



Sunday Evening Service
July 10, 2022

"A marriage bound together by commitments to exploit the other for filling one's own needs (and I fear that most marriages are built on such a basis) can legitimately be described as a 'tick on a dog' relationship. Just as a hungry tick clamps on to a nourishing host in anticipation of a meal, so each partner unites with the other in the expectation of finding what his or her personal nature demands. The rather frustrating dilemma, of course, is that in such a marriage there are two ticks and no dog!"

--Larry Crabb, in The Marriage Builder

Welcome to City Reformed Presbyterian Church

We are glad to have you join us for worship today. If you would like more information, please contact us at office@cityreformed.org or visit our website: cityreformed.org.

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Worship – July 10, 2022
Presider: Reverend Joseph Bianco

Call to Worship: Psalm 90:1-4, 12-14

Please stand for the Call to Worship if you are able.

Leader Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

People **Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

Leader You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"

People **For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night**

Leader So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

People **Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

Prayer of Invocation

O God of Our Salvation

(Words & Music: Michael Bleecker and Matt Boswell 2009)

O God of our salvation
Who reigns upon the throne
The sov'reign Father great is He
From Whom all blessings flow

*O God of our salvation
From Whom redemption comes
O Father Son and Spirit
The blessed Three in One*

Behold the Son our Savior
Who for our sin was slain
The Christ Who purchased with His blood
The wretched souls of men

O God the Holy Spirit
Revealing deity
The fount of life and love divine
Throughout eternity

Psalm 25

(Words & Music: Joe Day 2000)

Good and upright
Are you Lord
You teach us sinners
In your ways

You guide the humble
In what is right
And instruct them
In your ways

All your ways are
Loving, faithful, Lord
To those who
Seek your face

You give grace to
The humble hearted
And instruct them
In your ways

You guide the humble
In what is right
And instruct them
In your ways
You give grace to
The humble hearted
And instruct them
In your ways

Call to Confession: Revelation 3:17-19

For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

Prayer of Confession:

O God, I have no merit; let the merit of Jesus stand for me. I am undeserving, but I look to Your tender mercy. You have struck a heavy blow at my pride, at the false god of self, and I lie in pieces before you. But You have given me another master and lord-Your son, Jesus- and now my heart is turned towards holiness. Help me in all my doings to put down sin and humble pride. Save me from the love of the world and the pride of life, from everything that is natural to fallen man, and let Christ's nature be seen in me day by day.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Corporate Prayer

Song of Renewal

We consider tithes & offering as an act of worship within the corporate family of Christ. Please direct giving online or via mail (cityreformed.org/give; 3929 Coleman St., 15207).

Rock of Ages

(Words: Augustus Toplady 1776 Music: Thomas Hastings 1853)

Rock of Ages cleft for me
Let me hide myself in thee
Let the water and the blood
From thy wounded side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure
Save from wrath and make me pure

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill thy law's demands
Could my zeal no respite know
Could my tears forever flow
All for sin could not atone
Thou must save and thou alone

Nothing in my hand I bring
Simply to the cross I cling
Naked come to thee for dress
Helpless look to thee for grace
Foul I to the fountain fly
Wash me Savior or I die

While I draw this fleeting breath
When mine eyes shall close in death
When I soar to worlds unknown
See thee on thy judgment throne
Rock of Ages cleft for me
Let me hide myself in thee

Scripture & Homily

1 Corinthians 7:10-35

"Live as Though You are Not Married"

- Elder Dave Snoke

To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband ¹¹(but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

¹²*To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. ¹³If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. ¹⁴For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. ¹⁵But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. ¹⁶For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?*

¹⁷Only let each person lead the life[b] that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. ¹⁸Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. ¹⁹For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. ²⁰Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. ²¹Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) ²²For he who was called in the Lord as a

bondsman is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondsman of Christ. ²³You were bought with a price; do not become bondsmen of men.

²⁴So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.

²⁵Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. ²⁶I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. ²⁷Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. ²⁸But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. ²⁹This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

³²I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. ³³But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, ³⁴and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. ³ I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God

Additional Scripture.

Psalm 103:15-18 / As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

Matthew 6:19-21,25,31-33 / "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"... "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"... "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

John 17:15-16 / I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

Philippians 4:11-13 / Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

1 John 2:15-17 / Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Sermon Outline

I. Worldliness versus an eternal perspective

Worldly:

Anxious to get and keep

People-pleasing and people-using

God's commands subordinate to personal goals

Constantly seeking better

Eternal:

Not anxious, trusting in God

Concerned about what God thinks, loving people

Keeping God's commands even at a cost

Content in what God calls you to do

II. Applying this to marriage

- Marriage is the typical norm
- Don't be anxious to be married—be content where you are.
- If the opportunity for marriage arises, go for it. Don't seek the perfect partner.
- If you are married, live as though you were not married. (kingdom focus)

Songs of Thanksgiving

Come Thou Fount

(Words: Robert Robinson & Martin Madan 1760 Music: Unknown)

Come thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace.
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by thy help I'm come,
And I hope by thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God.
He to rescue me from danger
Interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be.
Let that grace now like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for thy courts above.

Benediction

Community Groups

Community Groups meet for Bible study, fellowship, and service, and are some of the best opportunities to connect with church life - always open for visitors throughout the year. Please contact Pastor Joseph Bianco (Joseph@cityreformed.org) with any questions, and for a listing of current groups, refer to: **www.cityreformed.org/community-groups**

Sunday

Fox Chapel*- Watson Barker

North Hills**- David Bacon

Tuesday

Northside- Joe Benscoter & Nathan Schartner

Morningside*- Jeff Winkler

West Hills*- Jonathan Dodd

Wednesday

Near East Suburban- Jim Partridge

Regent Square- David Snoke

Baldwin/Greenfield*- Joseph Bianco

East Suburban- Joe Stehle

Thursday

Shadyside - Ben Chidester

Forest Hills*- Adam Schwab

*Childcare provided

** Kid's play area available