

Feltham Evangelical Church

Manor Lane, Feltham TW13 4JQ T:020 8844 0352

W:www.felthamevangelicalchurch.org.uk E:info@felthamevangelicalchurch.org.uk

A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Newsletter January 2008

Calendar

w/c 30th December

30th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
30th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)
30th 11.20.a.m. Sunday School (Sheila Hume)
2nd 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
4th 9.30.a.m "Open House"

w/c 6th January

6th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
6th 11.00.a.m Morning Service (Philip Venables) with refreshments afterwards
6th 11.20.a.m. Sunday School (Sheila Hume)
7th 7.30.p.m. Prayer Meeting
8th 10.00.a.m Prayer Meeting
8th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
9th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study
10th 7.30.p.m Church Members Meeting
11th 9.30.a.m. "Open House"
11th 7.30.p.m. Prayer Meeting
12th 10.00.a.m. Leaflet Distribution
12th 7.00.p.m. Feltham Bible Focus; Richard Underwood (*Propitiation! What's that?*)

w/c 13th January

13th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper

13th 11.00.a.m Morning Service (Richard Underwood)
13th 11.20.a.m. Sunday School (Trish Howard)
13th 1.p.m. Lunch
13th 2.p.m. Afternoon Service (Richard Underwood)
15th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
16th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
18th 9.30.a.m "Open House"

w/c 20th January

20th 9.30.a.m Prayer and Praise
20th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables) with Lord's Supper
20th 11.20.a.m. Sunday School (Daphne Henderson)
22nd 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
23rd 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
25th 9.30.a.m "Open House"

w/c 27th January

27th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper (Dan Walker)
27th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Graham King)
27th 11.20.a.m. Sunday School (Daphne Henderson)
29th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
30th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study (Malcolm Evans)
1st (Feb) 9.30.a.m "Open House"

News

Gilbert Earle passed away on December 8th At the age of 77. He has been much afflicted over recent years with severe arthritis. Pray for Pat that she would know the Lords' comfort and grace at this time.

John and Lucy Ferreira are due to be away in Brazil for three weeks in January visiting their families.

May Lin Venables is in the midst of hospital appointments investigating her kidney problem. Her next appointment is on January 3rd.

Philip, May Lin, Michael, Joshua, Daniel and Zec Venables are due to be away in Malaysia for four weeks from January 24th. Pray that the Lord would give them a good time away to rest awhile.

Notes

Feltham Bible Focus This month we start our second year of Feltham Bible Focus. The preacher on January 12th is Richard Underwood who is General Secretary of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches; the church grouping of which we are a member. The subject he will be dealing with is "Propitiation! What's that?" Propitiation is at the heart of what our Lord achieved at the cross and it is very important that we understand this doctrine properly.

Fellowship Lunch Mr Underwood is also due to be with us on January 13th. On that day we are due to have a fellowship lunch together. The lunch is due to be on a bring-and-share basis.

Ladies Study Day The ladies of the church have received a kind invitation to a day Conference at Hayes Town Chapel on January 26th. This is great opportunity to be benefited spiritually. The speaker is the highly respected author Sharon James.

Prayer A new year brings fresh opportunities and fresh challenges. As a church we seek, in and through all things, to move ahead for the LORD'S glory. To this end we must pray. So it is good that we can start the year with a week of prayer and therefore in the week beginning on 6th January we have extra prayer meetings arranged. If you can be present at these meetings then that would be good. If you are not able to be present then please pray wherever you are. Let us make it a special week to commit all to the LORD.

Church Members Meeting is due to take place on January 10th. Pray the LORD'S blessing upon this time when the church members can come together in fellowship to consider the issues bearing upon the church.

Newspapers Evangelical Times and Evangelical Now are available through the church. If you would like to subscribe then please contact Sheila for Evangelicals Now and Philip for Evangelical Times.

Leaflet Distribution On January 12th we intend to distribute a leaflet especially created for the New Year called "What have you got to look forward to?" Pray for the leaflet that many might read and seek the LORD.

Spiritual Notes Submit

We live in a world of “rights” and self-promotion. In such a world the whole concept of submission is foreign to the way we operate. The consequence though of such an approach to life have been disastrous. Workplaces are disrupted, society is fractured and families are in chaos because people are no longer willing to submit to one another out of respect for one another.

The exhortation to the Christian stands, though, that we should **Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ** (Eph. 5:21). This is basic ground-rule for Christian relationships. The whole idea behind this exhortation is that I place myself under you. I rank myself in a position where I reckon you to be more important than me. This is a universal principle that should apply between all Christians. So your agenda is more important than mine. Your wishes are more important than mine. The church then becomes a place of respecting and honouring one another rather than asserting our rights all the time.

Notwithstanding this general principle though there are times when, for the purposes of good order someone has to be submitted to because of the position they hold.

In society. Paul says that **Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God** (Rom 13:1). Why are there so many problems in society today? Surely it is because so many will not submit themselves to honour those who administer the law of the land whether it be the police or the judiciary. Rather as Peter says we should **Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right** (1 Pet. 2:13-14)

In the workplace. Christian employees should be those who respect their employers and willingly submit to their orders. **Obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord** (Col. 3:22b). At work then we heed our line managers instructions and implement them. We may discuss them if we think that there is a better way of operating. But if, in the end the line manager says this is the way it should be done then we should willingly obey.

Family-life. The call upon children is simple and yet profound. **Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right** (Eph. 6:1). Children are to express their submission to parental authority through their obedience.

Marriage. Authority structures are also to be found in the marriage relationship. Paul states it as follows: **Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord** (Eph 5:22). The Husband is the “chief-executive” in the home. He is given executive authority by the Managing Director; God Himself.

Church. God places elders, also called overseers, in His church. And He says: **Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you** (Heb 13:17). For the sake of godly order in the church those who are constituted as elders should be obeyed.

Having established the realms in which submission applies we need to conclude by asking ourselves three questions:

Should a wife ever expect her husband to submit to her?

In the generality of life the husband and wife as two Christians are submitting to each other in accordance with Eph. 5:21. However, there are times when a decision has to be made on something. At these times the husband has to exert his position as husband and therefore head of the marriage. The wife is obliged to submit to her husband and his decision in such cases. This principle also applies in all the other spheres mentioned above such as in the church.

What if a worker is asked to do something wrong by his employer?

In such a case we might say a higher principle comes into play. We must follow Peter and the other apostles and say: **“We must obey God rather than men!”** (Acts 5:29b). It must be emphasized that this is NOT a get out clause for us when we feel hard done-by, rather it is for those exceptional times when we are asked to do something that directly contravenes God's Word.

Is my husband therefore allowed to be nasty to me?

No not at all. Abusive behaviour by those in authority which exploits those “under” them is obnoxious and totally indefensible. And God in His Word provides the necessary correctives. So a husband should love his wife (see Eph. 5:25a). Employers should not be threatening (see Eph. 6:9). Elders are not to lord it over the flock (see 1 Pet. 5:3).

In all our acts of submission let us be aware that such acts are NOT just for the sake of it. Rather they are acts which are as to the LORD. This gives submission a delightful aspect. It is something that pleases Him and that should encourage us in what is often a hard act.

