

The Culture of No Consequences

by David Hartsell Collegevue church of Christ Columbia, TN

In the beginning, the Lord blessed man with a paradise garden to keep, trim, and enjoy. Only one prohibition was mentioned. Adam and Eve were not to eat of the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Gen. 2:17). If they ate, they would lose their place in the garden and forfeit their right to the "tree of life." They would lose their lives and their special relationship with the Lord. This was the consequence. Sadly, they ate of the prohibited tree and paid the consequences.

Have you noticed the singular lack of consequences in almost every system of American culture? God's plan of behavior management for children (the rod of discipline Pro. 22:15) has been set aside by parents and schools. Athletes, stars and politicians are seen to break laws with impunity. Bad manners and rudeness are tolerated if one is popular or famous. Coaches throw chairs, athletes sling helmets, and parents attack other parents, all clear violations of team rules and rules of appropriate behavior. Yet, rarely are those actions held to account. Proverbs 19:19 tells us the truth: "A hot-tempered man must pay the penalty; if you rescue him, you will have to do it again." Priests and teachers have abused children without penalty. Presidents lie, congressmen take money, etc.

Human beings require structure and discipline. Fortunately for us, our Creator planned for our growth and happiness by holding us accountable. God is honest with us: sin brings death. The Word clarifies His expectations and holds us accountable. God is predictable, consistent, and fair. And aren't we thankful for that! The beauty queen and best player have the same consequence and reward as the rest of us. Moses, God's chosen leader, was held accountable for disobedience (Number 20). Samson, a judge chosen by God, maintained supernatural strength as long as he followed God's directions. However, God allowed Samson to suffer the consequences of foolish behavior: the Philistines cut his hair, blinded and imprisoned him. Ultimately Samson gained victory over himself and over his enemies; God did not abandon Samson but answered his prayer.

Obedience begins with the fear of consequences. God's people cannot thrive if they accept the culture of no consequences. Churches grow numerically but not spiritually. Many are suffering from the lack of discipline among their members. Fornication, bar-hopping, gossip, and bitterness find their way into churches. Behavior that is plainly un-Christian is ignored while the "positive" is accentuated. By overlooking sin, the consequences of sin are not seen or felt. Paul rebuked the Corinthian church for this (1 Cor. 5:1-5). They accepted an adulterer as a faithful brother. Paul told them to deliver him to Satan -- to let him know where he was spiritually. They were not even to eat with him. How cruel! No! This is God's way of shocking the sinner into seeing the consequence of his sin.

Not all consequences are bad. In fact, the disciplining of the Corinthian adulterer caused him to repent and return to Christ. Paul urged the brethren to reaffirm their love to him (2 Cor. 2:3-9). The renewal of Christian fellowship was crucial in helping this brother remain faithful. It remains the same today. We can not live without consequences. Some believe, because God does not punish sin immediately, He will not punish it at all. This is a serious mistake. In this life we might evade many bad consequences. However, in judgment all will be made right. Everyone will stand before God to be judged based on the things we have done on earth (2 Cor. 5:10). Don't buy into the idea of a culture with no consequences, for there is no such place in existence.

NEWSLETTER

March 05, 2023

Mark Dailey, evangelist
(716) 754-2752

minister@lasallechurchofchrist.org

Schedule of Services

Our current schedule is:

Sunday Bible Class 10:00 AM

Sunday AM Worship 11:00 AM

Ladies' Bible Class meets on Tues. at 10 AM
starting Mar. 21, 2023 meeting every other week.

La Salle
church of Christ

We Meet At

1121 N. Military Rd.
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Phone (716) 283-1214

Website: lasallechurchofchrist.org

This bulletin can also
be found on our website.

We seek to be a place of healing and worship.



We welcome all who are here today.

If you are a visitor we are honored to have you with us. Please fill out a *Visitor Card* (on the back of the pew in front of you). We would like for you to place the *Visitor Card* in one of the receptacles provided at the front and rear of the auditorium. There will be an opportunity to give but as a visitor it is not expected of you. Thanks.



There is a nursery at the rear of the auditorium up the stairs if you need to care for your infant.



Read God's Word

We offer a **free** Bible Correspondence Course

Please keep cell phones and other noise making devices silent. Thank you.

Worship service was canceled last Sunday due to the weather.

Prayers In our prayers, let's praise God, recognize His greatness, thank Him for His Son and His blessings.

Please pray as we continue our search for a gospel preacher.

Let's pray for the situation in the Ukraine and surrounding areas.

Roger Mapes He is now at Elderwood at Cheektowaga. No visitors due to Covid. Let's pray as he recuperates.

Jessica Alcorn continues with chemo treatments. She thanks all for the cards, calls, and prayers on her behalf.

Linda Stine was taken to Kenmore Mercy Hospital Friday night Feb. 24. She had Covid and her heart enzymes were raised. They got her heart enzymes under control and released her Sat. afternoon, Feb. 25, to go home.

Sharron Gantt She was recently checked and is cancer free. She will be checked again in 4 months. Let's pray she continues to do well.

Marietta McArthur (Ray McArthur's mother) She is not doing well and was admitted to the hospital Thursday night and is in ICU. Ray has been there since Tuesday. Let's pray for her and the family.

Cheryl Moore-Johns (lifelong friend of Bev McArthur) She is facing several surgical procedures. She recently had oral surgery and will have surgery on her left shoulder in April. She is thankful for our prayers.

Steve Shaw, Pam Schnell's and Jim Mellott's cousin, is in serious condition after suffering a massive heart attack.

Jeff Elder's father is dealing with heart issues.

Cheryl, Bruce Brink's future mother in law, is dealing with hip pain and limited mobility.

Hope Rice's mother had a house fire before Christmas. Hope is asking for prayers that the people she use to worship with will reach out to her mom.

Peter is dealing with colon cancer. He is the husband of Lynn who is Denise Garlitz' niece. Let's pray for them.

Barb Stortz Some of us here know her. She is a member at Amherst. She is requesting prayers on her behalf because she is suffering with C. Diff.

Laval Baptiste, Louella Hopkins' brother, age 83, is dealing with pneumonia.

Kassandra (Louella Hopkins' granddaughter) has Covid, along with her husband Anthony and son Elliot.

Let's pray not only for those that are physically sick but those that are spiritually sick as well.

Please keep our loved ones and their caregivers in your thoughts and prayers.

Let's pray for our members that have ongoing health and other issues.

Let's pray for family, friends, and loved ones of our members who are having health and other issues.

Let's pray for our shut-ins, widows and widowers, and call, send cards, and be of service.

Let's pray for those dealing with family situations as well as work situations.

Let's pray for those dealing with weather related disasters.

Let's pray for those of our number who are looking for employment.

Let's pray for those that are traveling. May they have a safe journey.

Let's pray for God's people that are doing mission work all over the world.

Let's pray for people the world over that we may all learn to get along with each other.

Let's pray for those taking Bible correspondence courses at the present time.

Let's pray for children, families, and the staff at *Potter Children's Home and Family Ministries*.

Let's pray for the work being done at Great Lakes Christian High School in Beamsville, ONT.

Let's pray for our neighbors receiving *House to House Heart to Heart* that they have receptive hearts.

Upcoming Events *(Lord willing)*

Mar. 05 Today. *Potluck*

Mar. 11 Set clocks ahead one hour before going to bed.

Mar. 19 Men's Business Mtg.

Mar. 21 Ladies' Bible Class resumes. (Weather permitting)

Weekly Budget Amount \$1,843.00

Contribution Last Sunday No Service

Attendance Last Sunday No Service

Financial Reports and Meeting Minutes are posted in the back.

Mission Info Please check the *Mission Board* in the back.

Ukraine Relief

John Kachelman, Jr. Cell (901) 626-4538 john@kachelman.com <https://kachelman.com>

For updated reports go to John's website and click on the tab for ***Mission Work***.

Philippines We support Caleb & Vanessa Callari doing mission work in the Philippines.

Caleb Callari's Radio Program - "Everyday Follower"

Do a search on YouTube for: Everyday Follower, School of National Evangelism Philippines

Zambia

The LaSalle congregation has been involved in the Zambia mission work for many years.

If you would like to help support the Zambian Mission, please place funds in the offering basket marked for Zambia. More information may be found at www.zambiamission.org

Matthew 19:14

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."



Weather permitting, class will resume starting March 21st at 10 AM at the building, not March 7th as previously announced. Class will meet every other week. Lesson 7. Questions? See Jean Cameron



Groups 1, 2, & 3 to setup and cleanup.

Groups 1, 2, & 3 are the Groups from the Phone Tree.

Group 1 Those in Ron & Jean Cameron's Group

Group 2 Those in Rodney & Carol Jones' Group.

Group 3 Those in Louella Hopkins' Group.