

Eastside Baptist Church

Happy

Father's Day!



Eastside Messenger

Equipping the Saints for Ministry by First Seeking the Kingdom of God
(Ephesians 4:12/Matthew 6:33)

Volume XII Issue VI

Every day is a priceless gift of God

JUNE 2017

FATHERS IN THE WORD

Psalm 103:13

As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; [\(NIV\)](#)

Proverbs 3:11-12

My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in. [\(NIV\)](#)

Proverbs 3:32

For the LORD detests a perverse man but takes the upright into his confidence. [\(NIV\)](#)

Proverbs 10:9

The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out. [\(NIV\)](#)

Proverbs 17:24

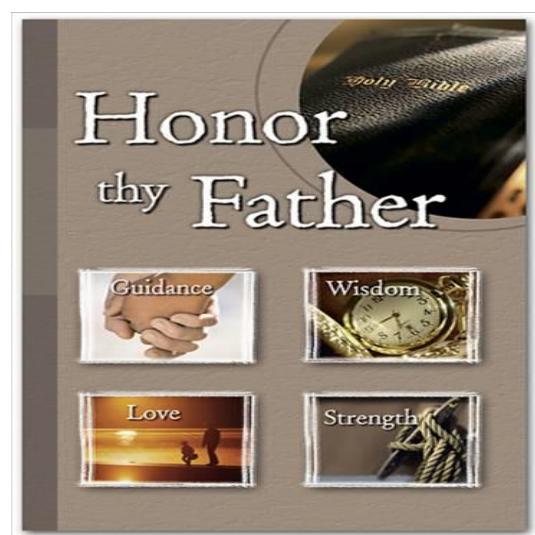
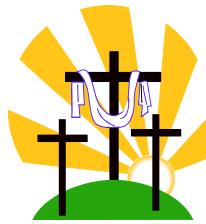
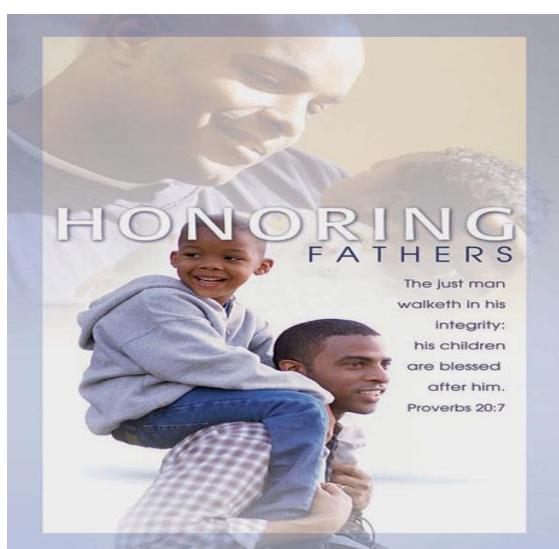
A discerning man keeps wisdom in view, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth. [\(NIV\)](#)

Proverbs 23:22

Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old. [\(NIV\)](#)

Proverbs 23:24

The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him. [\(NIV\)](#)



Rev. Dr. Arthur C. Banks 1st Lady Jacque Banks

"This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it"
(*Psalm 118:24*)



From the Editor
Eric Grimes

This year marks **12 continuous years** of publication for the *Messenger!* If you would like to contribute information, pictures or articles, please submit them to: erg58@aol.com. The Media Ministry is going digital; you can now download Sunday services to your portable devices. See details below . . .

*Articles and views expressed in this publication are presented for the information and benefit of the members of Eastside Baptist Church,
and may not necessarily reflect the position of the Church.*

*Church Motto:
Where God is praised and Disciples Are Made*

HE>i

MEDITATE ON THE MESSAGE

"So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God"
(Romans 10:17)

Were you blessed by the Sunday Service? Have you ever wanted to hear OR see the message, prayers, devotion, praise & worship, choir selections, revivals & anniversaries again? Now you can! WMV (video) or MP3 (audio) files are available for download to your devices (FREE!)



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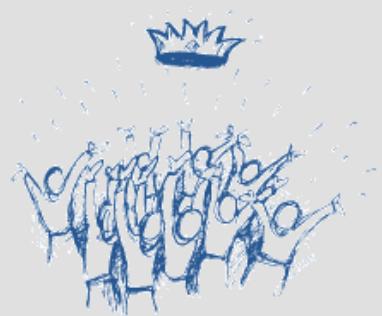
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- The Church Mouse.
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Praise
Him!



HEALTHY LIVING

*Jehovah-Rophe
“Jehovah heals”*

"I WILL PRAISE THEE; FOR I AM FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE: MARVELLOUS ARE THY WORKS; AND THAT MY SOUL KNOWETH RIGHT WELL." (Psalm 139:14)



Health Disclaimer: The information provided in this article should not be construed as personal medical advice or instruction. No action should be taken based solely on the contents of this letter. Readers should consult appropriate health professionals on any matter relating to their health and well-being. The information and opinions provided here are believed to be accurate and sound, based on the best judgment available to the author, but readers who fail to consult appropriate health authorities assume the risk of any injuries. The Editor is not responsible for errors or omissions.



People are unreasonable, illogical and self-centered
LOVE THEM ANYWAY

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives
DO GOOD ANYWAY

If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies
SUCCEED ANYWAY

The good you do will be forgotten tomorrow
DO GOOD ANYWAY

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable
BE HONEST AND FRANK ANYWAY

What you spent years building may be destroyed overnight
BUILD ANYWAY

People really need help, but may attack you if you help them
HELP THEM ANYWAY

Give the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth
GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU'VE GOT ANYWAY

Chew on This!

Now, strictly from a mathematical point of view see can you understand it this way!

What Equals 100%? What does it mean to give MORE than 100%? Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving more than 100%? We have all been in situations where someone wants you to give over 100%. How about achieving 101%? What equals 100% in life?

Here's a little mathematical formula that might help you answer these

Questions:

If:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Is represented as:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

22 23 24 25 26.

Then:

H-A-R-D-W-O-R-K

$8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = 98\%$

and

K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E

$11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = 96\%$

But,

A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E

$1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = 100\%$

AND,

look how far the love of God will take you

L - O - V - E - O - F - G - O - D

$12+15+22+5+15+6+7+15+4 = 101\%$

Therefore, one can conclude with mathematical certainty that:

While Hard work and Knowledge will get you close, and Attitude will get you there, it's the Love of God that will put you over the top!

AFTER EDEN





The Kings Kids



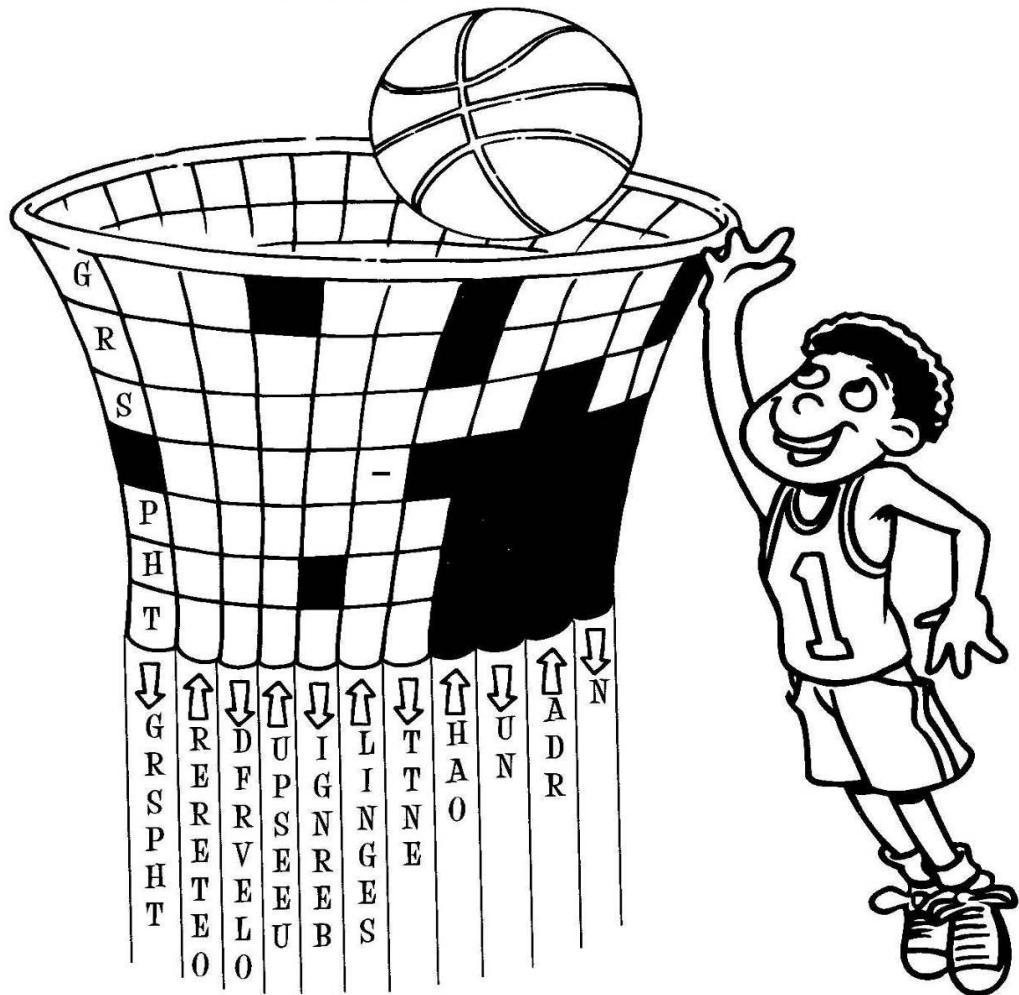
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2017

SLAM DUNK!

Psalm 46:1

The Challenge

Write the letters in the spaces of the net, following the direction of the arrows. If the arrow goes up, write the letters from the bottom to the top in order. If the arrow goes down, write the letters from the top to the bottom in order. The first one is done for you. Then read the Bible verse.





Bible Kisses

Question

*Does the Bible say that kissing before marriage is wrong?
The following are the answers found in the Bible . . .*

Answer

The short answer is no, the Bible does not say that it is wrong to kiss before you are married. Of course, there are lots of different kinds of kisses mentioned in the Bible - mostly kisses used as greetings or signs of approval - but I know most dating Christians wanted to know about romantic kisses.

In fact, the Bible doesn't tell us very much at all about what is appropriate in a "dating" or "courting" relationship. That these relationships existed seems to be evident from books like the Song of Solomon, and that kissing seems to have been an appropriate aspect of this might also be deduced from such texts (see Songs 1:2; 8:1).

Now, having said this, it is worth noting that while kissing is not forbidden, it is not always wise. Sometimes kissing can lead to sexual sin (Prov. 7:1-23). And even though kissing itself is not sinful, it may be sinful under certain circumstances. For example, if your conscience convicts you that you should not be kissing in a particular way (French kissing vs. a peck on the lips), then it is wrong for you to do so. Also, if kissing causes you to lust inappropriately, it is also wrong (but not all desire is inappropriate lust - you can rightly desire to be with someone you have a reasonable and godly expectation to marry, you just can't fulfill that desire until you do marry).

The wise thing to do is talking to people like your pastor and your parents. Romantic relationships are very complex, as are the intimate actions people engage in when they are romantically involved. It is important for you to obtain and consider the counsel of people who have some experience in life as well as knowledge of the Scriptures, who know you personally, who are not afraid to tell you the truth about relationships you may be involved in, and who can hold you accountable in those relationships.



Is a Kiss Just A Kiss?

People have historically invested an enormous amount of time and energy writing, singing, playing, fighting, and dying for the kiss of a fair maiden, gallant knight, or the boy/girl next door. The preoccupation with kissing and other expressions of sexuality smacks us all at tenderly young ages and never seems to subside. Perhaps it is because kissing is

one of our earliest learned expressions of love. Yet, in today's culture of increasing diversity and plurality, the ways and means of discovering one's sexuality and learning to relate with others in terms of sexuality is likewise increasingly complex.

What I do hope is to present an argument based on God's word that will serve as a basis from which to formulate a Christian response to the questions of other life issues that may not be specifically addressed in the Bible. That is one of the roles of the Church. To be salt and light in a degenerate and dark world, the Church of Jesus Christ, the one and only repository of truth and knowledge, must be willing and able to take on the complex life issues and bring the standard of Christian living to bear on those issues.

To question whether to kiss or not kiss appears juvenile and naïve and, in today's culture where hooking up of every sort is the given norm of growing up, actually invokes ridicule and cynicism even from some within the Church. For example, the web site for the abstinence program of the Southern Baptist Convention, True Love Waits, offers this advice to a teen about setting boundaries as a means of remaining true to the commitment of abstinence as he matures: "Another good boundary to have is to avoid *prolonged* kissing. Sexual acts are progressive, meaning one leads to another. Kissing leads you to desire to do something more. Your body will want to go onto the next step."

As far as two people learning the appropriate ways of expressing love and affection, kissing is not a bad place to begin the discussion. There is no other activity between two persons in which all five of the physical senses are engaged simultaneously to cross the barrier of the physical body into the heart and soul of another person than that of a kiss. **A kiss is not just a kiss.**

Yet the Biblical position is not one of an abolitionist against all forms of a-marital kissing, even passionate a-marital kissing. There are plenty of examples in the Bible of people kissing people other than their spouse (even passionately i.e., Gen 45:15 and Acts 20:37). In fact, kissing should be passionate as it is most appropriate when invoked by passion. Judas' kiss of betrayal was an ungodly kiss if for no other reason than it was a kiss without passion. Conversely, the Bible commands Christians to "Greet each other with a [holy] kiss [of love]." (Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12; 1 Thess 5:26; 1 Peter 5:14).

When I was asked to explain, "Why kissing, and especially passionately kissing with another person before marriage, is not in our best interest." The first thing to notice is that the inquirer used the expression, "...passionately kissing *with* another person ..." rather than simply "passionately kissing another person." The "with" betrays many underlying connotations and presuppositions of our culture which include kissing for recreational sport, seeking to feel loved, or animistic curiosity, not to mention as a sensual stimulation designed as a prelude to fulfill further desires. It betrays the perception of a reality that is unbiblical and, thus, not authentic.

The fact is that there are different reasons for and, therefore, different types of kissing. One might kiss their spouse in the same way that one kisses their dog, cat, horse, or brother, but there is a special time and way of kissing that everyone knows to belong only to one's spouse and is inappropriate for anyone else. For example, a husband may not give it another thought when his wife's brother kisses her before they part company. However, let your best friend passionately kiss your wife and the honest man must admit to being inflamed by the spectacle.

On the other hand, Christians are called by their Lord to embrace a certain and distinct system of behavior (i.e., ethics) that differs from and is challenged by the popular systems of ethics of the masses. While the scriptures may not specifically distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate ways or means of kissing they do have a lot to say about the overall behavior and conduct of God's people both corporately and individually. One would seem to have to agree that kissing falls under such overall guidance.

The Scriptures command us to keep a heart that is clean and free from sin. One should not seek to go as far as one can before violating the letter of the law. When one does, he has already violated the spirit of the law e.g., whoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart. (Matthew 5:28) How much more, then, has someone committed adultery who does not confine himself to looking, but also touches in an inescapably sexual way? It is good for a man not to touch a woman. (1 Corinthians 7:1) Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. (Galatians 5:16) Finally, one would think that Paul's entreaty to "treat younger women as sisters, with absolute purity" (1 Timothy 5:2) would settle the case once and for all. But, then, it IS the 21st century.

For Christian ethics to maintain some difference from the rest of the world, there are some assumptions that the Christian is expected to know, understand, and apply. In fact, if these few basic elements of the Christian faith were taught to children at a young age and applied throughout their childhood as they mature, I dare say most of our young people would not think twice about the proper response to sexual issues. Unfortunately, too many of our young people *don't* think twice about it and, thus, the pregnancy and divorce rate within the Church rivals that without the Church.

1. The Christian is not his own person – he does not belong to himself – he belongs to God. He has been bought with a price and belongs to God alone. That means the other person one is with (if a Christian) doesn't belong to themselves either. Therefore, neither person has the right to give their body, passions, mind, etc... to someone else or to require that someone else give theirs to them. (1 Cor 6:19,20; 7:23)

2. The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. To glorify God means to make visible His invisible attributes (character) and eternal power by the way we, His people, act, think, work, play, marry, kiss, etc.... The Bible instructs us to "put away childish things" (1 Corinthians

13:11) and "flee youthful lusts" (2 Timothy 2:22) freeing us to accomplish our chief mission: To glorify God.

3. The Bible admonishes His people to "flee from sensual immorality" (1 Cor 6:18 and 1 Thess 4:3 to name a few), to "sanctify the Lord God in your hearts" (1 Peter 3:15), to "love one another fervently with a pure heart" (1 Peter 1:22), to "establish your hearts blameless in holiness" (1 Thess 3:13), to "keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it [spring] the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23), etc... We are to carefully guard our heart from defilement and against competing loyalties AND to do so for our children.

4. Jesus set the record straight about Biblical ethics with the Sermon on the Mount: "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his **heart.**" (Matthew 5:28) It is an invalid attempt to separate the physical from the spiritual and pretend that one does not touch the other.

The same principle applies in our relationships with people. There are blessings for obeying the laws of creation and curses for disobeying. If we lie, steal, cheat, murder, covet, or lust there will be negative consequences. God's covenant guarantees it. (Deut 7:9 and 5:9) **People demonstrate their love of God through obedience to His commands and their hatred of God through their rebellious disregard for His commandments and the created order of our world. Accordingly, it is defiant to suggest that, "A kiss is just a kiss."**

Accordingly, we should not be surprised that, when the discussion of sexual ethics is the topic, to abstain is the prevailing conclusion of the church and, while not necessarily in agreement by those in the world, is an agreeable point of contact for discussion between the believer and non-believer. For someone to suggest raising the standard is to invite ridicule and cynicism from every direction. Yet, based on the light of scripture, we must conclude that it is in the best interest of our children to know the word of God with regard to relationships and to obey His word. We must conclude that the activity of sensually intimate kissing is an activity designed to initiate marital relations and, therefore, reserved for married couples. For unmarried persons to engage in the activity of sensual kissing is to invite the punishments of disobedience to God and to play Russian roulette with one's future.



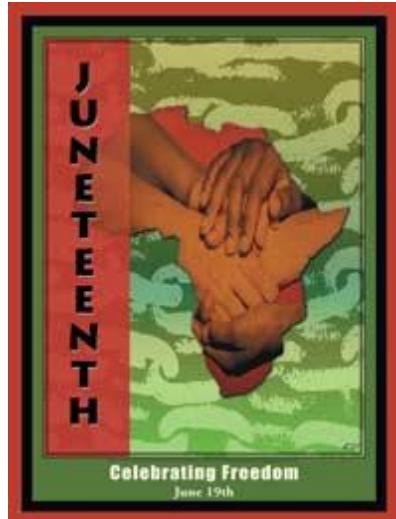
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(See Genesis 19:1-29)

02-25-2003

SOMETIMES I MISS THE OLD TESTAMENT DAYS
WHEN WE COULD SMITE THEM FOR THAT KIND
OF BEHAVIOR

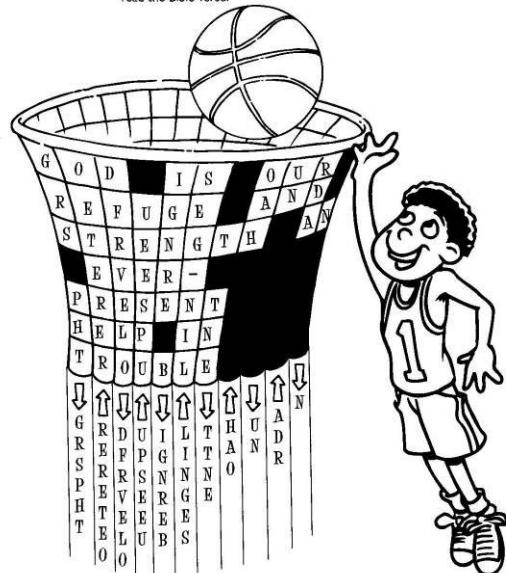


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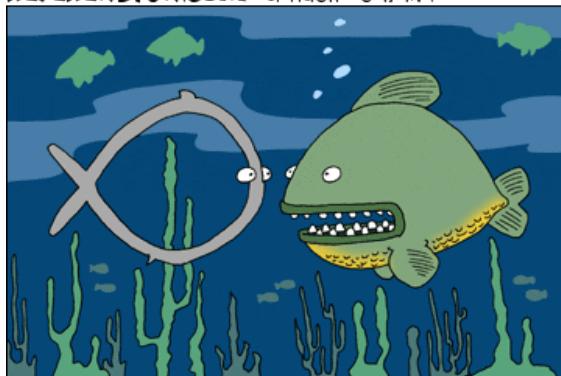
Psalm 46:1



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