

Prayer?

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

Year-End Giving.

To be sure you receive contribution credit for 2023, please have your giving to the Finance Office by the following times:

Offering: Dropped in the giving boxes on or before Sunday, December 31, 2023.

Postal Mail: Post-marked by USPS by December 31, 2023 (any mail postmarked in 2024 will be credited to 2024).

Online: By 11:59pm on December 31, 2023.

Hand-delivered: By 12:00pm, Thursday, December 21, 2023*

*The church offices will be closed between December 22nd and January 2nd, so please make prior arrangements for your year-end giving. If you have any questions or special considerations, please email the Finance Team at finance@eastcooperbaptist.com

843.856.3222 x PRAY (7729)

prayer@eastcooperbaptist.com

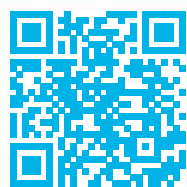
NEW TO ECBC?

For more information email info@eastcooperbaptist.com

First Time Guest?

We'd love to get to know you!

SCAN DIGITAL CONNECT CARD



Sermon Notes.

Speaker: Buster Brown, Senior Pastor

Message: Strength for the Journey: Fellowship (Sharing in the Common Life, Part 2)

Text: 1 John 1:5-10

"This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." 1 John 1:5-10

One of the primary means by which the believer is built up in the faith is to have Christ-centered friendships with other believers. These friendships are fueled by the understanding that we are forever justified and in right relationship with the living God by the work on the cross, and we are called to a life of joyful, broken obedience.

1. The foundational principle (v. 5).

"Knowing God is a relationship calculated to thrill a man's heart." J.I. Packer

"The very condition of having Friends is that we should want something else besides Friends. Where the truthful answer to the question 'Do you see the same truth?' would be 'I see nothing and I don't care about the truth; I only want a Friend,' no Friendship can arise - though Affection of course may. There would be nothing for the Friendship to be about; and Friendship must be about something, even if it were only an enthusiasm for dominoes or white mice. Those who have nothing can share nothing; those who are going nowhere can have no fellow-travelers." C.S. Lewis, The Four Loves

2. The application of the foundational principle (vv. 6-7).

"All gracious affections . . . are brokenhearted affections. A truly Christian love, either to God or men, is an humble, brokenhearted love. The desires of the saints, however earnest, are humble desires: their hope is an humble hope; and their joy, even when it is unspeakable, and full of glory, is an humble, brokenhearted joy, leaving the Christian more poor in spirit, and more like a little child, and more disposed to an universal lowliness of behavior." Jonathan Edwards, Religious Affections, p. 339

3. The (tenuous) gospel balance (vv.8-10).

"A heart aloof from God grows aloof from others. It engages in merciless comparisons and endless fault finding. Therefore, all restoration begins by going back to God first, prodigals that we are...The price we pay is to face ourselves. That is humiliating and painful. It's why

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Sermon.

(continued)

we shun the light. There are episodes in our past that we don't want to think about — harsh words, acts of betrayal, broken promises, and worse. We shove these memories down into the darkness of our excuses and blame-shifting. We refuse to call sin 'sin.' We feel too threatened by what we have done even to admit it to ourselves, much less confess it to others. But those places of deepest shame are where the Lord Jesus loves us the most tenderly....It is so refreshing to come back out into the light of honesty again, where we first met the Lord. It is there that ex-friends can be regained by love. It is there that Jesus is glorified in the eyes of the world. Gospel doctrine creates a gospel culture." Ray Ortlund, The Gospel: How the Church Portrays the Beauty of Christ, p.117

"There is nothing in us or done by us, at any stage of our earthly development, because of which we are acceptable to God. We must always be accepted for Christ's sake, or we cannot ever be accepted at all. This is not true of us only when we believe. It is just as true after we have believed. It will continue to be true as long as we live. Our need of Christ does not cease with our believing; nor does the nature of our relation to Him or to God through Him ever alter, no matter what our attainments in Christian graces or our achievements in behavior may be. It is always on His 'blood and righteousness' alone that we can rest." B.B. Warfield, The Works of Benjamin B. Warfield

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the tenuous gospel balance in the life of a Christian? (The balance between our forever security in Christ (John 10) and "work out your salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12-13) or "make your calling and your election sure" (2 Peter 1).
2. What should compel us to pursue a relationship with the triune God with great joy?
3. What is perfectionism? Do the scriptures allow for a belief in personal perfectionism (i.e. I am now above sin or am sinless)?
4. What does this phrase mean, "We are repenting our way forward"?



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

DECEMBER 17, 2023



LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS OFFERING®

CHURCH GOAL: \$625,000

DECEMBER - JANUARY



 **EAST COOPER**
BAPTIST CHURCH

eastcooperbaptist.com



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

NEXT WEEK: COMBINED SERVICES
Sanctuary 9:30 & 11:00am • No Classes
Overflow available in the Worship Center both hours

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.

Get to Know.



ELDER ON THE WORSHIP TEAM

Mike came to know Christ as a child through the influence of scripture and family devotions in his home. He first attended East Cooper in 1990 before moving away for a time and returned in 2010. Currently, Mike serves in the orchestra. He enjoys taking a boat ride in his free time.



LIVING GENEROUSLY
4 week series beginning in January

Refresh is a class that takes place every January! Each year this class will contain an update to our vision goals, reminders about our vision language, and some specific teaching geared towards this season of our church family's life. Refresh 2024 will be about Living Generously. We're asking all of our church members to commit to attending this four-week class.

Classes start January 7 in the East Cooper Gym and will be offered at both 9:30am and 11:00am on Sundays, and at 6:30pm on Wednesday evenings. We look forward to growing with you there!

To register, go to
eastcooperbaptist.com/refresh or scan the QR code



Upcoming.

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

100% of your gifts support International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries.



eastcooperbaptist.com/lottiemoon

CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING SERVICES

Our Christmas Eve services will be held that Sunday morning in the Sanctuary at **9:30 & 11:00am**. Kids of all ages attend services with parents.

PLAN TO ATTEND.



eastcooperbaptist.com/events

FAMILY MISSION TRIP

This team will work with partners, Steve and April, to host an outreach camp for local children, in partnership with a local church. We need 4-5 families to be a part of this team.

APPLY ONLINE.



eastcooperbaptist.com/serve

SERVE VULNERABLE CHILDREN

From protecting the unborn to supporting those in crisis, we invite you to serve with one of our local outreach partners: Lifeline Children's Services & Lowcountry Pregnancy Center.

SIGN UP TODAY!



eastcooperbaptist.com/serve

NEW TO ECBC?

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First Time Guest?

We'd love to get to know you!

SCAN DIGITAL CONNECT CARD



12.17.23

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