



Atlanta Church of Christ ⁱⁿ Gwinnett

www.acocg.org | info@acocg.org

The birds of the air come and perch in its branches.

- Matthew 13:32

Issue 31
March 3, 2019

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Deep lessons from the life of David!

On Thursday, January 17, at 10 am, the daytime women's Bible study group began our winter/spring study series. We're using Beth Moore's video and book series entitled "David: Seeking a Heart Like His."

The group meets at Mary Hall's house, 2379 Pine Stream Court in Lawrenceville; participants are encouraged to bring a healthy snack to share.

Note: Due to the complex demands on various schedules, we usually meet every other Thursday, rather than every week. Our March meetings will be on the 7th and 21st; please contact Sherry Rouse or Mary Hall for the full schedule.

This is a great opportunity to have fellowship with sisters who are free during the day, and to invite your friends or neighbors to join with us in this in-depth, fascinating study.

Here's a glimpse of our first meeting:



(NOTE: The print newsletter has been discontinued; once a month we'll have a handout giving us dates to mark on our calendars, so we won't miss all the strengthening and encouraging events on the schedule. Since those printed materials will focus on important dates only, we'll include in this online newsletter the articles that would otherwise have come to us in print. Enjoy!)

Becoming a Better Husband

Over the past year and a half, I have spent a lot of time thinking about who I am as a husband. Unfortunately, this journey didn't start because I took a class on the roles of men and women like the one our church began teaching in early January. No, the journey started because my actions nearly resulted in a divorce.

The near-destruction of my marriage didn't happen overnight; it was the result of years of neglect that drove my wife and me into opposing corners. All the upset and heartache was largely brought on because I had a worldly view of marriage. Also, because my parents had a mostly good marriage, I sought their advice instead of God's.

After a particularly dark time in our marriage, it was by the grace of God that I began my Christian walk. During this time, my wife and I started going to a faith-based program called Retrouvaille and, later, to counseling. Though the experience in the three-day Retrouvaille weekend did wonders for our marriage, ultimately it was my study and reading of God's word that began changing my heart.

One of the key verses that influenced how I treat my wife today is Ephesians 5:25: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for her." This was profound to me. I had just read the Gospels for the first time, so the weight of that sacrifice was still on my heart, and here God was calling me to do the same for my wife? To love her in the way that Christ loves me, to sacrifice for her as Christ sacrificed for me – this is a high calling. I certainly had never done that before.

When you really think about it, Ephesians 5:25 covers a lot of ground. To love your wife as Christ loved, and to sacrifice for your wife as Christ sacrificed, doesn't just mean bringing her flowers once in a while and giving up an NFL game here and there to watch a show with her instead. It means that we should be putting our wives ahead of ourselves in all situations. It means that our wives' needs should come before our own, always.

I have come to realize that the beauty of a godly marriage where both husband and wife both play their part, is that our tendencies toward control and selfishness are replaced with sacrifice for each other, which fulfills the needs of both husband and wife. I have also come to the conclusion that as the God-appointed leader in my marriage, it is my job to sacrifice FIRST—not to wait for my wife to play her part, but to LEAD by playing mine. God's word is good, and obeying it can change our lives. Loving as Christ loved and sacrificing as Christ sacrificed, not in response to my wife's actions but in response to God, has changed our marriage.

Brothers, if this is an area where you struggle, then I urge you to think about what Christ did for you, and to reciprocate by leading your wife with love and self-sacrifice. It will take time to overcome the consequences of the past, but through your persistent love and sacrifice, your marriage will eventually change for the better.

– Alex Neumann

From Zambia with love!



Our brother John Maleya, the new leader for our sister congregation in Zambia, taught the midweek lesson for us on Wednesday, February 6th. He not only brought us a very encouraging lesson on "Staying in the Race," but as you see here, he taught us a little of one of Zambia's languages. If you missed his lesson, catch it online at http://www.acocg.org/media_category/midweek/.

Shared joys!

*"If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together."
– 1 Corinthians 12:26*

February provided us with several occasions to rejoice together – here are pictures of two of these heartwarming events. First, some sisters from the Latino ministry gathered at La Madeleine on the 9th to celebrate Julia Ruiz and Millie Morales, the sisters in the group whose birthdays came in February. Next, the Anglins organized and hosted a small dinner for the Rouses on the 15th to honor them as they celebrated 40 years of marriage.

Sharing sorrow lightens the load, and sharing good times increases the joy! And sharing pictures helps strengthen our bonds together, so please send your pictures in for future newsletters – thank you!



We welcome news and pictures on interesting personal stories, family group activities, and more. Please send them to Nancy Berry, nberry2@gmail.com. Thank you!

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