

SERIES: *why?*

DATE: Saturday - Sunday, May 14-15, 2022

SERMON: Why Do We Emphasize Righteousness

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 33:13-16 Ephesians 4:25-32 NIV

Isaiah 33:13-16

[13] You who are far away, hear what I have done; you who are near, acknowledge my power!

[14] The sinners in Zion are terrified; trembling grips the godless: "Who of us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who of us can dwell with everlasting burning?"

[15] Those who walk righteously and speak what is right, who reject gain from extortion and keep their hands from accepting bribes, who stop their ears against plots of murder and shut their eyes against contemplating evil –

[16] they are the ones who will dwell on the heights, whose refuge will be the mountain fortress. Their bread will be supplied, and water will not fail them.

Ephesians 4:25-32

[25] Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

[26] "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,

[27] and do not give the devil a foothold.

[28] Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

[29] Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

[30] And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

[31] Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

[32] Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

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In a day when many churches are turning to accommodating the culture, why are we turning in a different direction?

1. Because to walk in righteousness is to _____.

- Walk according to the _____.
- **Romans 8:4-6** *in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.*
- People are afraid of what _____ but unconcerned with what _____.

2. Because righteousness _____.

- **1 Peter 3:12** *For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.*

3. Because of what _____.

- *"It's not working"*

4. Because righteousness _____.

Lagniappe

TWO HELPFUL EVENTS TO HELP YOU GET TO KNOW FBC

During the month of May we have two important events which will help you get to know First Baptist Church better.

Sunday May 15, 5:00-7:00 PM – is our Discovery Class. This will be our last one until after school begins in August.

Our *Discovery Class* is set up for people who are new to First Baptist Church and are interested in church membership. At the conclusion of the class, we invite people to become members of our church.

We also use this time to introduce you to pastors and deacons of the church and to discuss the vision, values, and goals of First Baptist Covington.

Over the years more than 2000 people have attended the Discovery Class. We believe that this would be helpful for those of you who have never attended. Please make plans to attend and if you can, sign-up on our website at FBCCov.org.

Wednesday May 25, at 6:45 PM - we will have our next congregational meeting. These meetings normally have to do with business discussion and voting about various issues. This meeting will be very different. While we may have a few small items for which we need to take a vote, for the most part this will be an information meeting.

This is what you will learn:

- How we're doing in attendance for worship and connect groups compared to 2019 (the last year before the pandemic). We all want to know how we're doing, and this will give us an opportunity to discuss it.
- How we are doing for our general budget for the year 2022.
- The totals to date pledged for the Anchored Capital Campaign and the number of families which have made commitments.
- How our other campuses are doing.
- How we anticipate beginning to disperse the funds for the things that we have designated.

We are hopeful that we can give you good, concise information that will help you as you think of our responsibilities as the people of God.

I look forward to seeing you for these important events.

