

Prayer?

Please list your prayer requests with detailed information of people in need. Thank you!

NEW TO ECBC?

For more information email info@eastcooperbaptist.com

First Time Guest?

We'd love to get to know you!

SCAN DIGITAL CONNECT CARD



843.856.3222 x PRAY (7729)

prayer@eastcooperbaptist.com

Sermon.

Speaker: Buster Brown, Senior Pastor

Message: The Touchstone/Litmus Test of Spiritual Maturity

Text: 1 Corinthians 3:1-8

"But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? ⁴For when one says, 'I follow Paul,' and another, 'I follow Apollos,' are you not being merely human? ⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor." 1 Corinthians 3:1-8

The problem with the church at Corinth was not that they failed to progress in the knowledge of Christ, but that they failed to comprehend the glorious nature of the gospel of Christ for the totality of their lives. A certain group of Christians in Corinth ("infants in Christ") were not treasuring Jesus.

"You touch upon justification by faith, the first and keenest subject of controversy between us...wherever the knowledge of it is taken away, the glory of Christ is extinguished, religion abolished, the Church destroyed, and the hope of salvation utterly overthrown." John Calvin's reply to Cardinal James Sadoletto (1539)

In 1 Corinthians, we are introduced to three categories of people:

1. The "natural person" (2:14), the person who has no spiritual life and does not recognize the forgiveness of sins by the cross and the nature of the gospel.
2. The "spiritual person" (2:12-15), or "mature person" (2:6), those who recognize the supremacy and glory of Christ, and are living in such a way that they can receive biblical truth.
3. Believers who are "fleshly" or "infants in Christ." (3:1)

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Our victory and ultimate salvation is assured in Christ, but there is an ongoing battle and our sanctification regarding growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 3:18).
2. Milk, not solid food, was required because of pride and jealousy. These "infants in Christ" had not applied and embraced the centrality of the cross and were not enthralled by the grace that comes by knowing Jesus.
3. We can slip back into "infant" thinking from the point of maturity.

(continued >>)

Sermon.

(continued)

"The fundamental contrast in Paul's mind is not between two quite different diets which he has to offer, but between the true food of the gospel with which he has fed them (whether milk or meat) and the synthetic substitute which the Corinthians had preferred...therefore, they do not need a change of diet, but a change of perspective." David E. Garland, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament

"Maturation will disclose itself in a growing ability to take in more and more Christian truth (3:2). It will also show itself in a large-hearted attitude that avoids quarreling and jealousy, and refuses to sink into narrow factionalism. If some who have the capitalistic spirit are slow to display this rise in maturity, the kindest interpretation is that they are 'worldly'. In these matters, they are acting like 'mere men' instead of like Christian men and women empowered by the Spirit of God." D.A. Carson, The Cross and Christian Ministry, pp. 74-75

APPLICATION

1. Progress in understanding, grappling with, applying the gospel and walking in the stewardship of life is a by-product of a life centered on the glory and goodness of Christ.

"The gospel signifies good, merry, glad and joyful tidings, that make a man's heart glad and make him sing, dance and leap for joy." William Tyndale (1494-1536)

2. To live well we must think well and, therefore, we must labor to continuously understand the gospel and all its ramifications.

"It should not be forgotten that all religion is a penetration with the innermost part of the soul into the unity of all things in order to comprehend the unity of One from whom everything comes. For that reason, to take delight in godliness you must ascend from the many, the varied, the endlessly distinct, to the coherence of all things." (Without focus, without the power to see coherence, faith dies.) Abraham Kuyper (1837-1920)

QUESTIONS:

1. Why is it important to make the distinction between "infants in Christ" and "spiritual people", based not on knowledge but on the comprehension of the gospel's radical nature for all of life?
2. How does the wisdom and daily living of life flow from the central thesis of our lives?
3. How can mature believers slip into "infant living"?
4. What is the central meaning of the Parable of the Pearl of Great Price in Matthew 13:45-46?
5. What is the promise of Proverbs 3:1-4?



Your mobile devices are welcome! After the service, we encourage you to share encouraging pieces of the sermon or worship service on social media. Tag ECBC using [#ecbccharleston](https://twitter.com/ecbccharleston).

Listen to sermons online at eastcooperbaptist.com/sermons

FEBRUARY 13, 2022

— THE JOY OF — STEWARDSHIP



eastcooperbaptist.com



Welcome.

We're glad you are here to worship with us. If you are new to East Cooper Baptist, we would love to meet you. Please stop anyone with a blue name-tag and let us answer any questions you may have. Thanks for being our guest.

Buster Brown, Senior Pastor
busterb@eastcooperbaptist.com | 843.856.3222 x2006

Traditional Worship / Sunday Classes
Sanctuary 9:30am & 11:00am

Contemporary Worship / Sunday Classes
Worship Center 9:30am & 11:00am

Ways to Give.

Giving is part of our worship to God. Through your faithful giving, God continues to change lives here in our area and around the world.



Give in-person by dropping your gift in any giving box located throughout the church.

Give online by visiting our website at: eastcooperbaptist.com/give.



Give via text by texting the word "GIVE" to 843-202-4848.

COVID-19 Update.



As of November 1, masks are optional on campus at East Cooper Baptist Church. We appreciate your kindness and consideration as we navigate this season.

We encourage you to be praying for the medical staff in our community as they navigate this season's challenges due to COVID-19.



Groups.

For detailed information, please go online.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

At East Cooper, we seek to offer meaningful ways to be a part of our family—young and old, man or woman, married or single. Community Groups provide spaces to love one another and live out the gospel of Jesus together.

Groups are open at these locations: Mount Pleasant, Hanahan, West Ashley, North 17, North Charleston, and James & Johns Island.

AGE & STAGE GROUPS

Walking through some of life's challenges with others in a similar life stage can be beneficial! This is why we offer age and stage classes, where you can find a group to get plugged in with and do life-on-life discipleship together!

1. Grandmothers in Prayer - Tuesday mornings at 7:45am
2. Women's Bible Study: God of Freedom - Tuesday's at 9:30am, Wednesday's at 6:30pm, or Thursday's at 6:30am
3. re|engage (marriage group) - Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm
4. Man2Man - Friday mornings at 6:20am

CARE GROUPS

When circumstances require help beyond Christian friendships developed within a Community Group, the primary places that we work out care and counseling, we offer biblical counseling in meeting the emotional and spiritual needs of the church.

1. DivorceCare - Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm
2. Friends Caregivers - Sunday mornings at 11:00am
3. Women's Sophron (alcohol support group) - Email Rose to sign up: rosea@eastcooperbaptist.com
4. GriefShare - Sunday mornings at 11:00am

Join A Group Today!
eastcooperbaptist.com/groups



361 Egypt Road • Mount Pleasant, SC 29464 • 843.856.3222

Upcoming.

For detailed event information, please go online.
eastcooperbaptist.com/events

LIFELINE INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION INFO WEBINAR

During this webinar, you'll hear directly from members of Lifeline's staff about the heart of their ministry, along with a general overview of our programs and the adoption process. February 17 at 7:00pm.

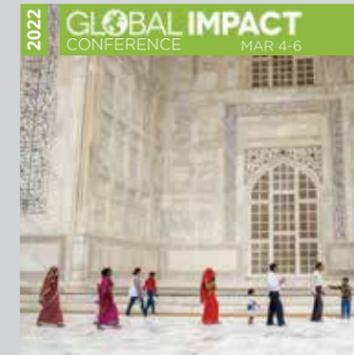


Attend this webinar: lifelinechild.org/information-meetings

GLOBAL IMPACT CONFERENCE

The Global Impact Conference is a time when we, as a church, focus on Christ's Great Commission. For more information and to register, please go online. March 4-6.

REGISTER TODAY.



KIDS MISSIONS FESTIVAL

This goes alongside our Global Impact Conference on March 4-6. Come and learn about what it looks like to live on mission for God at home and around the world! This year, we will be learning about Prague!

REGISTER TODAY.



SERVE IN WORSHIP MINISTRY

Sunday morning worship is such a vital part of our church! It takes a team of volunteers to help bring music to our venues! If you are gifted musically and desire to use it, volunteer at eastcooperbaptist.com/serve.

SIGN UP TODAY!



NEW TO ECBC?
For more information email info@eastcooperbaptist.com

First Time Guest?

We'd love to get to know you!

SCAN DIGITAL CONNECT CARD



Hello.

Please complete the perforated section and take to the Welcome Desk or place in any giving box located around the church.

I/We attended worship at:

9:30am 11:00am

I am a first time guest

Name

Spouse

Birthdate

Spouse Birthdate

Address

City

State

Zip

Mobile

Spouse Mobile

Email

Spouse Email

Preferred method of contact:

Call Text Email

Interested in the following:

Become a Christian

Join the Church

Meet with a Pastor

Subscribe to newsletter

Other