



Valley Isle Fellowship
 Love God. Love His Church. Love His World
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NEWSLETTER

June 21, 2015 www.vifmaui.com

Loving The Lord Our God With All Of Our Hearts, Minds, and Souls **Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro**

Many comments have been made as to why we are emphasizing so frequently that we need to love the Lord our God with all of our hearts, minds, and souls. Jesus called this the Greatest Commandment! Therefore, with just that declaration by Jesus Himself, it makes this command one that needs to be emphasized and highlighted.

As I have tried to love the Lord with all of my heart, mind, and soul, it has been revealed to me that this is critical in salvation.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT) says, ⁸"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it." For so many years I taught something that was contrary to this. I believed that in order to lead someone to faith in Jesus Christ, I needed to make sure that I referred to the right scripture passages that would lead the lost person into the right process so that they could process the depth of their sin, their need of a savior, and that

Jesus was the way, the truth, and the life. Then once they realized this, the sinner needed to come to the point of confession, repentance, and finally asking for forgiveness. Doesn't all of this sound good? It did for me. However, I have come to realize that trying to abide by this process is moving so close to a salvation by works.

How many of you have gone through an evangelism course of some kind where a plan is taught and it was required of you to learn that process along with all of the supporting scriptures? Then as you attempted to use what you learned, you were more concerned with getting the process right rather than on the needs of the person you were witnessing to. When I did this, my biggest failure was depending on a process rather than on the Spirit of God. This was compounded when I taught other Christians the same process and approach.

For the sinner, the biggest mistake was that as soon as they came to the point of praying the sinner's prayer, they thought that all was good and they were okay with the Lord. I was mystified and baffled by the fact that so many were not interested in going any further with the Lord Jesus Christ. So many of them felt that they were now saved and they were good with the Lord. It is almost as if they believed that they had now paid for their "fire insurance from hell" so now they can go on with living the life that they want to.

We need to realize that **Matthew 22:37-38 (NLT)** says, ³⁷Jesus replied, 'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment." It is so important that you recognize that Jesus said you **MUST** love the Lord your God with **ALL** your heart, **ALL** your soul, and **ALL** your mind. First Jesus said you **MUST**. This takes away all of the negotiations in trying to water down this command. The only choice we have is to accept or to reject it.

Secondly, we need to realize that ALL means ALL. You can rephrase this by saying that Jesus was saying that God needs to take first place in ALL of your life. It does not mean "some" and it does not even mean "most." It means ALL. Therefore, when you love Jesus with ALL of your heart, mind, and soul, you will not be able to hide it. When you love Jesus with everything, you will show it in all that you think, do, and say. Your whole life would be all about loving and glorifying Jesus. You will be yearning to be with Him all the time. You would be all about pleasing Him.

This is how all of this relates to salvation. When we realize all that Jesus did to pay the penalty for all of our sins, we should come to the point of loving Him will ALL of our heart, mind, and soul. You may think that that this is kind of fanatical, but let me ask you this question: How fanatical was Jesus in loving you? My answer to that was that He was so fanatical that He was willingly crucified for all of us. He really was fanatical in loving us. What do you think?

You see, if we miss loving Jesus with **ALL** of our heart, mind, and soul, we have missed it all. Nothing else will do in replacing this command. We need to love Jesus with all of our heart, with all of our mind, and with all of our soul. Let's move on together to love Jesus with all that is within us. God bless you all.



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Who Are You? Part 2

Pastor Jeremy Kaneshiro

Have you ever wondered how important your identity is to your own life? In our first few years as children, what our parents thought of us was the most important. Somewhere along the line it morphed as we hit the teenage years. What our friends and peers thought of us took the place of preeminence from our parents. Yet, as we grew older it became more important how our co-workers, spouse and children thought of us. I hear that there's a "midlife crisis" where we have a freak out time because we realize we have never answered the "Who am I?" question. I've talked with some older people, especially those closer to death, where one of things they say is "I've lived a good life, had a great family" or something to that effect, which in reality is an identity issue. They are searching for a place to hang their hat and say I am defined by my good life and family which is most definitely an "identity issue". You see, we never really grow out of our deep desire to be known and to answer the age old question of our true identity bound up in the question of "Who am I?"

The world tells us that our we can find our identity if we would just search deep enough. It tells us that our identity can only be found in searching our own heart. But, if anyone has really done that, you know that is a futile and frustrating search. Scripture tells us that our heart is sinfully wicked and loves to trick us (Jeremiah 17:9) by preaching to us that we must chase after the things of this world.

But, the truth is the things of this world come and go. Nothing in this world is permanent because everything fades, crumbles, breaks, rusts or dies. But if we're truthful our heart is constantly telling us to find our identity in this world whether it's the opinions of sinful, imperfect people or in something that will break, fade, crumble, rust or die. We are just trying to find the thing that we can say "THIS IS WHO I AM!". Yet over and over again, we are left grasping for straws because that was never how it was meant to be. Our identity was always supposed to be found in who God is and who He says I am.

We talked about identity a few weeks ago and today we will conclude the topic. The last two identities that the Lord wants us to know about ourselves is "*saints*" and "*children*

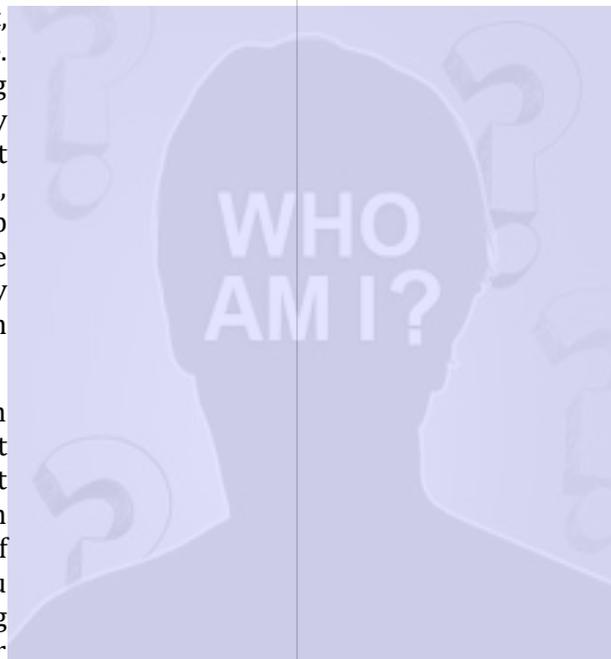
of God". These two are so important for us because these two identities are the primary truths about Christians that Satan loves to lie to us about. These are also the two identities that the apostle Paul continues to use over and over again when he wrote most of the New Testament.

Let's tackle "*saints*" this week. The church of Corinth in the 1st century church was a church that thought little of Paul's authority, fractured because of pride and prejudice, extremely sinful and given to sinfulness. If you've ever read 1st and 2nd Corinthians it may have left you wondering "how can these people be considered Christians?" Yet, at

the very beginning of 1 Corinthians (1 Cor. 1:2) and 2 Corinthians (2 Cor. 1:1) Paul addresses them as "saints". Why? Why would Paul address them as saints when it seemed like their behavior dictated that they were not? Well, the truth is the true you is not "what you do" but "who God says you are" because who God says you are will dictate how you live. That's the thing with identity...***who you truly see yourself as will be reflected in how you live.*** Therefore, what Paul was striving to do when he addressed his brothers and sisters in the Lord as "saints", he was reminding them "you are not sinners, lost, blinded, dead to

God and imprisoned to sin". Rather, you have been set free from the bondage of sin, from the power, punishment, presence of sin and have forever the righteousness of Christ as your true self...you are who God has made you.

Paul wanted the church in Corinth to stop seeing themselves primarily as Romans or Corinthians or Gentiles but to primarily see themselves as saints! That is how he wanted them to see themselves because he knew that if they would find their identity in Christ they would be seeking it in other things like their neighbors, co-workers and family members were doing. He knew that the Holy Spirit already resided in them and what they truly needed was to be reminded over and over again of who they really were. They were not defined by their sin but defined by the righteousness of Christ. Think about that for a moment...you are defined by God's holiness ("*saints*" means "holy ones"



Who Are You? Part 2 (cont.)

Pastor Jeremy Kaneshiro

in Greek) not by your sin. You will continue to sin till the day you die but you will never be defined by that sin before our Heavenly Father. We are primarily seen as God's Holy Possession...we are His Holy Ones. Not because of anything we have ever done. But, what Christ has perfectly done for us in our place. When Paul wrote his letter to the people of Corinth, he didn't address his letter "to the ones who struggle with pride, drunkenness, favoritism, lust, sinfulness and like..." No, Paul's first words to a struggling church was "²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours..." it didn't mean that he didn't address sin in the camp because that is what both 1st and 2nd Corinthians primarily deals with. But before Paul addressed their many sinful behaviors, he wanted them to be reminded that they were saints, who were righteous before God because of Jesus. Maybe you are struggling in the throes of sin right now and you can't seem to find victory and Satan keeps beating you down and telling you that you are a sinner who will never get better. More than anything else, dear brother and sister in the Lord, may you be reminded that God loves you and has called you "righteous" because you have put your trust in the righteous one, Jesus. May the sweet words of our Lord correct the lies of Satan. May you be reminded today that you are God's Holy Possession forever. Amen!

OPPORTUNITY FOR MINISTRY...



Kahului Baptist Church is in need of VBS teachers for their kindergarten and Grade 3-4 classes July 6-10. Interested in helping our sister church fill the gap? Contact Amy Shinsato at 276-6684 for more information.



Please pray for Destin Olasso and his team serving in Slovakia with NavMissions through July 14th.

HIGH STREET CLEANING SCHEDULE



Week of June 25-27
Takaki,
Yamasaki

Week of July 2-4
Volunteers Needed

Week of July 9-11
Volunteers Needed

Week of July 16-18
Aikala Family



"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving."
Colossians 4:2 (ESV)

Here are opportunities to gather together in prayer

Sunday; 6am
(Pastor Jeremy's Office)
Monday; 10 am & 6:30 pm
(High St Sanctuary)

Be in the KNOW. JOIN OUR TEXT ALERTS.

 **remind**
text @mrvif to 81010



The Woodie's Whereabouts

Greetings! I (Rachael) am writing from Denver. We are here for the weekend for some quick appointments.

It has been quite the past two weeks getting my wisdom teeth removed, but the Lord has been so good to me! I have been reading the Psalms and time and again He has comforted me. I went into surgery scared, but holding onto [Ps. 50:15](#) **“call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”** I am excited to share God's faithfulness with you.

The dentist asked if I wanted nitrous oxide gas to help with the surgery, heart pounding I decided to go without it, though truthfully I didn't think I would be able to handle it. That morning I had read [Ps. 55:22](#), **“Cast your burden on the LORD, and He will sustain you.”** And sustain me He did as I listened to the drills and felt the pulling of my teeth. When the surgery was over, little did I know that there would be more challenges.

Again I was afraid when the bleeding wouldn't stop for over 24 hrs, yet I read [Ps. 56: 3-4](#) **“When I am afraid, I put my trust in You...in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?”** and was comforted. The next day the swelling kicked in, a lot! Then I got an infection from the medicine I was taking. *How much more?!* I wondered weekly. Again I turned to God's Word and read [Ps. 61:1-2](#) **“Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer; from the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint.”** This felt so true! But then it said in [v. 8](#) **“So will I ever sing praises to Your name.”** I knew that this was also true. Even in this trial I can rejoice because God has been with me. He has sustained me, healed me, and given me a loving husband who has patiently taken such good care of me. I praise the Lord for getting me through this ordeal!

Student Highlight Shawnee came to know the Lord her 1st yr. at FLC. I had the privilege of being her friend, seeing her grow, and mentoring her during MPM's Crush Fear summer project. Her trust in Jesus is awesome! She recently graduated with a biology degree. She said her highlight of being involved with MPM was: “the friends I made, they've helped me so much with my faith and problems I encountered along the way. I knew that if I needed help I could turn to those in MPM and get that help, if it was prayer or just someone to be around. [Now] I am most looking forward to being out in the world and potentially sharing my faith with others and doing it confidently.”



Dakota and I are still striving to reach our goal to be working at Fort Lewis this fall, which means running here and there for appointments! Please pray for this, and our marriage to continue growing, our goal to be reached, and for us to trust God in all things.

Thank you! Dakota and Rachael

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To join the Woodies prayerfully or financially please visit: www.thewoodies.weebly.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**



Fourth of July Picnic Saturday, July 4th 10AM-1PM

Come and join in the fun and fellowship! We will be gathering at the lower side of **Keopuolani Park** by the keiki playground. **Bring your own blankets/chairs.**

Pot luck with hot dogs, hamburgers, side dishes, and desserts. All the good kine church picnic stuffs! Drinks/papergoods will be provided.

Sign-up sheet will be in the back of the church.

Games for all ages. Get ready to play!!

Here's an opportunity to share His blessings: bring **Healthy FOOD ITEMS** to restock the VIF food pantry.

If you have any questions or have a desire to help out, please contact Vince Bagoyo 357-3842.

SEE YOU THERE for the fellowship and building of relationships!!

A Psalm for giving thanks. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.



Due to circumstances beyond our control, Vacation Bible School (VBS) is cancelled at VIF this summer.

However, Kahului Baptist will be having VBS from July 6-10, 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

If you are interested in enrolling children, you can contact the office at 877-0795 and talk with Lynn. If she is not in the office, please leave a message.

Kahului Baptist Church Vacation Bible School
July 6th-8th 8 am to 12 noon
Call 877-0795 to sign-up

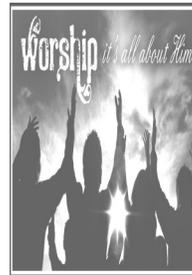
Valley Isle Fellowship 2015 Calendar

June 2015

- 21 6 am - Prayer Time (Pastor Jeremy's Office)
9 am - Pastor Stephen
10:30 am - Sunday School at High St Property
6 pm - Pastor Jeremy
- 22 Children's Camp—Keanae (Leave)
10 am - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
- 23 Children's Camp - Keanae
- 24 Children's Camp - Keanae
6:30pm - Youth Group "Fuel" @ Sanctuary
- 25 Children's Camp - Keanae
- 26 Children's Camp - Keanae (Return)
- 28 6 am - Prayer Time (Pastor Jeremy's Office)
9 am - Pastor Stephen
10:30 am - Sunday School at High St Property
12 noon - Children's Summer Outreach Team
6 pm - Pastor Darren

July 2015

- 1 6:30pm - Youth Group "Fuel" @ Sanctuary
- 3 Observe Independence Day - Office closed
- 4 Fourth of July Picnic-Keopuolani Park



Today's Worship Songs

This Love

One Thing Remains

I Will Follow

Valley Isle Fellowship

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SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

Wailuku Elementary School Cafeteria
355 S High St. Wailuku, HI 96793

Service - 9:00 am

Sunday School - 10:30 am

Children & Youth Sunday School at High Street property

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

VIF Church Sanctuary



www.facebook.com/valleyislefellowship



@VIFMaui

Associate Pastor

Darren Sarmiento
Cell: (808) 757-1651

Email: darrenvif@hawaii.rr.com

Senior Pastor

Stephen Kaneshiro
Cell: (808) 419-8100

Email: icastephen@gmail.com
121 Ho`owaiwai Lp #801
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Associate Pastor

Jeremy Kaneshiro
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Fathers Have A High Calling

Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

Ephesians 6:4 (NLT) *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.*

I. Do not _____ to _____.

A. Why is there _____?

1. Much of the anger today is rooted in “_____.”

2. “Self-centeredness” many times leads to “_____.”

3. Not getting your way leads to _____.

B. _____ to anger.

1. Definition of Provoking – to _____, _____, or _____
_____ (feeling, desire, or activity).

2. Fathers are commanded not to _____ or move their children
to _____.

3. This also means not to move children towards _____ or
_____.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S14kvB-HMc0>

II. Instead, bring them up in the _____ and _____ of the Lord.

A. Bringing them _____:

1. Providing the _____.

2. Providing the _____.

3. Providing the _____.

Fathers Have a High Calling

Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

B. _____ the Disciplines & Instructions of the Lord.

1. To _____ the Lord God with _____ of one's heart, mind, and soul.

2. To grow to be Christ like in _____, _____, and _____.

3. More effective to _____ out than to _____ out.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPCK4THZtng>

Notes: