

# PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

AUGUST 8, 2021

## *Self promotion*

We live in a world where we're told we must be in the business of self-promotion. We're told that if we don't "toot our own horn" no one else will, so we should remind our employers annually what we've done for them, list our accomplishments on social media sites, and in general always be selling ourselves. This, the world says, is the path to success.

Jesus, on the other hand, tells us that we should let others be the ones to honor us. In Luke 14:8-11, He used the illustration of attending a wedding feast. In that society, the seating placement was a very important indicator of status. Those with the highest social standing were expected to be seated at the head of the table nearest the host, and the lowest sat farthest away at the other end of the table. Jesus encouraged his disciples not to assume a "high" status, but to take a seat "at the lowest place." That way, instead of being humiliated by being asked to move down, they would be honored by being asked to move up.

Paul stated it a slightly different way in Romans 12:3 when he encouraged christians "not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think..." Humility is a virtue in short supply in our society, and that's nothing new to the human experience. If you're doing good work, people will notice. Let them be the ones to tell people if they will, but never forget that as good as we might (or might not) be in this world's eyes, "...when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.' - Luke 17:10



We welcome **James Slate** as our speaker this morning

Our evening service today will be in song

## OTHER NEWS

- Thanks to everyone involved in our meeting with Coopertown.
- Our building renovation project will begin soon. Please check that anything from the classrooms you'd like to keep is noted as we begin to clean them out.

# *When to rejoice?*

We're all familiar with Romans 12:15, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep." We have heard lessons on this topic about not being jealous of another's success and being sympathetic toward those who are hurting even when something good is happening in our lives. Perhaps the more subtle message in this verse is how we can know when to rejoice with our brethren.

In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul used the human body as an analogy for the church, the body of Christ. His emphasis there is on the fact that the members of the body that may not be seen are just as important as those members "on display." If we tweak that analogy somewhat, however, we can all acknowledge that if one member of the body is in pain, the entire body knows about it. If the foot is hurting, the face will likely show it.

In the same way, we must be willing to communicate our joys and pains with our fellow members of the body of Christ. One of the great blessings God gives us is this church family to ensure that we don't go through the ups and downs of life alone. If we deny that blessing by putting on a "happy face" and pretending life is great when we're actually hurting, or failing to share our successes with

our brothers and sisters, we not only rob ourselves of the comfort and companionship God intended us to enjoy, but we prevent our fellow Christians from being able to follow Romans 12:15. You cannot weep with me in my sorrow if I do not let you know I am hurting, or celebrate with me if I keep my joy to myself.

The greater message of both these passages is that we should have the kind of relationships with one another so that we do know these things about each other. We must open ourselves to one another, invite our fellow Christians into our lives, and share the good and the bad before we can truly "rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep."

## PRAYER LIST

- **Alice Riley**, the grandmother of Jeff's sister-in-law, has covid and is in the hospital in Arkansas
- **Barrett Knipfer** is still awaiting test results
- Remember **Ann Reed** as her cancer treatment continues

## SERVING TODAY (August 8, 2021)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Read:** C. Baker  
**Prayer:** J. Walker

### WORSHIP

**Read:** J. Gupton  
**Wait On Table:** F. Brown  
**Serve:** J. Buchanan, J. Demonbreun,  
D. Billingsley  
**Prayer:** M. Reed