

SUNDAY BRIEFING



Discernment in a World of Tolerance

BY PASTOR DON GARDNER

John Duncan, a Scottish preacher from the mid-1800s, spoke of the "trilemma" related to Jesus. The argument, from his perspective, was that any well-balanced person could reason through an understanding of who Jesus must be. Later, this basic argument of thought was expanded upon in the writings of C.S. Lewis and Watchman Nee as they too focused on the question of who Jesus was: Liar, Lunatic, Legend, or Lord? The argument is pretty straight forward. If Jesus did exist (Legend issue), his words and actions represented a stance as either a person who was imbalanced (lunatic), intentionally deceitful (liar), or true (Lord God).

C.S. Lewis worded it plainly, "A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic on the level with a man who says he is a poached egg, or he would be the devil of hell. You take your choice. Either this was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us." You and I tend to think that we too are creative, discerning, healthily tolerant, and insightful. With John Duncan, Watchman Nee, and C.S. Lewis, the goal of grasping how mankind should view Christ

was vital for that stance was seen as impactful on how a person related to God, and the church of their day. While I'm certain that the apologetical skills of most Christians are fairly limited, there is no doubt that we all must develop strengths in the area of systematic discernment. Our world is complex with values that often come in direct conflict with Christ. We must know how we view Christ and Scripture if we expect to both discern Christian standards for living and move toward a true grasp of an integrated faith with Christ at the center of our lives. May we consider and conclude that Jesus is certainly not a Legend, Lunatic, or Liar! Once He is discerned for truth, Jesus may move toward becoming our Lord.

Order of Worship

Sunday, August 22nd, 2021

Welcome & Prayer | Ashley Yap

Worship Through Music | Praise Team

Announcements & Prayer | Deacon Clement Yap

Scripture Reading | Kimberly Chea

Message | Pastor Don Gardner

Worship Through Music | Praise Team

Closing Prayer | Pastor Dillon Le

"To Whom Do You Belong?"

Pastor Don Gardner

1 John 3: 1-10; 16-18

I. God Recognizes His Own: "The Children of God" v.1-3

II. The Christian's Rejection of Worldly Values v. 4-10

III. "Love" as Defined by God v. 11-18

IV. "Conscience" is the "Heart" of John! v. 19-24

Announcements & Prayers

Nursery Services Temporarily Closed - Parents may feel free to use the dedicated Mother/Baby room at the back of the Sanctuary during Worship Service for Nursery-aged children (2 years and younger). We apologize for this inconvenience.

Prayer Update: Hannah Lou and Her Family - Thank you to our church family for praying for Hannah. The tests revealed no issues. All glory to God.

Quarterly Teacher's Meeting - All Bible teachers are encouraged to continue their development of leading our people in God's Word. Please join us on August 28th.

August Council Meeting Postponed - Please contact Pastor Don with any urgent council needs. Next meeting will be in September.

6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

ROMANS 6:6

UPCOMING

August 28th |
Quarterly Teacher's Meeting

September 25th |
Prayer Fellowship

October 3rd |
Baptism Sunday

Announcements (cont.)

As a reopening committee, we would like to share some updates as we continue to monitor the current COVID situation.

Currently we're still in the "High Transmission" category for Maricopa County.

At this time, the following are the committee's recommendations:

- Postpone the opening of our nursery for the safety of our nursery staff and the babies, infants, and toddlers in our care. This decision is mainly driven by the inability to social distance while caring for these young vulnerable children that cannot be masked.
- Starting this Sunday, August 22, the English speaking congregation will meet back in the FLC for worship service to allow more room for social distancing.
- Chinese speaking Sunday School and worship will meet in the sanctuary worship hall.
- Pause extra-curricular activities/fellowships to minimize unnecessary exposure.

We want to thank you for your patience, support, and prayers as we navigate through these challenging times.

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