



Bring a friend SUNDAY

Everything is Better With Friends

Thank God for Friends

September 12, 2021

Friends Share Jesus with Friends

COMMUNION: We serve the Lord's Super each Sunday as was the pattern of the New Testament Church. Immersed believers are encouraged to partake to remember what Jesus did for them on the cross.

INVITATION: If you desire to make a decision for Christ today, come forward during the closing. Someone will greet you and lead you each step of the way. Call Faron if you want to set up an appointment to talk.

YOUTH CHURCH – Grades 1-6 – Youth Center
SUNDAY SCHOOL – Begins at 10 AM – Social Hall
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – 7 PM – Social Hall

MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP GROUP – A group of men meet in the youth center each Monday night. We would love to have you join us. John Taormina is leading this group. Please contact him with questions: 724-472-7788 or jtptpkmba@gmail.com.

PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS

Have YOU invited your friends to this week:

BARNABAS WEEK
REGIONAL MEETING
RESTORATION CHURCH of CHRIST
1040 East Windhaven Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
October 31 - November 3
@ 7 PM
Each Evening
The Dave Melton Family Singers
David Jones Evangelist
Any Questions? 412-788-8818

Can you feed these folks in the social hall after the revival service one evening? There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for you.



**NEXT SUNDAY
HOMECOMING
SUNDAY
CELEBRATING 8 YEARS
OF MINISTRY AS RCOC**
Carry-In Dinner Following Worship



Thanks to all the people who gave so generously to the Pounds family after the death of Tommy Pounds. The family appreciates all your expressions of sympathy and your kindness as they move forward. The offering you shared with them will bless them as they progress and honor Tommy's memory. Thank you one and all.

WINGS MEETING – Today WINGS will meet after our morning worship in the Social Hall. All the ladies of the church are encouraged to attend this meeting. Karen Cox is the president and will be happy to answer any questions you have about the meeting. Join these ladies and minister to each other.

	FRIEND SUNDAY	HOMECOMING	9/26/21	10/3/21	10/10/21
Front Door Greeters	Joan Black	Sue Toal	Bert Wingertsahn	Gloria Leonard	Ty Miley
Worship Center Greeters	Marci Wix	Ashley Toal	Lynda Wiseman	Sierra Errkkila	Rebecca Lisotto
Youth Church	Lara Franks	Lara Franks	Lara Franks	Lara Franks	Lara Franks
PowerPoint	Kathy Hanze	Kathy Hanze	Kathy Hanze	Kathy Hanze	Kathy Hanze
Video Recording	Brandon Wolf	Nathan Wallace	Brandon Wolf	Nathan Wallace	Nathan Wallace
Communion Preparation	Gloria Leonard	Gloria Leonard	Gloria Leonard	Leah & Hannah Wallace	Leah & Hannah Wallace
Communion Meditation	Joe Hadden	Bob Wix	Robert Albright	Dustin Wallace	Randy Priddy
Cleaning Team This Week	Coleen Glozzer	Barb Schultz	Karen Cox	Lynn Thomas	Trinity Kutchmark
Nursery	Cindi Freeman	Jessica Wallace	Lynda Wiseman	Rebecca Lisotto	Cindi Freeman

If you are unable to complete your assigned task on your given week it is your responsibility to find a replacement.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42



Preachers love when people actually listen to their sermons and ask questions afterwards. This shows not only they using their ears, but they are showing action for growth.

Last Sunday I spoke on the difficult subject of homosexuality. It is hard subject because I want to make sure I find the correct balance of truth and grace. It is my responsibility, as the evangelist, to boldly proclaim the truth by clearly defining God's boundaries and simultaneously explaining God's grace by amplifying the fact that any person involved in any sexual perversion can turn from that lifestyle to a loving God waiting with open arms. The truth is the bold fact that the practice of homosexuality is a sin. The grace is that God still loves the one practicing such sin and is waiting to forgive them if they obey Him.

So, after Sunday's sermon someone came and asked me a question I have not studied. It was one of those times that the preacher did not have a clear answer. I promised to study the subject and get back to her with an answer. Thus, here it goes.

The question my eager listener asked was, "Will there be different genders in heaven?"

When I begin my study for a good answer, I immediately thought of the teaching of Jesus in **Matthew 22:30**, "For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven." Like me, I am sure you are asking yourself, "What does this mean?"

The context of this passage is Jesus was answering a question raised by the Sadducees. Their enquiry was meant to demonstrate the absurdity of a resurrection of the dead (**Matthew 22:15-28**). However, this challenge was based on wrong assumptions about the Scriptures and the power of God (**Matthew 22:29**). It's been said that we often learn the most important truths by asking "dumb" questions. This is what the Sadducees was doing. In this case, at least, an off-target question opens the door for correction and learning.

In short, Jesus says, resurrected human beings will be like angels in one respect: Men will not marry, and women will not be given

in marriage. Marriage, the pairing of couples for life, will cease to exist in Heaven. As eternal beings, angels do not reproduce, therefore making marriage unnecessary. Humans will apparently exist in that non-married, non-reproducing status, as well. Jesus' answer also corrects the Sadducees' wrong idea that angels do not exist.

This gives a firm, if unexpected answer to the Sadducees: the wife married to seven consecutive brothers on earth will not be wife to any of them in Heaven. He will not stop there, however. Jesus will continue to show how the Sadducees' own preferred Scriptures make a clear case for life after death (**Matthew 22:31-32**).

It's important to note what Jesus *does not* say here. It is here that His words are often taken out of context and misquoted. Jesus does not say humans will become angels after death. Angels and humans are entirely different kinds of beings. Jesus only says people will be "like" angels, and only in this one way: not being married. Otherwise, people and angels will remain unique and distinct creations of God.

In the **Matthew 22:30** passage we build a foundation for answering the question: "Will there be different genders in Heaven?"

First, let me emphasize this teaching is limited to marriage. Marriage will not exist in heaven; it does not speak regarding gender.

Second, the resurrected bodies of God's people are "perfected", in other words they are new and improved, not new and removed. There is no indication in Scripture that people will lose their gender in heaven. In **Luke 16:19-31**, Abraham and Lazarus were both recognized and identified as men. The faithful men and women listed in **Hebrews 11**, were all said to be with the Lord in Heaven with no mention of losing gender identity.

Third, when Moses and Elijah spoke with Jesus at the Transfiguration, they were clearly identified as men both in description and in the use of male pronouns (**Matthew 17:1-13**). The same is true when Jesus spoke of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in refuting the Sadducees in **Matthew 22**.

Fourth, **Revelation 21 & 22** emphasize what is changed at the end of time is the curse of sin, not gender. God made man and woman in His image and called them good (**Genesis 1:26-27**). There will be no need to change this aspect of humanity in the

afterlife. Instead, sin and its impact will be removed.

Finally, there is evidence based on the resurrected body of Jesus that gender will remain after this life. When people saw Jesus after He was resurrected, He was described as male and it was assumed He was still a man. This indicates that it is highly likely Christian men and women, when given their new resurrected bodies, will retain their gender as well. They are given a new, perfected body free from the sin and limitations of this life.

While there are many details about our resurrected bodies remain unanswered, Scripture does provide ample support for the view that people in heaven will retain the same gender in the afterlife. -FF



CANDY NEEDED: On October 29th we are having our TRUNK & TREAT here at RCOC. We need lots of candy to pass out at the event. Will you help us out and bring some candy? There is a box in the foyer for you to deposit your bags of candy.



UPCOMING EVENT
TRUNK OR TREAT
October 29 @ 6 PM
More Information Will Follow