Zack will be 21 years old this month and will be getting married next April. A new chapter of our life and his is upon us.

I am pleased that Zack and Natalie have chosen to honor the Lord by conducting themselves according to God's plan for marriage. They have rejected the world's plan and opted to follow the Lord's plan. Their courtship followed their understanding of the biblical model. No dating for them. In their opinion

(and mine) dating does not prepare you for marriage; it prepares you for divorce.

While there is not space in this article to do a thorough analysis comparing dating and courtship, allow me to provide a brief overview of the two.

Look at the typical teenage dating scenario. First, "dating" begins way before a young person can even think about getting married. Dating is not about finding a marriage partner, dating is based on lustful attractions and something that is done because everyone else is doing it.

There are typically few if any boundaries limiting physical intimacy between the couple. Most parents do not know what their children are doing when they are out on a date. During dating the couple gives away some or all of their purity to someone they really do not know very well and have no in-

tention of spending the rest of their life with. Hormones and emotions rule their decisions.

Then, after a few weeks or months of dating they have an argument over who knows what and they break up. Relationship over, time to move on to the next dating partner. The cycle repeats itself numerous times throughout a teen's life. Give your heart and intimacy away, become emotionally attached to another person, hit a rough spot, and break up. The breakup leaves behind emotional scars some carry with them the rest of their life, even into their eventual marriage(s).

Over and over it goes until you have been trained not how to keep a relationship together, but how to abandon the one you once loved as soon as things get rough. Does that sound like good training for marriage or train-

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"I am the Vine;
You are the
branches.

If a man remains in
Me and I in him, he
will bear much
fruit;

Apart from Me you
can do nothing."

John 15:5

The American Heritage Series – Coming in September



On Wednesday night, September 3rd, we will begin a new Wednesday night study called “The American Heritage Series.” This enlightening video series is from Wall Builders and is hosted by historian David Barton. The American Heritage Series will help you discover the forgotten and astonishing story of our nation’s foundation.

For centuries Americans were taught a truthful view of history that recognized the Godly heroes and moral foundation our nation was founded upon. But in recent years a new version of history has assaulted the moral and spiritual fiber of our nation, leaving the truth of our past eliminated and forgotten. Until today.

From Separation of Church and State, to the Civil Rights Movement, the heroism of our

founding Fathers to the building of our nation’s monuments, this series will inspire every American to reclaim the Godly, true story of our nation. Join historian David Barton and experience the untold story of our nation’s history in the American Heritage Series.

Every Wednesday night beginning September 3rd. A meal will be served at 6:00 p.m. with the study beginning at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
AUGUST 2008						1	2
3 Bible Study 10 am Worship 11 am	4	5 <i>Jan Benintendi</i>	6 <i>Fay Earley</i>	7 Praise Team 7:30pm <i>Rich Nuttall</i> <i>Vickee Parker</i>	8	9	
10 Bible Study 10 am Worship 11 am	11 Elders & Board Mtg. 7 pm	12	13	14 Praise Team 7:30pm	15 <i>Zack Lawrence</i>	16	
17 Bible Study 10 am Worship 11 am	18 <i>Jacqueline Berg</i> <i>Dean Boehler</i> <i>Jerry Pike</i>	19	20	21 Praise Team 7:30pm <i>Chris Lawrence</i> <i>Don Woodstock</i> <i>Steve & Robin Woodstock—Annv.</i>	22	23 <i>Grizz Parker</i>	
24 Bible Study 10 am Worship 11 am	25	26	27	28 Praise Team 7:30pm	29 <i>Betty Greager</i>	30	
31 Bible Study 10 am Worship 11 am	Except a man be born again of water and spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. John 3:5						

Free Pancakes by Davis M. Watson

What a morning we had on Cowboy Sunday! According to the Tall Texan Ted Earley, we served over 235 people and a few dogs. Ted didn't keep track of how many pots of Texas Coffee he made but it was a bunch.

We had Dick Nelson "running" the kitchen. I don't know how much "running" he did when most of the cooks were ladies. But they cooked over 23 dozen eggs and mixed up 20 pounds of pancake mix. And Ricky Klement baked up the best biscuits and gravy. Everybody pitched in and did their part.

A great big THANK YOU to all!!

But the best thing ever: we gave away 16 Spanish and 8 English Bibles. People who may never have an opportunity to have a Bible received one free. All they had to do is go and pick one up from a table.

When my girls were growing up, I told them nothing is free. There is always a price to pay. The pancakes and Bibles were free but there was a price to pay. Even those who enjoyed the pancakes had to get up out of bed, drive or walk to the church, stand in line, pick up a plate and silverware, hold out their plate, and spend time eating them.

Even the Bibles weren't free.

Once receiving a Bible, they must spend time reading it to get anything out of it.

Many people say, "Salvation or eternal life is free," but it's not! A price had to be paid for our sins. Can you ever accumulate enough money to pay the price? Can you ever be good enough? How good is enough? Can you ever be too good? The price for salvation is to live a perfect life. Have you lived a perfect life?

After hearing the first Gospel message as recorded in Acts 2:37, "...they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

Is salvation or eternal life free?

No, you must do something. 'Repent' means change your direction. You were going away from God; now go with God by developing a relationship with Him. 'Be baptized' means be immersed in water 'for the forgiveness of your sins.' God will then give you His Holy Spirit and They will reside in your heart.

It doesn't stop there. With the help of the Holy Spirit directing your path, you now have the

opportunity to become a new creature in Christ Jesus who now lives in you and works through you.

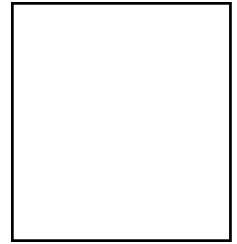
The battle Christians face everyday is a matter of free will. The Holy Spirit is a gift to Christians but will we surrender our free will to God's will for our lives?

Yes, our salvation is not free; a price had to be paid. A perfect life had to be lived and had to be freely given for us to accept the 'free' gift of His Holy Spirit.

This perfect life was lived by Jesus Christ who then gave it up freely on the Cross. He was buried for three days. He arose and now sits at the right hand of God.

The salvation Jesus offers is not 'free'; as with pancakes on Cowboy Sunday, you must do something. You must change the direction you are now going (away from God) and go toward God. Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and allow it to mold you into the likeness of Christ.

Norwood Christian Church is here to help you along in your journey with Christ. Bible Class is at 10 AM and Worship Service is at 11 AM on Sundays.



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10 AM ~ Bible Study
11 AM ~ Worship Service

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ing for divorce? And we wonder why marriages are failing at such an alarming rate.

God's way to marriage is to remain pure until your wedding day; save your heart and intimacy until marriage. In most modern Christian courtships the couple is not allowed to be alone. The families agree upfront on the physical boundaries (yes, parents are involved in many Christian courtships). The couple must be chaperoned to ensure they are not tempted to break their pre-established guidelines on physical contact.

The goal of courtship is to find a

lifelong marriage partner. That is why young teens should not court (or date). Until a person is old enough and mature enough to get married, courtship is not an option. During courtship a couple learns to love each other based on their mutual love of the Lord. They learn to be best friends apart from any physical or emotional attachments. If it becomes clear that they are not meant for one another, the courtship is ended amicably without the emotional scarring or loss of purity that tends to go along with dating breakups.

I realize that to many people, Christian courtship sounds very strange, very old fashioned. And this article has just scratched the surface on

what courtship is about. But more and more Christian families are finding courtship to be more in line with Biblical teaching than the dating game of today.

Courtship is just one more example of how following God's ways results in a successful life. The user's manual of life (a.k.a. the Bible) is filled with God's plan for how we are to live a successful life in all areas of life. I encourage you to open the User's Manual and read it and follow what it says. Your life will be a lot more successful if you do.

Serving Christ and His family,

Pastor Ken



SUNDAY SERVANTS

8/03/08

Communion Prep: Ted & Fay Earley
Greeters: Ted & Fay Earley
Communion Servers: Ted & Fay Earley
Meditation: Davis Watson
Nursery: Heather Lawrence
Sound Booth/Slides: Rhonda Oliver

8/10/08

Communion Prep: Kate Davis
Greeters: Kate Davis
Communion Servers: Jay Berg & Mike Hulst
Meditation: John Oliver
Nursery: Kathy Row
Sound Booth/Slides: Heather Lawrence

8/17/08

Communion Prep: Chris Lawrence
Greeters: Sharon Newport & Carmen Warfield
Communion Servers: Davis & Mary Watson
Meditation: Dean Boehler
Nursery: Chris Lawrence
Sound Booth/Slides: Heather Lawrence

8/24/08

Communion Prep: Betty Greager
Greeters: Howard & Betty Greager
Communion Servers: Howard & Betty Greager
Meditation: Ernie Calvillo
Nursery: Mary Watson
Sound Booth/Slides: Heather Lawrence

8/31/08

Communion Prep: Davis Watson
Greeters: Jay & Jackie Berg
Communion Servers: Ernie & Zack Calvillo
Meditation: Davis Watson
Nursery: Kathy Nelson
Sound Booth/Slides: Heather Lawrence