

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 Precepts	2 10:00 MAKS 6:30 Student Min 7:00 Property 7:00 Cong Care Comm	3 6:00 AWANA 7:00 Jr & Sr High	4 9:30 Women's study 12:00 Men's Lunch 7:00 Elder Board 7:00 Women's study	5 6:15am Men's Grp 8:00 Club 180	6
7 8:-00 Pastoral Call Comm. 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:00 Souper Bowl lunch 5:00 Prayer	8 6:30 Precepts	9 6:00 Student Ministries 6:30 Men Sing 7:00 Cong Care 7:00 Property	10 6:00 AWANA 7:00 Jr & Sr High	11 9:30 Women's study 12:00 Men's Lunch 7:00 Women's study	12 6:15am Men's Grp 8:00 Club 180	13 6:00 Men's Leaders
14 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 5:00 Prayer	15 6:30 Precepts	16 10:00 MAKS 7:00 Elder Board	17 6:00 AWANA 7:00 Jr & Sr High	18 9:30 Women's study 12:00 Men's Lunch 7:00 Women's study	19 6:15am Men's Grp 8:00 Club 180	20 9:00 Newcomer/member class
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 5:00 Prayer	22 6:30 Precepts	23 7:00 Adult Discipleship	24 6:00 AWANA 7:00 Jr & Sr High	25 12:00 Men's Lunch	26 6:15am Men's Grp 8:00 Club 180	27
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 5:00 Prayer	29 6:30 Precepts					

[Christ Community Church Disciple-making Pathway](#)

Developing people who live God's love by:

Loving God - Loving one another - Loving our neighbors

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February 2016

Cornerstone

A heart for God and you

Volume 14, Issue 02

Empathy Blindness

By Dan Wobschall

Reading [Luke 6:41](#) & [Matthew 7:3-5](#) before you continue on, will be helpful for you.

For many of us it seems like the world and society is unraveling before our eyes. Those who are the hero's and protectors of society are now attacked, made out to be the enemy and by many being shamed for doing what we ourselves would not do. And what's worse, at least from my perspective, is we choose **not** to put ourselves in their shoes.

We have what I call "empathy blindness." The symptoms are a critical heart or spirit, quick to judge others, we can do no wrong (in our own eyes) and every problem is someone else's fault. Flat out lack of empathy for nearly anyone else.

The most obvious symptom is the log in our eye. Yet it would seem we can't see the very thing that is sticking out of our face! I

If you and I have any desire to lead well or be an encourager of others, this is a malady we cannot have. Empathy blindness can be a form of personal toxicity. If you and I become toxic, we can be of no help to others.

Living with the presence of a critical spirit and mindset is exhausting. Taps energy that we need for positive contributions to work, those we love, our marriages, children and so on. It's a killer and robber of joy and peace.

Self-Examination

Self examination should be a daily process for us. I begin, most days, with prayer and self examination before even stepping one foot out of bed. (Cont)

God is capable of revealing the logs in my eye like no one else. He's never wrong and always loving.

When we own our own logs and realize the grace we've been shown it can lighten our burdens and give us an ability to empathize with others more readily.

Self-examination can be powerful process to release burdens from our minds and restore a sense of peace and calm.

A great tool for self-examination is journaling. This activity when engaged in on a regular basis can provide great insight to your own thoughts, struggles and open up toxic thoughts and behaviors in our lives.

Action Steps

- Pluck the log from our own eyes. Confess where a critical spirit has sprouted and grown.
- As appropriate, apologize to anyone you believe you have acted less than honorably to. Confession is good for your soul & another's heart.
- Begin a process of daily thankfulness. It's impossible to grateful and critical or bitter at the same time.
- Journal daily. Set a regular time to do so. Just before bed is good time for many.

As I write this to you I confess I'm fighting this un-empathetic spirit. Removing a log or two from my own eye. Putting these thoughts here for you to see, is a form of journaling. A way of purging the darkness of the critical mind and opening it up for the Light to enter.

Empathy is powerful. It builds up, and not tears down. It produces grace, not condemnation. It gives life and breeds a joyful heart. Gives opportunity for healing.

Empathy, you are welcome here. Come on in.



Opportunity To Serve

Believe it or not, it is time to think about Celebrate The Gift once again. We are making plans for CELEBRATE THE GIFT 2016, THE 20th ANNIVERSARY. Wednesday, February 3 at 8:00 p.m. is our first meeting, and we would love to have some new people join us as well as those who have previously served. Please consider being a part of this year's special event and join us at our next meeting. We welcome you!

MESSAGES FROM OUTREACH



Just a reminder that February is the month we collect funds for the Food Shelf. Think about how you can help. More information



SAVE THE DATE “THIRST CONFERENCE” May 8th—11th, 2016

This special event is a follow-up to last years Revive Conference. A team of 22 people will be here to share four very exciting days of renewal. There will be morning & evening meetings on Sunday, and evening meetings, Monday through Wednesday. A women's luncheon will be held on Tuesday at noon. There will be activities for ALL ages (nursery included) on Sunday as well as each evening.

There are many opportunities to help with this event, so please watch for upcoming information, and please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend. It promises to be a wonderful experience.