

GAME WARDEN CHAPLAIN'S CHAT



"WORDS OF LIFE"

My biggest fear is that you may be thinking, "Not another newsletter!" Well, I certainly hope not, either. I will try to give helpful, meaningful, and most of all, brief pieces of information for you and your family. I'm calling this section, "Words of Life" because I love words (of course! every minister does!). My hope is to introduce you each month to a word in the Greek language (the original language of the New Testament) and show you how it applied then and now. Don't worry! No tests and no pain!

ζωη

"Zoe" is the Greek word for "life." Today, it's a very common girl's name. But it means so much more than just something or someone who is "living." It has to do with the quality of that living. Every day you and I run into people who possess life in greater or lesser quality. Some only exist rather than live. What a great opportunity each of us has to encourage the growth of the quality of another's life. It doesn't really take that long. Sometimes, just a smile or a word of hope can increase another's quality of life. As people pledged to defend life, who can be better at it?

"Watching Ourselves"

In this section each month, I want to help all of us keep a close eye on ourselves and our personal care. When I was a pastor in Scotland, United Kingdom, I took a chance once and preached a sermon called, "Its Time to Poop or Get Off the Pot!" Being a Texan, I thought it was cute. After all, Texans use that phrase all the time. However, some of the little ladies in their hats in the front row didn't think it was nearly as cute as I did! These days, when I look in the mirror before I shower, the same phrase keeps coming to mind about losing weight. If I'm going to do it, then DO IT!



Yet, its not just physical stuff I'm talking about, here. We have to watch ourselves in so many ways. How are we doing physically, yes, but how are we doing mentally when stress or loss becomes an overwhelming issue? How are we doing spiritually when we think about God, if we have a God, if we want or need a God but the whole concept doesn't make sense to us? Its OK to have these kinds of questions. What needs attention is what do we do when we have these questions? We'll talk about our physical, emotional and spiritual issues each month (and believe me, I have issues, too.).

"Family Foundations"

Just some things to think about from a child's perspective. If it is true that the family begins with the marriage, then how come our kids have the strangest impressions?

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. --Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. --Kirsten, age 10

WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED?

Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. --Camille, age 10

No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married. --Freddie, age 6

HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. --Derrick, age 8

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MOM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON?

Both don't want any more kids. --Lori, age 8

WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. --Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies, and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. --Martin, age 10

WHAT WOULD YOU DO ON A FIRST DATE THAT WAS TURNING SOUR?

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. --Craig, age 9

WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE?

When they're rich. --Pam, age 7

The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. --Curt, age 7

The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. --Howard, age 8

IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED?

I don't know which is better, but I'll tell you one thing. I'm never going to have sex with my wife. I don't want to be all grossed out. --Theodore, age 8

“Family Foundations Cont.”

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. --Anita, age 9

HOW WOULD THE WORLD BE DIFFERENT IF PEOPLE DIDN'T GET MARRIED?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? --Kelvin, age 8

"And the #1 Favorite is....."

HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a truck. --Ricky, age 10

“Behind The Badge a Personal Interview”

It is July 8, 2016. Last night and early this morning we heard of the horrific incident in Dallas and the heartbreaking news that five Police officers were killed, along with many others and civilians who were wounded. We don't know all the facts yet, but one fact we do know: you who wear badges are our civilization's homeland protectors, and when any one officer is lost, the pain ripples through all of you. As a civilian serving you, please know from my heart that you are honored and respected by the vast majority of citizens and our hearts hurt for and with you.

I was planning to have a personal interview in this section with one of your peers, and that will be the intent of this section in the future. However, today, perhaps we can just leave that alone and seek to console each other in the weeks and months that go by and let those “interviews” be as introspective as they need to be. You have my deepest condolences and prayers for all of you for your constant safety!



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