

I Learned a New Word

Elders

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Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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Solipsism. In philosophy, it is “the theory that only the self exists, or can be proved to exist.” In everyday life it means “extreme preoccupation with and indulgence of one’s feelings, desires, etc.; egoistic selfabsorption” (dictionary.com).

I encountered the word for the first time while reading Graham Johnston’s book *Preaching to a Postmodern World*: “The irony is that as individualism grows, it comes at the expense of the individual who fails to perceive his or her sense of connectedness in the world. Postmodernity, when taken to its logical conclusion, can create a kind of solipsism in which the only world one can ever know is one’s own private existence” (p.38). The solipsist can hardly think of anyone but himself. He connects to other people only as he sees “what’s in it for me.”

Solipsism—like almost every other “ism”—drains New Testament Christianity of the power God gave it. In New Testament terms solipsism is selfishness, selfish ambition, the flesh with its passions and desires.

Self-absorption keeps Christians from making a big difference in the world. Jesus says, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation” (Mark 16:15). We hesitate because it seems like awkwardness is all that’s in it for us.

Self-absorption keeps the church from worshipping like it could and should. Unrestrained praise, “filled with His goodness, lost in His love,” ought to burst from our hearts and flow from our lips (Psalm 95:1-2, Col. 3:16). God is robbed of the glory he deserves because we don’t enjoy the tune.

Self-absorption leaves nominal Christians disgruntled and hurting Christians hurting. With the mind of Christ, disciples in humility count others better than themselves; they look not only to their own interests, but also to the interests of others (Phil. 2:4). Christians who need help bearing a burden never get it because other members of the body cannot see past their own wants to other people’s needs.

Self-absorption keeps marriage from being the joy God made it to be. By God’s plan husband and wife are heirs together of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Yet he goes his way, and she goes hers because “I” am more important than “us.”

Self-absorption keeps the family from being heaven’s holy training ground. God wants the drumbeat of a parent’s life to be helping children to know him and his word (Deut. 6:4-7, Eph. 6:4). Children get their values from a secular, social media-saturated society because gadgets are more accessible than their parents are.

Jesus wants us to learn a new word. It would cure the solipsism that ails the church and the family. It’s a word that is easy to say and easy to spell. It’s a word we’ve heard before but not with this depth of definition. It’s a word for something desperately needed but not easily mastered. “A new commandment I give to you, that you *love* one another: *just as I have loved you*, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35).

Danny Boggs

His own people, eager to do what is good – Titus 2:14

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Kay Anderson, Carol Bessman, Fred and Carolyn Bukowich, Bonaga Buck, Joyce Clarkson, Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Tammy Crawford, Joe and Teresa Freund, Gael Jackson, Molly Jackson, Millie Lyons, Pam McMahan, Sherry Merrill, Kevin Murray, Foy O'Neil, Lyn Pendergraft, Charlie Phillips, Mebyl Privett, John Randall, Tina Rasbury, Connor Reiboldt, Murray Riley, Lawrence Sanders, Rylee Schroeder, Harold Speir, Edith Toney.



every **ONE** counts!

Every "One" Counts: When you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. This week we helped a family of two children whose mother passed away due to Covid. If you know someone who needs help, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.

Devo and Donuts meets every Tuesday at 7:00 in the activities center. Start your day in a positive way and invite your friends to join you.



If you are not able to be at church, continue to visit our Facebook page, website or YouTube channel to see or hear our services **online**. Services will be at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm on Sundays and 7:00 pm on Wednesdays.



Remember to read your **Ten Commandment book** starting again tomorrow. We will be on the eight commandment, Thou Shalt Not Steal.

Ladies' Retreat will be November 5-7. It is a wonderful weekend with your Christian sisters. Registration is due today. Please give your money to Molly Cobb or Coralee.

Today's Sermons



A.M. *The Bible and Grief*
(Ron and Don Williams)

P.M. *What This Congregation Can Do to Help Those in Grief*
(Ron and Don Williams)

On November 12-14, our **youth group** will journey to Hollister, MO for a House Retreat!. We'll enjoy time spent together playing games, praising God, and studying the Bible. The cost is \$30. You can pay in person or on the church website. Sign up by November 7! We will leave Neosho at 6:00 pm on Nov. 12 and return at 12:00 pm on Nov. 14. If you have any questions, text or call Caleb.

Our **Grief Seminar** with Ron and Don Williams started yesterday. Those who were here yesterday were blessed with much useful information. Today will be another excellent opportunity to gain from these speakers.

Join us after services for a **potluck lunch** in the activities center. We will meet back in the auditorium at 1:00 for the last session of our grief seminar. This will serve as our evening worship.

Our **Fall Carnival** will be tonight from 5:30-7:00 in the activity center. It will be a fun, safe activity for our children and their friends in the community. There will be snacks, drinks, games, and prizes.

Lads 2 Leaders: the Bible Bowl study question notebooks are available and can be picked up at the welcome desk. Begin studying the book of Joshua. We will have a practice session soon!

Take a look at the **bulletin boards** in the back hallway. Thanks to Annie, Grace, and Roxxi for the great job they did.

Thank you for all the sweet cards, food, prayers and well wishes up to and following my surgery. This church family has provided me with so many acts of kindness.

Lyn Pendergraft

I want to thank all my Christian church family for all the prayers, cards, visits, food and everything that has been done since my fall. Thank you for the kindness and goodness. I also appreciated the birthday cards too. I appreciate all that you do. I love this congregation.

Vera Cornell

Just wanted to say thank you for the financial gift. I am forever grateful to everyone of you for your love, kindness and support. I have seen Jesus and the hand of God at work in you. You saw a need and trusted that God would be glorified.

Sam Allen

WORSHIP LEADERS

Today

This Wednesday

AM Opening Prayer: Glen Honeycutt
AM Closing Prayer: Joe McLain
Communion Prayers: Miles Wolgamott
PM Opening Prayer: Darren Pierce
PM Closing Prayer: Bob Murray

Announcements: Todd Murray
Singing: Carl Cobb
Invitation: John Deffenbaugh
Opening Prayer: Trace Wilson
Closing Prayer: Harold Speir

RECORDS

10-24-21

10-25-20

Bible Study	120	110
AM Worship	176	189
PM Worship	104	86
Wednesday	125	99
Contribution	\$7,745.99	\$7,676.95
Budget	\$8,000.00	\$7,864.15