

GREETINGS FROM GREENVINE



I am amazed as I look into our congregation and see the many faces of people who are so different. But then, I am amazed when I look at my family and see brothers, sisters and grand children who are so different.

When you see a picture of our family, you can see many differences, yet they are all related. Their very appearance is different. Karen has always said that I am not a slave to fashion. However, my oldest son dresses to the max. The grand girls and the grand boys all have very different personalities. They all act and react differently to any type of stimuli. Some are very obedient and some are, let's just say, not so obedient. However, they are all related to Karen and me. When people see them, they comment how they look like someone else in the family. They are recognizable as being related to the Faulkners. All that is simply data points about our family. But, much more important is that they are related to us and we are family.

On every Sunday we sing, "The Family of God." We remind ourselves, even as we invite the kiddos to the front for the Children's Sermon that one of the most important aspects of being a part of the family of God is that we are all related.

Genesis 1: 26 says, "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...'"

God created Adam in a uniquely personal action. It establishes a personal relationship between God and man that does not exist with any other aspect of creation. It is the very things that makes humanity different from every other created animal. It explains why the Bible places so much importance on God's hand-on creation of Adam.

It tells us of our own capacity for intimate, personal relationships; and shows us that they are in need of fulfillment. Most importantly, we were made to have a personal relationship with God. We are in essence, spiritual beings who display the glory of God in our own personalities, traits and characteristics.

Of course, here we are talking about the creation of man prior to the fall, or sin. We were created with God's own attributes, short of being deity.

The image of God is having Godlike qualities, such as love of goodness and beauty, none of which are found in animals. In the fall of man, sin, man ceased to be a perfect representation of God; however, in salvation, restoration and sanctification that grace will be accomplished in the future. In

our glorified state, we are not only resemble Christ but also be His representative here on earth. Wow, with all our differences, characteristics, color of skin, mental facilities, gifts and talents, we belong to the body of Christ together.

1 Corinthians 12: 12 - 20 says, “Just a a body, though one, has many parts, but all it's many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body — whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free — and we were all given one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body.’ It would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just a as He wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

The passage continues, verse 27, “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

Imagine through the last 2000 years, there have been many parts of the body of Christ that have already gone to glory, yet there are so many parts to that body still on the earth. We don't even know for sure who is in the body of Christ. If we have trusted the Lord as our Savior, we can be assured that we are a part of the body.

Even though we look different, act different, think different, all who have trusted Christ as their Savior are in fact a part of Christ's body.

Even people from different denominations. Even people that we might not even like. Some who have offended us and we are still at odds with. Some who we can't forgive and some who won't forgive us. We are human, and in our humanity we have a tendency to sin. Not only sin, but to keep on sinning.

1 John has lots to say about that. I will only touch on a couple of things there, but if you sit and read 1 John in its entirety, it will only take you about 10 minutes. Wait....

I just stopped typing and read 1 John. I timed it on my watch. Are you ready? Ten minutes and 14 seconds. I'm not a fast reader. Do you have ten minutes out of your busy day to read about what God has for you? It talks about who is in the body and how we should treat them. It is very convicting. It should be a “wow” moment in your Christianity. Please take the time this week to read

August 16, 2021 V:76

1 John. By the way, 2 John and 3 John are a continuance of the thoughts in 1 John. And, they are very much shorter than 1 John.....in fact, the two together do not make up half of 1 John....just a thought.

We are made in the image of God. As followers of Jesus, we are possessing even more of His characteristics in our own lives. 1 John talks about loving one another. That would be all believers. John says that if you do not love your brothers and sisters, you might not be in the body of Christ. Those are very strong words.

“Love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Read 1 Corinthians chapter 13. We sometimes call that the love chapter. See if you can apply those characteristics to people you know....even ones who have wronged you. God loves them just as he loves you.

Many requests on our lists. “Pray without ceasing.” Thank you for your prayers for me this last week. God is Jehovah Rapha, the I am who heals. Bless His holy name August is almost over. September and another school years begins. Let’s pray together for our schools in the area, the teachers, the administrators and others employees who take care of those precious ones. Blessings.....Jack & Karen

Announcements

- Wednesday Night Bible Study -Wednesday nights @ 6pm
- Women’s Ministry White Cross Workday - Saturday August 21 @ 9am
- Men’s Prayer Breakfast - Wednesday August 25, @ 7am



JOIN US FOR THE
Going Beyond
SIMULCAST
PRISCILLA SHIRER

WORSHIP WITH ANTHONY EVANS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 8:45AM-4:00PM
COST: \$20 INCLUDING LUNCH
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST
WOMEN AND TEENS 14 AND UP
REGISTER: <https://bit.ly/3BxK4MD>
CONTACT: wendybethany16@gmail.com

 **Champion Fellowship**
championfellowship.org

Prayer Requests

Jack - Recovering from surgery

Byron Rutland - Recovering from surgery

Carolyn Cox - Recovering from back surgery

Raymond Bennett - Medical procedure this week

Carol Witte -Beginning to feel better.

Debbie Reed - Recovery on her wrist

Cliff and Debbie Reed (and their family) in the loss of Cliff's dad.

Carolyn Cox - Having tests run for some pain she has been having. Pray that the doctors will find the answer.

Gerri Smart's daughter Terri is beginning to feel better. She received news that her tumor is shrinking

Denny's Sister is in need of a Kidney Transplant

Becky's granddaughter Taylor who has Cystic Fibrosis and is having health issues

Colin Smith - 18 yr old with a Traumatic Brain Injury. (Patient of Karens)

Joe Durrett - Stomach cancer and heart attack - home on hospice care

Ray and Bev Morris - Bev and been diagnosed with Alzheimers

Sandra Carson's daughter Candace is having some mental health issues

Bob & Sadie Easley - Health issues

Ed Ehring's sister Julie Robison is suffering from Alzheimer's.

Vicky Hoffman - legally blind but her eyes are getting worse

Prayers for those working in health related jobs, for protection. Especially those from our own families:
Karen at St Joseph - Susan - State School - Zella Johnson