



New Life Christian Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

Sunday, June 17, 2018

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Pastoral Pondering

From Slave to Son

"I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, we were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world."
- Galatians 4:1-3

As I have gotten older, it seems as though I meet more and more people that have experienced growing up without a father. In fact, the statistics regarding the numbers of fatherless youth in our current society are staggering. Specifically, in 2014, the U.S. Census Bureau stated that 23.6% of children in the U.S. grew up in homes without a father. You might be thinking, "23%, that's not that much." Well, it actually represents 17.4 million children! The research behind the impact of such an upbringing indicates distinct adverse effects as a result of children growing up fatherless. Keeping in mind that those statistics are four years old, studies are showing that those numbers are only increasing.

Apart from various childhood difficulties, the one common trait that seems to crop up in my conversations that people who grew up without a father tend to share is this...they have struggled to find an identity. Imagine...if the verses above indicate that even an heir is no different to that of a slave while still a child, how much more then would we be without a father. In fact, scripture describes a life without Christ as being that of a child, enslaved to the world. Let's take this one step further and explore the fact that, often times, even those that grow up with an earthly father, whether or not he (the father) is a believer, struggle to find an identity. Please note that I am not at all insinuating that the role of a godly father or mother lacks significance, but rather that we fool ourselves to think that our identity comes from anywhere else other than our Heavenly Father.

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts crying, "Abba, Father!" - Galatians 4:4-6

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PASTORAL PONDERING

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So often, brothers and sisters, I find myself praying that God would intervene in the lives of my four children. I pray that the Lord would move in their lives in such a way that they would recognize that they already have an identity in Christ and that they would not be enslaved by the false identities and tricks of this world. Let us be praying that for ourselves as well. For it is also true that a worldly identity leaves us an inheritance of death; while the identity, the only true identity, which is found in Christ provides us with an inheritance of eternal life!

"So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God." - Galatians 4:7

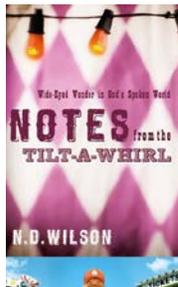
Your brother in Christ, Zack Fugate

June Memory Verse

1 Peter 4:10

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (ESV)

Resource Center



June Book Highlight -- Can mere words possibly convey the complexities of God revealed in the world He created? N. D. Wilson sets out to do just that in his book **"Notes from the Tilt-a-whirl."** Read this piece as a work of art and prepare to have all 5 senses engaged as you immerse yourself with "wide-eyed wonder" in a study of God's revealed attributes made plain in nature. This book is an excellent reminder to believers to take every opportunity to witness God's glory in the things that are made. Purchase your copy in the Resource Center this morning!

If you are a visitor this morning or have only been coming to New Life for a few months please stop by the Resource Center this morning to pick up a **welcome gift** we have for you which includes more information about who we are, what we believe, and what Jesus is doing here at New Life!

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Baby Bottles TO BE Returned THIS Sunday



If you or your family took a baby bottle to fill with change to raise money to support babies and their mothers in the area, please be sure to bring it back to the building by **TODAY Sunday, June 17**. You can place them on the welcome table in the lobby. Thank you to everyone who is participating in this project to support local mothers and babies in need! Talk to Pastor Paul if you forgot your bottle.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

HAPPY FATHERS DAY!

Join us for a time of fellowship, food, and fun during our Picnic in the Park right after service **TODAY Sunday, June 17th**. We will be gathering together as a church body to enjoy fellowship and to be visible in the community, in order to make the name of Jesus better known in Dresser. Let's be in prayer for those we invite and for good weather. **Location: 115 W Main St, Dresser.**

NEW LIFE WORSHIP SET LIST

Did you know you can access the music we will sing on Sunday during the week? Go to the New Life website and click on the Music Ministry link or visit the New Life App and click on the Worship Set List link. Blessings from the Music Ministry!

EZEKIEL BIBLE STUDY

We read that "All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16 and so it is for books of the bible that can be hard to understand. If you are not already in a study, please consider being a part of the Ezekiel study starting this week as we gather together as students of the Word. May the Lord richly bless us with understanding into His Word so that we may know the love of our Savior more and be further equipped for every good work. Join us weekly brothers and sisters on **Thursday evenings 7:00-8:30 p.m.** Bring a Bible, journal, and a teachable heart.

NEW LIFE'S ANNUAL BAPTISM SERVICE

Make a note on your calendars for our baptism service, **Sunday August 5th**. If the Lord is leading you to be baptized and you are ready to make a public declaration of Faith in Jesus, please make that desire known by meeting with an elder or pastor after service or set up a time during the week.

A CALL TO PRAYER

We will routinely gather **Sunday mornings from 8:30-9:00 a.m.** in the large classroom for a time of prayer. Everyone is encouraged, as you are able, to come to pray for the needs at New Life. Specific prayer topics will be: ministry teams, missionaries, bible studies, immerse classes, etc. The goal is that the needs of New Life might be made more transparent and prayed for, giving the saints another opportunity to gather on a consistent basis to pray. We serve a gracious God who hears our prayers! Let us make every effort to gather often and pray.

Check out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

Find Links to:

• *Events* • *Sermons Online* •
New Life Connect • *Set Lists* • &
More

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This Week's Schedule of Events:

Jun 17	NO FORGE TONIGHT!
Jun 20	Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm at NLCC
Jun 21	GriefShare Evening Meeting 6:30 pm NLCC Lg Clsrm
Jun 21	Ezekiel Bible Study (Men and Women) 7:00-8:30 pm at NLCC

Upcoming Potluck/Meal Team:

Jun 24	Meal Team #5
Jul 1	Potluck Sunday-Team #1
Jul 8	Meal Team #6

Please join us today for fellowship
and a meal following our service at
Dresser park located at 115 W.
Main street!

JUDGES

Our Desperate Need for the King

Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the Old Testament book,
[Judges 8:1-21](#)

Sermon Notes: